

The Heavy News Weekly



WINDS OF CHANGE

Written by Chris Lorenc, MHCA President

Winnipeg - The winds of change swept right across Manitoba on April 19, 2016 propelling 31 newly elected MLAs into Manitoba's Legislature, and in the process providing Premier Elect Brian Pallister with one of the largest majorities in electoral history, stretching back to 1915.

Cabinet Ministers and MLAs alike from the NDP were invited away from the Legislature in clear public mood for change. With 40 seats for the Conservatives, 3 for the Liberals and 14 for the NDP, the changes are structural, massive and mark a significant political mind set and expectation from government change, by Manitobans.



Manitoba Premier Elect.
Brian Pallister

The MHCA congratulates Premier Elect Brian Pallister and his colleagues for their resounding electoral victory. Their messages were clear, deliberate and balanced.

We look forward to working with the new Premier and provincial government and offer advice on sustained and strategic investment in Manitoba's infrastructure underpinned by six organizing principles: the program must be permanent, not ad hoc; it must focus first on investments to grow the economy; it should embrace innovation in every of its aspects including design, financing/funding, procurement, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation; it should embrace partnerships with the private sector the engine of ingenuity; it should be funded by dedicated revenues streams in support of its purposes; and it should be the subject of annual transparent reviews for accountability, adjustment and discipline to purpose.

It is also important to acknowledge the decades of public service made by the outgoing Premier Greg Selinger who on election night honorably offered tendered his resignation. Before being elected MLA in St. Boniface and being elevated to the Minister of Finance, he served on Winnipeg's City Council. He succeeded Gary Doer as leader and Premier, won a large provincial election and offered his style of leadership and commitment to Manitobans as Premier. It took great sacrifice by Mr. Selinger and his family and for the making and taking of those sacrifices we should all be grateful and respectful.

WORKSAFELY MHCA™

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Similar thoughts go to all candidates who ran or run for public office regardless of party affiliation. Elected office is more often than not a thankless position which opens elected persons to at many times unfair, fact less, and biased commentary. To all candidates and frankly to all MLAs we owe thanks and gratitude.

Rana Bokhari as a reasonably newly minted leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party arguably deserved a better fate and should also be recognized for her efforts to lead the party. Many of the missteps can be tied to relative inexperience and lack of resources. Better in anyone's judgment to have tried and not succeeded than to not try at all. She succeed in electing three Liberals to the legislature up from the one at election call.

Bokhari presented a new, young, fresh, generational change of political leadership which should always be welcome. The public in making electoral choices is always right; it could have been more charitable towards Ms. Rana Bokhari in offering her the opportunity of leading the Liberal Party with a seat in the House enabling even more directional debate in the Legislature.

All in all, significant political landscape changes in Manitoba with a new Premier, recently newly elected Mayors of Winnipeg and Brandon and certainly a new Prime Minister in Canada.

Winds of change indeed. It will be interesting.



Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B.,

President

Manitoba Heavy Construction association (MHCA)



THE MANITOBA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Annual Deputy Ministers' Dinner

June 2nd, 2016

The Fairmont Winnipeg

Presented by:



And Supported by:



The Progressive Conservatives Campaign Promises

Exert from 'Plans, promises and platforms - What the major parties pledge they'll do if elected' published in the Winnipeg Free Press on April 17, 2016

Taxation

The PCs would lower the PST by a percentage point to seven per cent by 2020, and index tax brackets and the basic personal exemption to the rate of inflation in their first budget year.

Debt reduction

The PCs promise to find \$138.8 million in government savings – about one per cent of the entire budget – in their first fiscal year in office. They promise to “spend smarter” by improving tendering practices, reducing government travel, eliminating partisan advertising and, among other things, and generate \$50 million in savings through a “value for money review” of government. They will set the right tone at the top, they say, by reducing the size of cabinet by one-third. Party Leader Brian Pallister says he won’t promise to balance the province’s budget in his first term in office until he’s had a chance to look at the books.

Health care and education

The Tories promised to lower ambulance fees by 50 per cent at a cost of about \$2.8 million a year. They will also strike a task force with a view to shortening wait times for service in hospital emergency rooms as well as for orthopedic surgery. The PCs also promise to “fast track” the construction of 1,200 personal care home beds, create a dedicated stroke unit, develop a “comprehensive mental health strategy” that combines mental health and addictions programs and services, and improve doctor recruitment and retention.

They would introduce a “read to succeed” program to ensure children passing Grade 3 are reading at or above national levels. They would also increase provincial matching of private post-secondary bursary/scholarship money to a total of \$20.5 million. They would grant teachers full discretion to mark students’ work “appropriately” and allow them to write report cards as they see fit, including comments on student behaviour.

Social spending

The PCs would reduce the red tape around the establishment of home-based day cares to increase their numbers. They would also increase operating funding for licensed home-based child care centres. They pledged to increase “incentives” for folks to be come early childhood educators. On child protection, the PCs will introduce legislation to make it easier for government departments, police and CFS agencies to share information when dealing with at-risk kids.



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Other

The PCs promise to spend “no less than \$1 billion a year” on strategic infrastructure. They would boost funding to the tourism industry by \$28.2 million over the next five years. They promised to implement a provincewide policy to improve water quality and reduce flooding, institute a two-year moratorium on all lease and service fees for cottages inside provincial parks, and curtail “unsustainable and unsafe” hunting practices, such as night hunting. They would also change the law to ensure there is a secret ballot by workers anytime a union attempts to organize a workplace. And they would help establish a curling centre of excellence in Manitoba.

Defining policy

The PCs promise to lower Manitobans’ taxes while maintaining frontline services. They say they can find and eliminate sufficient waste in government to pay for their tax cuts.

Cost

The Progressive Conservatives said their campaign promises will cost \$116.9 million in the first full year of government (2017-2018). Their pledge to reduce the PST to seven per cent from eight “no later than 2020” will cost an estimated \$300 million annually.

Mayor Bowman to Promote Business Opportunities for Winnipeg

WINNIPEG, April 20, 2016 – As part of his campaign pledge to showcase Winnipeg on the national and international stage, Mayor Brian Bowman is leading a business delegation to Montreal, Quebec today to promote Winnipeg as a great place to live, work and invest.

“Winnipeg today is a growing, thriving, and diverse city,” said Mayor Bowman. “As a former business owner, I know how vital it is for city leaders to promote Winnipeg across Canada and the globe, and to build relationships and attract business and investment to Winnipeg.”

Joining Mayor Bowman are Economic Development Winnipeg (EDW), Yes! Winnipeg, World Trade Centre Winnipeg, and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Also joining the delegation are representatives from the Winnipeg Airport Authority, Great-West Life, MTS, Sightline Innovation, and Solara Data. The delegation to Montreal is the first of many business-focused delegations to other major cities to increase trade, investment, and business with cities and provinces across Canada.

“Moving forward, I will continue to work hand-in-hand with Economic Development Winnipeg, Yes! Winnipeg, World Trade Centre Winnipeg, and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce to grow our economy, and help create more jobs and opportunities for our citizens today and for our children tomorrow.”

The delegation to Montreal runs from April 20-22. The Mayor is scheduled to meet with Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre and former Quebec Premier Jean Charest. Delegation meetings have been scheduled with the City of Mirabel and various businesses including CN Rail, Desjardins and Power Corporation of Canada.

For further information:

Jeremy Davis
Press Secretary
Office of the Mayor
City of Winnipeg
jdavis@winnipeg.ca

City of Winnipeg Capital Budget Presentation

On the morning of April 20, 2016, MHCA hosted a breakfast at the Holiday Inn Polo Park for the City of Winnipeg’s Public Works Department and the Water and Waste Department to present their annual and five year capital budget plan.

The presentation was attended by various members of the heavy construction industry.

You can view the slideshows of both presentations by following the links below.

For the Water and Waste Department’s budget plan, visit:

http://www.mhca.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Water-and-Waste-Department-MHCA-2016_Draft-1.pptx

For the Public Works Department’s budget plan, visit:

<http://www.mhca.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/PW-2016-Capital-Budget-Presentation-to-MHCA.pptx>



Right: Brad Neirinck from Public Works Department, Kas Zurek from Water and Waste Department and Chris Lorenc President of the MHCA stand together for a picture at the City of Winnipeg’s Capital Budget presentation on April 20, 2016.

Labour minister says sweeping review of federal jobs grant system underway

Written by the Canadian Press for the journal of commerce website and featured in the CCA weekly newsletter



Canadian
Construction
Association

The federal government is reviewing every grant program designed to help groups provide skills and job training to make sure they help workers actually get jobs, the labour minister says.

There are thousands of employment grants handed out annually to groups across the country that, for instance, help connect workers with multiple university degrees to available jobs, or provide literacy training for older workers.

Those programs have varying rates of success, Labour Minister MaryAnn Mihychuk said

She said the requirements for funding grants are going to change to mesh with the Liberal government's priority to create jobs for young people and aboriginals.

"We are moving, changing priorities, looking at each individual granting program and trying to align them with our priority of youth, indigenous folks, diversity in the workplace and better labour-market connections so that we never need a temporary foreign worker in Canada," Mihychuk said.

Among the programs under review is the youth employment strategy, to which the Liberals have committed an additional \$165.4 million this year.

The federal government on Friday unveiled 195 youth employment grants that total more than \$65.7 million for skills-training and job-help programs across the country, with Ontario getting \$28.4 million, the most of any province.

The Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon each got one program grant, totalling almost \$2.2 million.

Mihychuk said the arduous process to apply for funding is partly to blame for the lack of projects in northern and rural regions.

She said the application process for groups seeking grants to provide young people with skills training should be simpler.

"You need to be a professional to fill out these forms and when you're looking at northern regions, rural, they may not have the capacity to access the grants because you can't fill out the darn form," Mihychuk said.

"That's another area where I have an issue. We want to change that."

Mihychuk said the details of the grants are not always readily available to the public, but the Liberals plan to make the funding public when it is announced.

More than two-thirds of the new projects are in ridings held by the Liberals, who have more than half the seats in the House of Commons.

The money was approved under rules set by the previous Conservative government.

Mihychuk said the next round of announced grants will be under the new Liberal policy.

Upcoming MHCA Committee and Board Meetings

Events Committee - MHCA Boardroom, Winnipeg - **April 25**

Board of Directors - Investors Group Field, Winnipeg - **April 27**

Education Training and Gold Seal Committee Meeting
MHCA Boardroom, Winnipeg - **May 2**

COR™ Advisory Committee Meeting -
Meseyton Construction Ltd., Portage La Prairie - **May 10**

COR™ Industry Meeting - Meseyton Construction Ltd., Portage
La Prairie - **May 10**



MHCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - FULL PLATE OF TOPICS - HIGHLIGHTS ONLY

The MHCA Executive Committee met on April 20, 2016 and had before it a full plate of topic areas for consideration, including, but not limited to the following:

PROVINCIAL ELECTION RESULTS

The MHCA congratulates Premier Elect Brian Pallister and his colleagues for their resounding electoral victory and looks forward to working with the new Premier and government and it sets forth with a priority of growing the economy and harnessing strategic investments in infrastructure to help achieve that objective.

SIX BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

The MHCA was part of a coalition of six business organizations promoting the imperatives of 'Growing the Economy as Job #1' during the current election campaign. An Op Ed championing the seven pillars around which the government should move forward was published in the March 28, 2016 edition of the WFP. The link to the op ed is: <https://shar.es/1YjCyR>

RM OF SPRINGFIELD AGGREGATE TASK FORCE

The MHCA is part of a community, industry, elected branch made up task force ostensibly established to work through any operational challenges faced in the community. At its April 18, 2016 meeting, industry representatives spoke to the following key points as conditions precedent to continued participation: selecting an independent chair of the task; the need to settle upon the Task Force Terms of Reference (ToR); craft a new by-law for the RM of Springfield to replace the current antiquated version; adopt a New Development Agreement to ensure a level playing field; and advance the Community Enhancement Levy (CEL) with funds so raised dedicated for reinvestment back to infrastructure. There was general acceptance of the above. The task force next meets in May 2016.

Continued on page 6

SASKATCHEWAN BEST VALUE PROCUREMENT & NORTH WEST PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (NWPA)

Saskatchewan Highways (SH) will be implementing Best Value Procurement starting in April 2016. The 'stated' goal is to award construction contracts based on the best overall value and not solely on the lowest bid price. SH intends to consider contractor's past performance. This smacks of offensive local preference practices will be raised with the Pallister government.

In addition to the above, Saskatchewan pursuant to the new West Partnership Agreement (NWPA) of which Manitoba is not member, is allowing its Crown corporations to deny bidding opportunities to companies non-resident to Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. There should be no barriers to internal traded in Canada. Manitoba should be part of the New West Partnership and this too will be raised with the Pallister government.

WESTERN & NORTHERN CANADA - TRADE GATEWAY & CORRIDOR INITIATIVE (WNCTG&CI)

The MHCA is supporting the WNCTG&CI initiative whose mission is to advocate for investment strategies to establish strategic multi-modal trade gateways and corridors across Western and Northern Canada to facilitate the efficient transportation of regional commodities, resources, and goods throughout North America and the world. Preliminary advocacy and preparatory steps are underway. This will be raised with the Pallister government.

QUARRY LEASES PERMITS

This issue surfaced again in late January 2016. The MHCA pushed and succeeded in ensuring a quarry permits be issued but the problem remains. Mines, MIT and MHCA are to meet in May 2016 to review ways and means to expedite the Mines Approval procedures.

ELECTION RADIO ADS

Between April 4-18, 2016 the MHCA ran radio ads across Manitoba. Their purpose was to remind Manitoba voters of how important it was to vote for a party leader committed to invest in infrastructure and focus on growing Manitoba's Economy, which cumulatively generates revenues to fund our quality of life.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANITOBA TOP PRIORITY: POLL

As reported in the April 12, 2016 edition of the Winnipeg free Press, infrastructure was the number one priority for Manitoba voters heading into the April 19, 2016 election, and that level of support cuts across all three political party lines. This augers well for implementation discussions with the provincial government.

MANITOBA PROSPERITY REPORT

The MHCA is a member of the Manitoba Employer's Council (MEC) which published the above report and released it in April 2016. It again shows Manitoba lagging behind key economic indicators. The report contents were used this year to try and assist focus on 'Growing the Economy' as the number one priority in the provincial election and indicate why that mattered to advancing Manitoba's overall competitiveness in Canada.

DINNER WITH MANITOBA'S DEPUTY MINISTERS

For the third consecutive year, the MHCA will again sponsor the Manitoba Chambers of commerce 'Dinner with Manitoba's Deputy Ministers' to take place on June 2, 2016 at the Hotel Ft. Garry. The evening is typically started with mix 'n mingle cocktails at 5:30 followed by dinner at 6:30; presentation by the Deputy Minister tot eh Premier and then Q & A. Details are being firmed up.

CITY OF WINNIPEG 2016 AND FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM

The City's 2016 Public Works and Water & Waste Capital Programs were the subject matter of a presentation made to a meeting of MHCA members on April 20, 2016.

CANADA WEST FOUNDATION (CWF)

MHCA President Chris Lorenc participated at a March 17, 2016 meeting of the Canada West Foundation (CWF). The purpose was to consider policy priorities that Manitoba should be pursuing. Among those identified: growing the economy; the seven pillars supported by the six business organizations of which the MHCA is one. We also had the opportunity of introducing the Western & Northern Canada Trade Gateway & Corridor Initiative (WNCTG&CI).

WFP INSERT

The launch and Manitoba-wide distribution of MHCA's insert in the Winnipeg Free Press, entitled 'Growing the Economy is Job #1 - From the Ground Up' was published on March 23 & 26, 2016. Its feature stories included a focus on the imperatives of focusing on growing Manitoba's economy; harnessing trade as an economic growth engine; making wise investment in infrastructure based upon six organizing principles; Let's Get Growing - a summary of seven pillars around which government could steer economic growth, as proposed by six leading business organizations; Support for the 'Fair Share Fair Say' municipal 'new fiscal deal' campaign; Women at work, showcasing the growing numbers of women in the heavy construction industry; Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate Program - an example of working partnerships; and Protecting our People - an overview of the industry's WORKSAFEY Program. The stand-alone broadsheet insert will have reached approximately 120,000 Winnipeg and 30,000 rural Manitoban subscribers.

JIM CARR BUDGET BREAKFAST

The MHCA sponsored a Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce 'budget breakfast meeting' on Thursday, March 24, 2016. Held at the Hotel Ft. Garry roughly 150 people attended. MHCA president had the opportunity of sharing MHCA views on the linkages between strategic infrastructure investment and economic growth and reminding the audience of our six organizing principles around which investment in infrastructure should be made.

WINNIPEG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (WCC) BOLD PLATFORM

MHCA president was invited by the WCC to tape a segment as part of its 'Manitoba BOLD' campaign during the current election. The video was launched on March 25, 2016. It will be promoted by the WCC on social media, tying in the link to the MHCA WFP 'Growing the Economy' publication inserts. Link onto the below our segment is #17. http://www.winnipeg-chamber.com/bold/watch_and_listen.aspx

FEDERAL BUDGET 2016 - HIGHLIGHTS

The commitment to infrastructure is far stronger than media reports suggested. An initial impression suggests that the federal budget is big on social spending including massive amounts allocated to Indigenous communities for new water, wastewater and social housing, accompanied by a \$30 billion deficit in year one (versus \$10 billion), adding roughly \$115 billion to the national debt over the next five

year period without any statement or commitment to balancing the budget, the latter being troubling.

In fact the federal government is committed to a ten year \$120 billion program and that "Budget 2016 commits an impressive additional \$60 billion plus in new federal infrastructure investments in two phased, while accelerating portions of the existing Building Canada Fund."

An important point to underline, given that we have been promoting strategic investment in trade enabling infrastructure assets, is that in Phase 2 of the program - to start in two years - there will be a focus to deliver fast, efficient trade corridors to service Canada's global trade needs to assist linking the benefits of international trade to Canada's economy. This is a potentially a very important growth investment statement.

On top of the new infrastructure funds, an additional \$3.4 billion is committed to investment into federal infrastructure assets. Another \$2 billion is set to be put into a new post-secondary institution investment fund, starting this fiscal year for the next three years. These monetary commitments will greatly benefit in the modernization of infrastructure across Canada.

What will be important in national discussions is to ensure that the government is held accountable and pressed for outcomes of its 'spending' and tasked to 'invest' its infrastructure programs to support real economic growth.

MCC PANEL DISCUSSION

On February 22, 2016, MHCA president participated on a panel discussion hosted by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce hosted a panel discussion to promote the Seven Pillars around which government should grow the economy. Moderated by Chuck Davidson, President of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, the co-panelists were: Dave Angus President Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce; Ron Koslowsky, President Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters Manitoba division and Chris Lorenc, MHCA President.

WESTERN CANADA ROADBUILDERS & HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (WCR&HCA)

The WCR&HCA Convention was held in Maui February 7-11, 2016 and based upon all accounts was very well received by the attendees. The total number of people were roughly 550 ; there were more contractors than suppliers; the program was robust and well received; the sponsor roundtable was essentially a happy meeting - see more complete report attached. The Board met on February 11, 2016 and Derek Walker assumed the role of Board Chair; Sean Wilson (SK) Vice-Chair; Henry Borger, Treasurer; The Board unanimously adopted its priorities which included a focus on the WNCTG&CI initiative.

SPRING COR™ MEETING

The Spring COR™ meeting is scheduled for May 10 at Meseiton Construction in Portage. The meeting will include presentations by Workplace Safety and Health on the new WHMIS system and 2016 WSH inspection priorities, and by Safe Work Manitoba (WCB) on how the COR™ program fits in with the proposed Safe Work safety program certification – Safe Work Certification.

SAFE WORK MANITOBA (WCB) SAFETY PROGRAM CERTIFICATION

Safe Work Manitoba is in the process of finalizing the details of its own safety program certification system – Safe Work Certification. This program will be similar to the COR™ program but targeted at other industries. MHCA/ WORKSAFELY™ has worked with Safe Work Manitoba on the development of this new program to ensure its consistency with the nationally-recognized COR™ program, which will continue to be used in the heavy construction industry.

SAFE ROADS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The launch of the 2016 SAFE Roads public Awareness campaign is scheduled for May 17, 2016. The campaign will emphasize the slogan "Slow Down, this is my Workplace" and is intended to educate motorists and the general public to respect SAFE driving policies to protect the safety of construction, utility and emergency services personnel and others who work on or adjacent to the public right of ways.

EVENTS, MEMBERSHIP & OFFICE MANAGER

Total number of students who attended EXPO South 2016 was 436 which was an increase from 2015. Individual breakdowns per day and by company were circulated to the Executive for their review. Sponsorship was lower than 2015 and there were 23 Exhibitors which participated over the two days.

The MHCA Events Committee is scheduled to meet on April 25, 2016 at which time budgets for the Spring Mixer and Golf Classic will be reviewed and adopted so that advertising can begin. Golf registration will begin on a scheduled day at the beginning of June.

The Awards Breakfast, Annual General Meeting and Chairman's Gala will be held on Friday November 18, 2016 at the RBC Convention Centre - details will be published in the HNW.

Since November 1, 2015, twenty-three (23) new companies have joined the MHCA. We are currently working on completing a members' satisfaction survey to be emailed to the membership for their views and comments.

The 2016 Membership Directory and Equipment Rentals Rates Guide was mailed to the membership the first week of April 2016.

The MHCA website is in need of updating and we are working with an external company to make those changes and to make the website more user friendly.



Above: MHCA Executive Committee meeting at MHCA Office on April 20, 2016

STUART OLSON BUILDS ON A CENTURY OF SUCCESS

Written by Pat Rediger and published in the Winnipeg Free Press MHCA Insert on March 23, 2016

Wherever you go in Manitoba, you'll see stunning samples of Stuart Olson's work — from public landmarks like the revamped RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg and Assiniboine Park Zoo's Journey to Churchill feature to popular restaurants and private businesses.

For more than 60 years, Stuart Olson has been the trusted partner to Manitoba's public, private and industrial construction industries. "Exceeding expectations throughout the lifecycle of a given project is our culture, our brand and promise to our clients," says Rick Graumann, Vice President of Stuart Olson's Manitoba operation.

"Shaping the future of our cities and communities is a privilege and a responsibility, one that we take very seriously. It's not only a matter of pride, but also a deep respect for our clients' investment and vision."

Serving clients since 1911, the \$1.4-billion company is guided by a team of over 4,000 employees who work out of the national office in Calgary and regional offices in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

With a staff of 40 in Winnipeg, the company offers both building and industrial services to customers throughout Manitoba. Stuart Olson's buildings group focuses heavily on the construction of public- and private-sector projects, delivered through construction management and design-build.

"Through our process, we understand our clients' needs, and their vision for success. We are usually engaged in the early stages of a project, and provide input through the life of a project, from design and tendering to construction and closeout," says Graumann. "This has been our success and we deliver it consistently across all regions that we service." Stuart Olson is well-known for sports stadium projects, including Investors Group Field, the home of the CFL's Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

This landmark \$190 million facility is the largest canopied structure in Canada, with eight acres of roof and a unique curved canopy that provides coverage over approximately 80% of its 33,000 seats. The company also went to bat on the construction of CanWest Global Park, home of the Winnipeg Goldeyes. In 2001, CanWest Global Park was featured in Baseball America's Great Parks calendar and eight years later, it made the cover.

Stuart Olson aims high in more ways than one. The company is responsible for Winnipeg's towering 201 Portage: a 450,000-square-foot, 33-storey project that was uniquely planned to encapsulate the existing CN Telecommunications Centre Building.

One of the company's major cultural projects, Assiniboine Park's Lyric Theatre, draws appreciative crowds all summer long. The 4,000-squarefoot facility was built in the classic Tudor style to complement the park's existing architecture. Right next door at Assiniboine Park Zoo, the Journey to Churchill exhibit is one of Manitoba's hottest attractions for polar bear fans from Winnipeg and around the globe.

Recently the company put the finishing touches on the \$147-million RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg renovation, which nearly doubled the Convention Centre's size from 492,000 to 832,000 square feet. The expansion provides an additional 131,000 square feet of exhibition space on the third floor, and boasts the breathtaking City View Room with soaring floor-to-ceiling windows high above York Avenue.

"We are proud to have successfully delivered the RBC Convention Centre. Not only is it an iconic design and instantly recognizable downtown landmark, but it was also delivered on time, and on budget," says Graumann. "I think it's an absolutely spectacular addition to our downtown environment, one that we can all be proud of."

Stuart Olson's impact on the community extends far beyond infrastructure. As an organization, it is committed to making a difference in people's lives and to enriching the communities in which it serves. "We are proud to support the community, whether it's through support or sponsorship of local charities or organizations, active participation in apprenticeship and training programs, protection of our environment or commitment to utilizing sustainable building practices for all of our projects," Graumann says.

"We are proud to be recognized as a leader in introducing sustainable practices and standards to the construction and industrial services industries. The result is over 100 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified projects completed across Canada."

Protecting the skilled workers who contribute to its success is an integral part of the company's culture. Stuart Olson has maintained its Certificate of Recognition (COR™) certification since 2000 and its current Workers' Compensation Board rating is among the lowest available in the industry.

"Our safety commitment extends beyond just our sites as we are continually trying to better the overall industry," Graumann says.

"Chairing the General Contractors Division Advisory Committee to the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba, and Stuart Olson being the recipient of Vancouver Regional Construction Association Awards of Excellence for workplace health and safety innovations, are just a couple of examples of our commitment to health, safety and the environment."



Buyers Market

By Peter G Hall, Vice President and Chief Economist



Leading indicators are essential in any fast-paced environment. It's quite possible that the economy's forward-looking signals are now more important than ever. Our bizarre on-again, off-again economic environment has brought confusion, and in spite of an ever-growing data deluge, an ongoing search for reliable guides. The search doesn't seem to be working; opinions on the outlook cover the gamut: some see imminent recession, others, renewed growth, while many foresee a slow-growth 'new normal'. Who, and what indicators, can be believed?

'Recession bugs' have their favourite leading indicators. Tumbling stock markets are among them. Since early-to-mid 2015, this bellwether has fallen in developed and emerging markets alike. They also point to Dr. Copper, the prescient red metal, down by over 35 per cent since mid-2014. Surely this reliable barometer is saying something. Then there's housing. It has been pointing up in the US, but hardly anywhere else. Spending – particularly on durable goods has been non-committal – years of flat performance have created a persistent hesitation that has been hard to break away from. Are these signals heralding decline, doldrums, or are they deceived?

There's a strong case for distortion. It's quite possible that financial market indicators, however accurate in the past, have been muddled by huge liquidity injections. If those injections indeed inflated trustworthy indicators – like stock markets and copper prices – then their removal is now doing the opposite, causing them to give another round of false signals. If these, and possibly others are broken, are there others we can turn to?

One highly-anticipated monthly gauge is the PMI - the view of the purchasing managers. Collected through surveys in at least 41 countries, data on both the activities and perceptions of purchasing managers gives a sense of what businesses are anticipating in the coming six months. Pity this clan: in a turbulent world, they have to put money down on the inputs they need in order to keep their equally turbulent production lines going. They are paid to get it right; what are they saying?

During 2015, their message was mixed: from multi-year highs, buyers in US manufacturing firms steadily backed away, and for five of the past six months foresaw declining activity. The non-manufacturing sector was more sanguine, although their growth projections were revised downward late last year. European buyers held firm through 2015, but lowered their expectations through the turbulent patch early this year. Japan's latest results are not good. China's manufacturers worried everyone last year, with buyers repeatedly signaling a decline in activity. India wasn't as bad, although its buyers hovered close to the growth-decline marker. Put it all together, and those who have to put their money where their mouths are don't seem too happy.

No doubt, they, too are affected by the distorted signals. If so, they can make a wrong guess, and if it's on the down-side, then what must follow is a flurry of activity to make up for insufficient recent purchases. Look at some of the most recent data, and this may indeed be happening. One month isn't much to go by, but March numbers are at least mildly exciting. In the US, buyers in the manufacturing sector lurched back into the black. New orders surged, and order backlogs began to swell. The service sector slide was also interrupted. The increase in the Euro Area was more muted, but their buyers' index erased most of the early-year losses. China's index also vaulted into positive territory, thanks to a big bump in export orders. India did the same, with its composite index showing a smart up-trend.

Is this a blip, or the beginning of something big? Time alone will tell. But at a moment when there seems to be a whole lot more reason to hold on and wait, this group of front-liners with a lot at stake in the game are placing their bets on growth. If the movement was isolated, it would be one thing; but the multi-country, multi-industry lurch into growth could end up being quite a significant development.

The bottom line? Amid the mixed barometers out there, the PMI is suddenly pointing upward. It's one that matters more, as those making the call are putting their jobs and reputations on the line. It's too early to get too excited, but this one is one to watch.

Training Schedule

**TO REGISTER,
PLEASE CONTACT:**
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April

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
COR™ Auditor

April 25 - 26
April 27
April 28 - 29

MHCA Office
MHCA Office
MHCA Office

May

COR™ Leadership for Safety Excellence
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
COR™ Auditor
Flagperson (1/2 Day AM)
Committee/Representative Training (1/2 Day PM)
Traffic Control Coordinator
Excavation & Trenching (1/2 Day AM)
Train the Trainer

May 11 - 12
May 13
May 16 - 17
May 18
May 19 - 20
May 24
May 24
May 25 - 26
May 27
May 30

Parkland Crossing Bridge - Dauphin
Parkland Crossing Bridge - Dauphin
MHCA Office
MHCA Office

June

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
COR™ Auditor
Flagperson (1/2 Day AM)
Committee/Representative Training (1/2 Day PM)
Traffic Control Coordinator
Excavation & Trenching (1/2 Day AM)

June 13-14
June 15
June 16-17
June 27
June 27
June 28-29
June 30

MHCA Office
MHCA Office
MHCA Office
MHCA Office
MHCA Office
MHCA Office
MHCA Office

New COR™ Company

On April 15, 2016, RCB Parking became WORKSAFELY™'s newest COR™ certified company.

RCB Parking is located in Winnipeg, MB. They offer parking equipment such as guard posts, bollards, parking curbs, time clocks and time cards, carwash controls, card access, parking tickets and receipt rolls. They also provide parking equipment maintenances including parking lot line painting and parking lot sweeping.

On behalf of the MHCA and WORKSAFELY™ team, we offer our sincere congratulations to RCB Parking on becoming COR™ certified



*Left:
WORKSAFELY™
Safety Advisor Randy
Olynick presents
COR™ banner to
RCB Owner, Ray
Berard, his wife
Claire and son
Miguel on April 15,
2016*



Certified Safety Program

SAFE Work Certified – What Does it Mean for COR™?



By Jamie Hall, Chief Operating Officer at SAFEWORK Manitoba, the prevention division of the WCB

SAFE Work Manitoba is working to establish standards for occupational safety and health with the development of the provincial SAFE Work Certified program. This program is being built on the same principles as COR™ certification. For the heavy construction sector, COR™ certification will qualify employers under the SAFE Work Certified program for future financial incentives. They are effectively synonymous.

As with COR™, our goal with this new certification program is to reduce workplace illness and injury, while encouraging a culture of safety in Manitoba. We're working with industry-based safety programs in several industries to help Manitoba employers meet these standards and become certified. In heavy construction, this means COR™ certified.

COR™ Certification Will Qualify You Under the SAFE Work Certified Program

You may be wondering how this program will affect COR™, the Certification of Recognition program familiar to all of you in the construction sector. Be assured – SAFE Work Certified will not replace COR™, nor will it offer or require an alternative to COR™. The COR™ program will continue to be used by the construction industry, just as it is today.

COR™ is an established, nationally-recognized certification program in the construction industry and the certification process currently in use will carry on. The Manitoba Heavy Construction Association will continue to grant COR™ certification to heavy civil construction companies.

SAFE Work Certified is designed to give other Manitoba industries the opportunity to establish their own certification programs under a common set of standards. It will build on the strengths of COR™ and other existing certification programs. SAFE Work Certified standards will be adoptable by all industries. The program will be voluntary and open to all Manitoba workplaces, regardless of size.

We expect that SAFE Work Certified's standards for safety and health certification programs will be in place in early 2017. We're currently providing support to industry-based safety programs in other industries as they develop their own safety and health certification programs. For the heavy construction industry, the plan is that companies certified through the existing COR™ program will meet the SAFE Work Certified standard.

We envision a family of certification programs that includes all industries in Manitoba, with SAFE Work Certified serving as the umbrella program.

Next step – financial incentives

The step beyond certification is a new financial incentive program. COR™-certified construction companies currently receive a WCB premium rebate. This existing rebate system available to COR™ certified companies will continue until it is replaced by the new incentive program beginning in 2018 or 2019. The new incentive program will offer incentives for all companies meeting the SAFE Work Certification standard, regardless of industry. For the heavy construction sector, COR™ certification will qualify companies for the new financial incentive. The details of this new incentive program are still being finalized, but we've already established that the incentives will be funded from the WCB's general fund, not from each industry.

While these financial incentives are an important part of our plan, the long-term reward we're after is a reduction in the number of workplace injuries and illness in Manitoba. We're already seeing a drop in the number of workplace injuries and illness in our province. By establishing a common set of safety standards, we aim to prevent even more incidents.

If you'd like to learn more about certification, please visit <http://safemanitoba.com/safe-work-certified>. You'll find background information, links to new and established safety associations/programs, and updates on our progress as we strive to make our province's workplaces safer and healthier.



You're invited to attend our next COR™ meeting!

Agenda:

1. WHMIS 2015
2. SAFE Work
 - How COR™ fits with the proposed SAFE Work certification
3. 2016 Workplace Safety & Health Priorities

DATE: May 10, 2016
WHEN: 10:30 a.m. - noon
WHERE: Mesehton Construction Ltd.
 Highway #1
 West of Portage la Prairie, MB
 South Service Road

Please RSVP on or before May 3, 2016 to
 Kristen Ranson; kristen@mhca.mb.ca



 **SiteDocs**
DIGITAL WORKPLACE SAFETY



2016 NORTH AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH WEEK

Make Safety a Habit

KICK OFF

Join us for the official Kick Off for the 2016 North American Occupational Safety & Health (NAOSH) week.
 Brought to you by MHCA WORKSAFEY™, and the City of Thompson.

When: May 3, 10:00 AM

Where: UCN/TRCC Reception Area, Thompson, MB

Who should attend: Employees, employers, partners and anyone who is interested
 in preventing injury and illness at the workplace, at home and in their community.

If you have any questions regarding the 2016 NAOSH week Kick Off please contact Jackie Jones at
204-947-1379 or by email jackie@mhca.mb.ca

See you there!

Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association

2017 Convention



HOLD THE DATE

Sunday, January 29, to Wednesday, February 1, 2017

JW Marriott Los Cabos Beach Resort & Spa
Los Cabos, Mexico

Proudly hosted by:



www.wcrhca.org



efficient
Controlled
Organized
Real Time

Truly defined. Truly **easy.**



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

