



The Heavy News Weekly



Liberals face increasing pressure to spend on infrastructure

Originally published by The Globe and Mail, written by Bill Curry

The federal government is facing a heightened sense of urgency regarding its plans to stimulate the economy with billions of dollars of spending on new infrastructure.

After the economy closed out 2015 on a disappointing note, private-sector economists are lowering their Canadian growth forecasts for 2016. That could ultimately mean that Ottawa will lose out on billions in anticipated revenue over the coming years as it attempts to deliver on its ambitious election campaign promises.

Economists expect federal infrastructure spending will give the economy a boost, but it is unclear how much extra cash will flow this year. That probably will not be known until the release of the first Liberal budget, which has not been scheduled.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau kicked off his pre-budget consultations on Wednesday and will tour the country next week looking for suggestions. A short round of finance committee hearings is expected to take place after Parliament returns on Jan. 25.

The government has already acknowledged that its campaign pledges would probably require bigger budget deficits than predicted.

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WORKSAFELY MHCA™

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Mr. Morneau's November fiscal update assumed real growth in gross domestic product of 2 per cent in 2016. But some private-sector economists, including forecasters with the Bank of Montreal and Toronto-Dominion Bank, have recently lowered their projections to 1.6 per cent.

"It probably would imply that sooner is better than later in terms of getting that infrastructure spending out the door," TD economist Brian DePratto said. "In terms of scope and size, something slightly larger than what they've announced previously would be possibly justified."

The Liberals acknowledge this sense of urgency and say they will be prioritizing smaller infrastructure projects that can be started quickly, such as energy retrofits of social housing.

"One of the critical priorities is to make sure that the money that we send out the door on infrastructure puts people to work quickly and starts building communities fast," said Liberal MP Adam Vaughan, who is parliamentary secretary to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for intergovernmental affairs.

"The economic growth that we need now needs to be stimulated. ... Worst-case scenario, we're doing a lot of little things fast."

Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz, who continues to deliver a cautiously optimistic message that a low dollar and stronger U.S. economy will ultimately help Canada deal with the fall in commodity prices, added his voice to how Ottawa might help.

In public comments on Thursday, Mr. Poloz noted that monetary policy is not a panacea and that fiscal measures could play a role in helping the economy adjust. "Infrastructure is an ingredient to economic growth. It's sort of the enabler of economic growth," he said.

As for the Finance Minister, he has not signalled any further changes of direction since acknowledging that annual budget deficits could be larger than the \$10-billion promised during the election campaign. The government says it will still balance the books before the next election and will keep Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio on the decline.

"In recent years, the economy has really not lived up to what our hopes and expectations are and now, more than ever, we really do need to focus on a plan to grow the economy, create jobs and help those in our society who need it most," Mr. Morneau said on Wednesday afternoon as he kicked off the consultations.

Conservative finance critic Lisa Raitt said the government needs to find the right balance between infrastructure spending and fiscal prudence.

"It's always been a balancing act," she said. "This isn't the recession that we encountered in 2008. It is slow growth and it is of great concern, especially here in Ontario, but saddling Canadians with more debt isn't the way to grow the economy and increasing taxes isn't the way to grow the economy either."

NDP finance critic Guy Caron said the Liberals may have a hard time finding enough "shovel-ready" projects to spend the infrastructure cash allotted for 2016.

"That issue will need to be addressed," he said. "We should be looking at ensuring that these investments are actually going into worthwhile shovel-ready projects, not just throwing money for infrastructure because we can throw money."

News from the MHCA Events Committee

We are actively looking to grow the number of members who currently sit on this committee. We are asking all of our membership if there is someone who would be interested in joining our group. Ideally, we would like to add another three to four individuals who would actively participate in our meetings.

We are always trying to come up with new ideas for either new events or to update our existing ones. However, we need our membership to help us in this regard by bringing forward individuals who are interested in sharing their ideas.

We are not asking for a major time commitment from anyone. However, we do need to have more people actively participating in the Events Committee. If you are interested, or if you know of someone who you believe would be a good fit, please contact me directly at (204) 934-0268 or e-mail me at michael.byrne@aon.ca.

Welcome new MHCA Members!

The MHCA is proud to welcome its newest members, **Playgreen Development Corporation, AgCon Equipment,** and **National Bank of Canada.**

Playgreen Development Corporation is a contractor, based in Norway House, MB.

AgCon Equipment is a supplier of heavy equipment in Manitoba, based in Springfield, MB.

And National Bank of Canada is the country's sixth largest Schedule A Chartered Bank. We offer unique risk management tools for fuel hedging (different than futures) which are independent from supply purchases and interest rate derivatives to lock Prime or BA component of variable rate loans held from all financial institutions.

For more information on Playgreen Development Corporation, contact:

Allan Wilson
Box 363
Norway House, MB R0B 1B0

T: 306-359-6362
F: 306-359-6647
E: awilson@nhcn.ca

For more information on AgCon Equipment, contact:

Robert Emes
Box 20, 90 A Lakeside Road
Springfield, MB R2J 4G8
T: 204-255-4772
F: 204-255-7417
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W: www.agconequipment.ca



For more information on National Bank of Canada, contact:

Richard Dzisiak
200 Waterfront Drive
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3P1
T: 204-982-6018
F: 204-944-0979
E: richard.dzisiak@nbc.ca
W: www.nbc.ca



MIT announces Government-Wide Contract Policy for COR™ requirements

Manitoba has recently approved changes to the Government Wide Contract Policy (formerly the Government Wide Tendering Policy). In summary, the most recent version of the policy embodies the following main requirements:

- COR™ safety certification now applies to subcontractors (as defined in the policy) which have a subcontract value of \$100K or more. This requirement is new and will be in effect for all contracts tendered after March 31, 2016.
- COR™ safety certification still applies to general contractors having a contract value over \$100K. This requirement has been the same since 2012 and will remain so.
- COR™ safety certification does not apply to non-structural/non-architectural renovation contracts or to maintenance services contracts in the Housing sector or Industrial, Commercial, Institutional sector.
- Much of the Government Wide Contract Policy remains the same as it always has, particularly regarding contractor declarations to follow the applicable safety laws and wage rate laws. This declaration is made on the new Contractor's Certification Form.

For complete details, the new policy and the latest version of the Contractor's Certification Form can be viewed here: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/wdis/contractpolicy/index.html>.

Contractors are likely to begin seeing updated contract language and forms respecting the Government Wide Contract Policy in tenders in advance of the March 31, 2016 implementation date for subcontractor COR™ requirements.



WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor Dave McPherson is bringing COR™ Week to Westwood Inn in Swan River, Manitoba

From February 22-26, 2016, training will include:

- 2 day COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
- 1 day COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
- 2 day COR™ Auditor

LOCATION

Westwood Inn
473 Westwood Rd
Swan River, MB
R0L 1Z0

REGISTER NOW - SPACE IS LIMITED!

Contact Sarah Higgins
at sarah@mhca.mb.ca
or 204-947-1379.

Canadian Construction Association's 2015 Accomplishments & 2016 Priorities

Originally published by The Canadian Construction Association and featured in the CCA Weekly



Federal Election Campaign

CCA conducted one-on-one interviews with each of the leaders of the major federal political parties just prior to the commencement of the federal election campaign. It also operated a special election website that included the responses from the prime ministerial candidates. This helped to ensure that the concerns and views of CCA members on national issues of interest, such as infrastructure investment and immigration, were well-known to the candidates.

Working with the New Federal Government

CCA looks forward to working with the new government especially with respect to the implementation of the new 10-year \$125-billion infrastructure program which promises to nearly double the existing federal commitment.

Areas of some concern to CCA in the Liberal government platform include:

- **Apprenticeship:** Trudeau stated during the election campaign that his government "... will work with employers and workers to determine an appropriate apprenticeship ratio for all federal infrastructure projects." This sounds like a quota or contract condition. CCA has long held that meaningful tax incentives are more effective in increasing construction employer engagement in apprenticeship training than contract quotas or contract conditions, especially for small businesses. CCA continues to oppose any attempt by the federal government to mandate apprenticeship quotas on federal construction contracts and instead has been calling for enhancements to the current federal Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit. While CCA wholeheartedly supports the intended objective, (i.e. to increase employer engagement in apprenticeship training), it does not believe that quotas are an effective approach.
- **Immigration:** Trudeau stated during the election campaign that a Liberal government will make immediate reforms to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) to ensure Canadian workers come first and would seek a full review of the program by the Auditor General. Further limiting access to the TFWP will be very problematic for the construction industry.
- **Environmental review & assessment:** The Liberal government has promised to make environmental assessments credible again and to restore protections lost by the previous government's changes to the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act. The concern is that some of the "green tape" and abuses of the former regulatory system might be re-introduced.
- **Federal fair wages:** The Liberal platform also called for the reinstatement of a fair wages policy for federal procurement, which CCA opposes as unnecessary and groundless.

CCA to Discuss Prompt Payment/Cash Flow Issues with Federal Government

The CCA board passed the following motion at its October 2015 meeting:

"THAT, CCA work with its partner associations, interested stakeholders, and federal contracting authorities, to educate the federal government on the importance of prompt payment and cash flow on federal construction projects, and work together to resolve any concerns, which may include the enactment of federal prompt payment legislation acceptable to the industry."

This motion was in response to the recommendations from the CCA Industry Summit held September 29 in Toronto, which was devoted entirely to industry payment concerns. The recommendations included:

- CCA has a leadership role to play in Canada with respect to industry payment and cash flow issues. CCA needs to establish a clear policy position on payment and payment practices in the construction industry;
- CCA can be a hub or clearing house for sharing prompt payment information and best practices – domestic (including efforts and developments at the provincial level) and international (e.g. the U.S., Australia, the U.K., etc.);

- There is support for creating new and/or strengthening existing CCDC/CCA standard contracts and guides that speak to prompt payment including embracing the adjudication process, the right to suspend the work/terminate the contract for breach of the payment terms, and greater transparency as to the flow of funds in the contracting chain;
- There is general support for the CCA to educate the federal government on industry payment challenges and to support the notion of federal prompt payment legislation applicable to federal government construction contracts only. However, there was no consensus regarding the timing of such efforts given concerns regarding any resulting negative impact on similar efforts already underway at the provincial level; and
- CCA should involve all parties in the contracting chain and the industry in this discussion – including owners and consultants.

CCA will establish a taskforce to begin discussions with the major federal contracting agencies on industry payment and cash flow concerns on federal construction contracts and to seek effective solutions.

Quality of Design Documents

CCA continues to hear grave concerns about the poor quality of design documents. It is currently hosting a series of regional workshops with its partner associations to raise the awareness of the impact of poor design, to seek feedback on its causes, and to identify potential solutions. CCA will capture and record the major points, findings and recommendations that emerge from these workshops in a special report, which it hopes to release at its annual conference in March.

Lean Construction Institute of Canada (LCI-Canada) Established

CCA established the Lean Construction Institute of Canada (LCI-Canada) this past year as a special committee of the CCA similar in structure and operation to the Canadian Design-Build Institute. This has been done with the support and acknowledgement of the flagship Lean Construction Institute (LCI) in the United States.

In addition, CCA is working closely with the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America, which runs its own Lean Construction Education Program and Lean Construction Certification Program, to utilize as much of that material in Canada as is appropriate.

Currently LCI-Canada, in concert with CCA's partner associations, is conducting Lean Construction 101 seminars across the country.

Federal Government and eProcurement

CCA has been working with Defence Construction Canada (DCC) to ensure that DCC's new e-procurement system that it plans to begin using soon on its construction contracts, meets industry expectations.

Corporate Social Responsibility

CCA has a taskforce looking at the importance of corporate social responsibility (CSR) to the construction industry and what role CCA might play. At its October 2015 meeting the CCA board endorsed the following as a formal CCA Policy Statement:

"CCA recognizes that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a rapidly evolving issue and affects companies differently depending on their size, location and specialization. CCA recognizes the importance of CSR, and encourages companies to voluntarily undertake initiatives that enable them to operate in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner."

Brookfield GIS RP-1 Contracts

CCA has held several meetings with Brookfield GIS concerning its procurement and contracting practices, and terms and conditions for construction projects awarded under its RP-1 contract with PWGSC. The committee reviewed the supplementary conditions used by the RP-1 Contractor with CCDC 2 and expressed grave concerns on the lengthy payment period. CCA will have further discussions with Brookfield GIS on its supplementary conditions with the priority of reducing the payment period.

Civil Infrastructure Council Pursuing Use of Standard Contract Form for Civil Works

The CCA Civil Infrastructure Council made a presentation to the Transportation Association of Canada

(TAC) calling upon its Chief Engineers' Council to help to develop and promote a common, national set of specifications and the use of a standard contract form for civil works. The Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) has a standard civil works contract form known as CCDC 18. The Civil Infrastructure Council has decided to advance common contractual language as a first priority and will work in tandem with the CCDC.

General Contractors Council to Develop Guidelines for Owners' Use of Project Managers

The CCA General Contractors Council will strike a taskforce with owner representatives, project management (PM) firms, architects and consulting engineers to develop guidelines for owners when considering the use of PM firms. This will include guidance on the role and services provided by PM firms, when they will add value to a project, and the parameters owners should utilize when engaging PM firms.

Look for These New Documents in 2016

National Industry Ethics Course

CCA is working with BuildForce Canada to develop a national construction industry ethics course. It is hoped that the course will be unveiled at the CCA Annual Conference in March. This new course will be mandatory for all Gold Seal Certification program applicants.

Updated Trade Contractors Guide

The CCA board has endorsed changes to the CCA Trade Contractors' Guide and Checklist to Construction Contracts. Changes include updating and incorporating a former guide for trade contractors on design responsibility and incorporating enhanced insurance considerations.

Indigenous Engagement Best Practices Guide

CCA, together with the Aboriginal Human Resource Council, is in the process of developing an Indigenous Engagement Best Practices Guide focused specifically on the construction industry. A final version is expected by January 2016.

Get Gold Seal Certified

Since 1991, the Gold Seal Certification program has set the Gold Standard in the Management of Construction. Today, more than 8,000 construction professionals have been recognized as Gold Seal Certified.

What are the benefits of Gold Seal Certification?

Whether you are a **Construction Professional, a Contractor, Project Manager, or an Owner of a construction project**, Gold Seal Certification can help you set a high standard - the Gold standard - on a construction project.

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COR associated with reducing injuries

Originally published by The BC Construction Safety Alliance, featured in the Hard Hat News

A University of BC study has found that participation in WorkSafeBC's Certificate of Recognition (COR) program is associated with lower injury rates in the construction and forestry industries in particular.

The study, co-authored by Dr. Chris McLeod of UBC's Partnership for Work, Health, and Safety (PWHS), looked at differences in injury rates between certified companies and non-certified control companies in three categories: (a) longterm disability (LTD), short-term disability (STD), and fatalities; (b) serious injuries; and (c) health-care only (an injury that did not lead to time loss)– over a 10-year period (2002 to 2012).

Four industry sectors were examined: COR associated with reduced injuries construction, forestry, manufacturing, and transportation/warehousing.

Results were obtained by calculating differences in preand post-COR injury rates and then comparing the results with injury rates of the nonCOR firms over the same time period.

According to a research brief issued by the PWHS, which conducted the study on behalf of WorkSafeBC, the results showed that, on average, construction and forestry had 12% and 16% lower LTD, STD, and fatality rates; and 16% to 21% lower serious injury rates, respectively, compared to non-COR companies. The reductions were the greatest between 2009 and 2012, also the years with the highest number of certifications.

Between 2005 and 2012COR companies averaged a 12% lowerSTD, LTD, and fatality injury rate and a17% lower serious injury rate compared to non-COR firms. No differences were found in the health care-only category, and only small or no differences were found in the manufacturing and transportation/warehousing sectors.

For comparison purposes, differences between COR and non-COR firms, such as number of employees and years in operation, were accounted for using statistical methods, in order to carry out the most relevant comparisons.

Study co-author Dr. Chris McLeod, says the results are positive in that they reveal an association with COR and good safety performance. "Overall, we identified reductions in injury rates in almost all of the categories we looked at, and the 17% reduction in serious injuries was an especially interesting finding. What this indicates is that having COR can make a difference."

McLeod stressed, however, that the study's results must be viewed with caution because association is not the same as causation: " On average, we found that COR companies had lower injury rates than non-COR, but this is not the same as saying COR caused the results," he said, adding that the potential impact of other factors, including the volunteer nature of the program itself, can't be ruled out.

"Self-selection is always a primary challenge when attempting to determine if participation has a causal effect. It might be, for example, that COR companies are already in a better position, safety and resource-wise, to achieve and maintain the certificate. But there are also non-COR companies with lower injury rates. The only way to know for sure if COR itself is having an impact is by conducting additional research that focuses on how the COR process itself facilitates change in a company's OHS practices."

Mike McKenna, Executive Director of the BC Construction Safety Alliance (which is the COR certifying partner for construction industry employers), says the Alliance will be partnering with WorkSafeBC and other industry organizations with a view to enhancing and expanding COR program-based research.

For more information, visit: <http://pwhs.ubc.ca/research/policy-andprogram-evaluation/certificate-ofrecognition-audit-program/>

MIT releases revised Tender Advertising Schedule for the 2016 construction season

Manitoba Infrastructure & Transportation (MIT) has released a revised Tender Advertising schedule for the 2016 Construction season. Details of submission requirements are contained within each bid opportunity and advertisement. All bid opportunities in the advertising schedule are competitive open tenders.

To view the full Tender Advertising schedule, visit: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/contracts/index.html>

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DIGITAL WORKPLACE SAFETY



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Join the club! Share your **WORKSAFELY e-CORTM Tips & Tricks** with us and be featured in the upcoming issue of *Heavy News Weekly*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

EXPO SOUTH

Destination: Winnipeg
April 5 & 6, 2016

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consists of several overlapping, curved lines in shades of green, orange, and blue. Below these lines are several large, light green arrows pointing to the right, creating a sense of forward motion and progress.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE
WORKPLACE SAFETY EXCELLENCE**



ANNUAL CURLING CLASSIC

**THURSDAY,
JANUARY 21, 2016**
The Heather Curling Club
120 Youville Street,
Winnipeg, MB R2H 2S1

REGISTRATION

For a full day of curling, networking, and good eats:
\$250^{+GST} per team or \$62.50^{+GST} per individual

Company: _____

Contact Person: _____ Tele: _____

Please invoice (members only): _____

Visa/MC/AMEX: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security code: _____

Card Holder: _____

Signature: _____

I would like to enter a team of four (4) curlers: _____

I would like to enter as a single player: _____

I only plan to attend the luncheon (\$40^{+GST}): _____

PRIZE DONATIONS

We also accept cash donations for prize giveaways!

I would like to donate:

\$50

\$100

\$150

WANT TO BE A SPONSOR?

For \$275^{+GST}, your company can
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areas - please mark one:

- Ice Sheet (8 spots available)
- Hog Line Contest
- Morning Coffee & Muffins station

Your sponsorship will include:

- Corporate signage at the end of the sheet of ice for the whole day
- Sponsorship announcement and recognition at lunch time
- A 'Thank You' recognition in MHCA's *Heavy News Weekly* and website

Company: _____

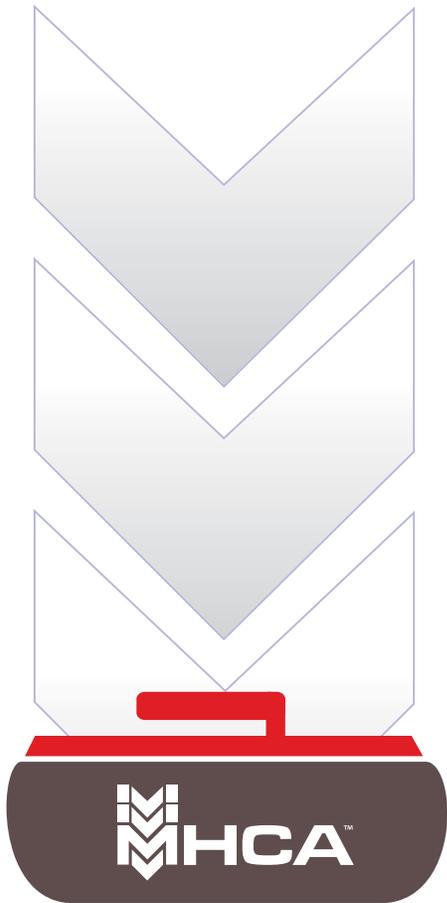
Contact Person: _____ Tele: _____

Please invoice (members only): _____

Visa/MC/AMEX: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security code: _____

Card Holder: _____

Signature: _____



Fill out this form in full and fax to the MHCA office at 204-943-2279.

For more information, contact Christine Miller at christine@mhca.mb.ca or 204-947-1379.

As per MHCA Board Policy, only registrations cancelled at least six (6) business days, prior to the commencement of this event, will be refunded.



The Manitoba Heavy Construction Association & the Manitoba Home Builders' Association are pleased to present:

BREAKFAST WITH THE LEADERS SERIES

A series of current and engaging topics connected to the Heavy Construction Industry



Holiday Inn Winnipeg Airport Polo Park
1740 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg, MB

Join us for breakfast and a presentation by



Mr. Brian Pallister
Leader, PC Party
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
King Edward Room



Ms. Rana Bokhari
Leader, Liberal Party
Thursday, January 28, 2016
Madison Ballroom



Premier Greg Selinger
Leader, NDP
Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Madison Ballroom

AREAS OF INTEREST TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PRESENTATIONS:

- Given the importance of growing Manitoba's economy, the relative priority the leader would place on trade & transportation investments as part of a provincial economic growth strategy, including promoting CentrePort Canada and the Port of Churchill as key Canadian trade gateways and corridors;
- To address obvious investment need, commitment to sustaining and incrementally enhancing the projected levels of strategic investment in Manitoba's core infrastructure through the dedicated 1 per cent of PST revenues;
- Income growth has not kept pace with the cost of housing. Address the rising cost of home ownership and decline in affordability in the Manitoba market, particularly as it impacts young people;
- Projected approaches to balancing the provincial budget;
- Views on renewing the existing provincial revenue sharing and striking a 'New Fiscal Deal' all of Manitoba's municipalities;
- With the growing importance and profile of the New West Partnership an indication to join, or otherwise project Manitoba's global presence and investment promotion.

Doors Open: 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.

Presentation: 8:15 a.m.

Cost: \$35.00 +GST / person

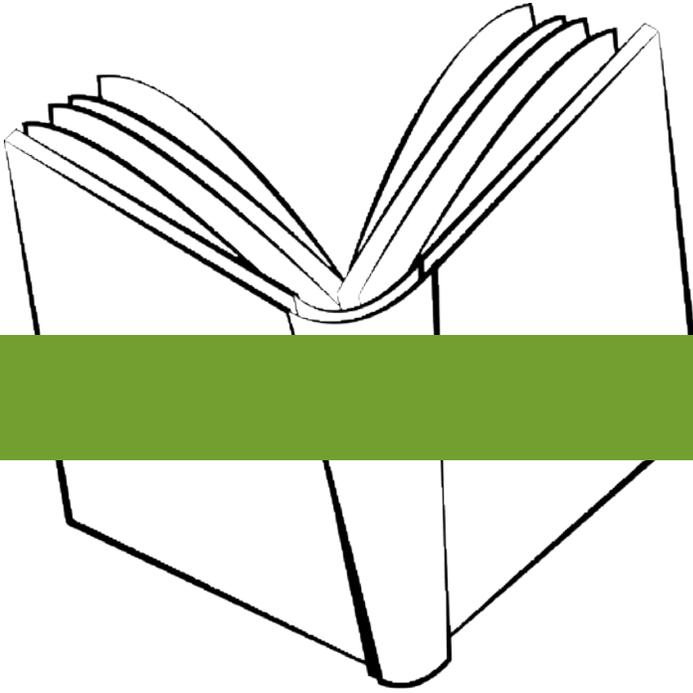
RSVP:

MHCA - Brenda Perkins at 204-947-1379 or brenda@mhca.mb.ca

MHBA - Janet Constable at 204-925-2578 or jconstable@homebuilders.mb.ca

The Breakfast with the Leaders series is sponsored by **Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc.**





MHCA 2016 Equipment Rental Rates & Membership Directory COVER ART COMPETITION

MAKE YOUR MARK!

We invite you to create the eye-catching MHCA Directory cover art that will be seen and and admired across Manitoba!

Check out the contest rules and regulations below:

Eligibility

Entrants must be current members of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association. The contest's Artwork Guidelines states that considered submissions must be two-dimensional original, hand-rendered art (acrylic, oil, watercolour, etc.), three-dimensional works (sculptures/carvings), or photography. Submitted artwork cannot have already been previously published or reproduced in any format or exhibit. Also, the artist should not have future plans to sell, publish, reproduce or exhibit the artwork.

If the Contest Entry contains any material or elements that are not owned by the entrant, and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, the entrant is responsible for obtaining, prior to submission of the Contest Entry, any and all releases and consents necessary to permit the use.

MHCA and its publisher, Lester Communications Inc. hold themselves harmless of any use of submitted materials claimed to be the ownership of the party for which made submission and any and all legal issues arising with copyright of said materials will be between the property owner and the submitting party.

To enter, each artist can submit 1 (one) piece for the contest.

How to Enter

Entries must be received by **Friday, January 15, 2016**. Late entries will not be considered due to the production schedule of the MHCA Directory. The winning entrant will be contacted shortly after the closing date.

Entries must be submitted in the following formats: **PDF, EPS, or TIFF files**. JPGS are accepted but other formats are preferred. **All files need to be high-resolution 300 dpi images at 6" W by 9" H. CMYK or Grayscale are acceptable.**

Entries must be accompanied with an official entry form, containing the following information:

- MHCA member company name along with work address, telephone number and email address
- A short artist's biography
- Description of the artwork, including dimensions, medium and title

Conditions of Entry

By entering the MHCA Directory Cover Art Competition, the entrant agrees to the following conditions:

- The theme of the 2016 Directory must reflect heavy equipment
- The winning entrant agrees to permit MHCA to publish his/her own artwork on the cover of the 2016 MHCA Equipment Rental Rates & Membership Directory, which will be distributed across Manitoba
- The winning entry becomes the copyright property of MHCA
- The winning entrant agrees that MHCA has the right to reproduce the artwork for its corporate website and on promotional materials associated with the MHCA Equipment Rental Rates & Membership Directory
- The winning entrant will be publicly credited in the MHCA Equipment Rental Rates & Membership Directory as well as the official website and any other promotional materials that features the artwork
- No copyrighted images, products, or company names can be part of the submitted entry
- Ensure that all photographs used are in compliance with current Workplace, Health & Safety Regulations

The Winner

The winning entrant of this competition will have 'bragging rights' for the year of 2016 and will receive a giftcard valued at \$250. The winning selection process will take place via a panel of official MHCA judges. If no suitable cover art design is submitted, MHCA reserves the right to choose the 2016 cover art.

Entries can be sent by mail or email to:

Manitoba Heavy Construction Association
Unit 3-1680 Ellice Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0Z2

For further inquiries about this contest, contact:

Megan Funnell
204-947-1379 ex. 24
mfunnell@mhca.mb.ca



Join your colleagues at the WCR&HCA Convention

Sunday, February 7 to Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Fairmont Kea Lani

Wailea Coast, Maui, Hawaii

Convention Features & Highlights Include:

- Accommodations at the Fairmont Kea Lani, Hawaii's only all-suites oceanfront resort
- Keynote speakers: The Honourable John Baird and Todd Hirsch
- An extensive social program, including four fabulous evening events
- An educational program that will address today's emerging issues and trends
- Exclusive group and kids activities offered daily
- The AON Golf Classic on the Wailea Gold Course, home of The Champions Skins Game
- 4 great days of networking and sunshine!

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For Convention & Registration information, visit www.wcrhca.org

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**TO REGISTER,
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Sarah Higgins
sarah@mhca.mb.ca

Training Schedule

January

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Jan. 11 -12	MHCA Office
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	Jan. 13	MHCA Office
COR™ Auditor	Jan. 14 - 15	MHCA Office
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence, Brandon, MB	Jan. 11 - 12	St. John Ambulance
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management, Brandon, MB	Jan. 13	St. John Ambulance
COR™ Auditor, Brandon, MB	Jan. 14 - 15	St. John Ambulance
Committee/Representative Training (1/2 day PM), Russell, MB	Jan. 18	Russell Inn
Prime Contractor (1/2 day PM), Russell, MB	Jan. 18	Russell Inn
Flagperson (1/2 day AM)	Jan. 20	MHCA Office
Committee/Representative Training (1/2 day PM)	Jan. 20	MHCA Office
Excavating and Trenching (1/2 day AM)	Jan. 22	MHCA Office
Traffic Control Coordinator	Jan. 25 - 26	MHCA Office
WHMIS (1/2 day AM)	Jan. 27	MHCA Office
TDG (1/2 day PM)	Jan. 27	MHCA Office
*Team Leader (1/2 day AM)	Jan. 28	MHCA Office
*Effective Delegation (1/2 day PM)	Jan. 28	MHCA Office

February

*Written Communication (1/2 day AM)	Feb. 11	MHCA Office
*Verbal Communication (1/2 day PM)	Feb. 11	MHCA Office
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence, Swan River, MB	Feb. 22-23	Westwood Inn
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management, Swan River, MB	Feb. 24	Westwood Inn
COR™ Auditor, Swan River, MB	Feb. 25-26	Westwood Inn

March

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Feb. 29 - March 1	MHCA Office
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	March 2	MHCA Office
COR™ Auditor	March 3 - 4	MHCA Office
Train the Trainer	March 14 - 15	MHCA Office
Flagperson (1/2 day AM)	March 16	MHCA Office
Committee/Representative Training (1/2 day PM)	March 16	MHCA Office
WHMIS (1/2 day AM)	March 17	MHCA Office
TDG (1/2 day PM)	March 17	MHCA Office
Excavating and Trenching (1/2 day AM)	March 18	MHCA Office
Traffic Control Coordinator	March 21 - 22	MHCA Office
*Planning Work (1/2 day AM)	March 24	MHCA Office
*Document Use - Reading & Translating (1/2 day PM)	March 24	MHCA Office

*Leadership Certificate Program



WORKSAFELY MHCA SAFETY TIPS

Snowmobiling

Fact: there are currently over 700,000 registered snowmobiles in Canada and over 161,000 km of snowmobile trails.

A sport that's enjoyed by the masses can unfortunately lead to incidents. Transport Canada has taken liberty to remind all snowmobile enthusiasts that they have it in their power to make snowmobiling safe and enjoyable. On behalf of WORKSAFELY™ program, we're proud to reinforce this message with a series of safety tips to ensure a safe and happy snowmobiling season!

ALWAYS

Before you set out:

- Check local weather information
- Inform others of your destination and estimated arrival time.
- Inspect your snowmobile for mechanical integrity.
- Wear suitable clothing to prevent hypothermia – remember that children are particularly susceptible to the cold.
- Carry first aid and survival kits.
- Check local avalanche conditions in avalanche-prone areas (if applicable); there is a web site for this at www.avalanche.ca.

On the trail:

- Ride within your capabilities.
- Use snowmobile trails whenever and wherever practical.
- Stay on the right side of the trail.
- Reduce speed in unfamiliar territory.
- Exercise care when crossing roadways and railway tracks.
- Use hand signals to inform oncoming riders (see below).

At night:

Slow down! Your headlight limits how far ahead you can see. The slower you are travelling, the less distance you need to stop.

Avoid driving along road shoulders where lights from either snowmobiles or vehicles can cause confusion.

Over lakes and rivers:

- Be aware of ice conditions and, if in doubt, check with local authorities or your local club.
- Wear flotation-type clothing.
- Remember also to treat the outdoors with respect and be considerate of wildlife!

NEVER

- Never drive a snowmobile if you are impaired by alcohol or drugs. "Don't drink and drive" applies to snowmobiles as to any motor vehicle.
- Never ride on railway tracks.
- Never ride alone.
- Never leave children unsupervised with "kiddie" snowmobiles.
- Never leave young children alone in cutters.
- Never travel with babies.

An Ill Wind that Blows... Good?

By Peter G Hall, Vice President and Chief Economist



Crack open the economic window these days, and the wind blowing in seems an ill one. Oil prices have more than halved. The steel market is wildly oversupplied. Base metal prices are in a tailspin, notably Dr. Copper, the red-metal bellwether of the economy. Equity markets everywhere are gyrating. Currencies are turbulent. And get this: even volatility is volatile. That's right, indexes of market volatility can't decide whether they are up or down. Disarray like this normally spells economic gloom. Is this really an ill wind that blows no good?

Not exactly. In our post-crisis world, we've become quite used to the bizarre, so try this out: in the midst of the disarray, the economy is actually moving up. And not just in isolation. Take the US economy. GDP growth may not look great, as the high greenback squelches export growth, but the domestic economy – housing, consumption, business investment – is strong, and still has a lot of runway. The US leading indicators tied to real activity are pointing north, presaging good things for 2016.

That's not all. Western Europe is catching on, and not just in the last few weeks. This may come as a surprise, but in the Zone, growth has been above-trend for five successive quarters. With the worst of government austerity behind it, pent-up demand in Europe is turning into real activity, and US strength isn't hurting.

For many Canadians, that's comfort enough. However, a growing number are involved in emerging markets, and there is concern that all is not well in that camp – especially the larger ones. Brazil and Russia are struggling with internal problems, but that's not news. In contrast, policy problems notwithstanding, India seems to be churning out decent growth, and Mexico has been capitalizing on US strength. China is more of a worry than usual, with some fearing that a big slowdown could occur. While possible, it doesn't seem likely; the government is adamant that the economy will see 6-7 per cent growth. At that rate, the Chinese economy is adding as much actual GDP as it did back in the 2004-08 period...at 18 per cent growth. That speaks to the size and the absorptive capacity of the economy. Moreover, if China succeeds in shifting growth over to consumption, there is huge potential there to boost the long-term path of the economy.

So, if growth is back, why the disarray? It actually makes sense in the current context. It's now quite obvious that excessive liquidity – low interest rates and multiple doses of quantitative easing – distorted financial markets for many years. As the economy gets back on its feet, there's far more liquidity than needed, so it has to be reeled in. That's why the Fed hiked interest rates in December, and it's why they'll continue to do so in an election year. And it's this reeling in that's causing market mayhem. This is indeed a special moment: for the first time we can all remember, the return of growth actually means falling commodity prices and other key financial market indicators. This time around, you can't have one without the other. A key risk to the world economy is that the blowback of financial sector retrenchment undermines the very growth that is its cause.

Canada's challenge in this environment is to manage the different growth stories. Resource companies are now in restructuring mode, and looking to cut costs; those in the resource supply chain will feel the pinch, although a mild price rebound is expected to nurse some of the pain. Meanwhile, the non-energy manufacturing sector is ramping up, given external growth and the now-weaker loonie. Exports of services should also do well. And it's a good thing, because at the moment Canadian housing, consumption and internal business investment are not in great shape.

What does it all mean? Turbulence isn't going away anytime soon. But don't let it scare you off. Global growth and a weaker currency suggest strong gains for key pockets of Canada's export sector. Look for the growth, and when you find it, know that it's likely part of a bigger, and improving, economic story.

The bottom line? Doubtless there will be many early-year projections that interpret the prevailing winds as a reason to hunker down, lay low and wait out yet another post-crisis storm. There's no harm in preparing for the risks – as long as it doesn't mean retreat from the underlying growth story.



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