



The Heavy News Weekly



Premier Reaffirms Manitoba's Commitment to Internal Trade

Manitoba Government news release for July 28, 2016

Progress made at the 2016 summer meeting of Canada's premiers in Whitehorse is a positive step toward Manitoba's new government's desire to achieve a reduction in the barriers to trade that drive up the costs for businesses to operate and complicate their ability operate in more than one jurisdiction, Premier Brian Pallister said today.

"I am pleased that Canada's premiers have reached an agreement that will enable freer trade within Canada and that will begin to eliminate regulatory barriers between provinces and territories," said Pallister. "Manitoba's position on internal trade has evolved substantially under our new government, becoming the standard-bearer with respect to the removal of preferential practices and openness to new markets."

Manitoba is leading the way to more open trade within Canada, the premier said, noting that Manitoba's new government has already shown an ability to work effectively in collaboration with the other provinces and territories. The premier said Manitoba has clearly expressed a desire for the removal of barriers to trade that drive up prices for taxpayers. This commitment was evident during the Whitehorse meetings where Manitoba presented the most ambitious and open plan for removing exceptions on procurement under the new Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), he said.

"Manitoba's openness to new trading opportunities goes beyond those offered through the new CFTA," said Pallister. "Our government is focused on diversifying markets and further reducing barriers to trade, which is why we are moving quickly to join the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA). I am pleased that cabinet has now approved the province's negotiating mandate which will enable these discussions to progress."



In This Edition:

Premier Reaffirms Manitoba's Commitment to Internal Trade	1-2
US Housing: Stuck in 2nd Gear	3
Toronto Council Green Lights Litigation Provisions	4-5

The premier explained that benefits to members in the New West Partnership exceed those extended through the CFTA in a number of areas including:

- stronger and more uniform coverage of procurement – the NWPTA involves comprehensive coverage of all government entities and coverage of more contracts;
- closer co-operation and no administrative overhead for regulatory reconciliation – the NWPTA allows for the ongoing sharing of regulations prior to public release, without administrative overhead;
- unified corporate registration – the NWPTA allows companies that meet the requirements of their home province to initiate registration in another province from their home jurisdiction;
- full and free registration reciprocity for temporary inter- and intra-provincial vehicle operations – the NWPTA specifically requires vehicle registration reciprocity without exceptions or additional registration fees;
- more streamlined dispute settlement and stronger monetary penalties – the NWPTA includes a provision allowing a disputant to request a judicial review of any final panel report under the respective governments Arbitration Act and has a larger maximum monetary penalty (\$5 million) for Manitoba than the CFTA; and
- stronger discipline on business subsidies – the NWPTA prohibits governments from providing business subsidies that offer a competitive advantage or distort investment decisions.

“Our government is sending a strong message that Manitoba is once again open for business,” said Pallister. “Discussions with our western neighbours are ongoing and we look forward to ensuring that Manitoba businesses are provided the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of membership in the NWPTA that were denied them by the previous administration.

“With the inclusion of Manitoba, the NWP will cover more than 30 per cent of the Canadian population and will allow our province’s businesses with even greater access to the significant trade and business opportunities of our western neighbours.”

Manitoba



Upcoming MHCA Meetings

MHCA Executive Committee Meeting -
MHCA Office
September 07, 2016 - 12:00 Noon

MHCA Board of Directors Meeting -
Fort Garry Place
September 14, 2016 - 12:00 Noon

SAFE Roads Meeting -
MHCA Office
September 20, 2016 - 12:00 Noon

MHCA Executive Committee Meeting -
MHCA Office
October 19, 2016 - 12:00 Noon

MHCA Annual General Meeting -
RBC Convention Centre
November 18, 2016 - 9:30 am

MHCA Board of Directors Meeting -
RBC Convention Centre
November 18, 2016 - 11:00 am

MHCA Executive Committee Meeting -
MHCA Office
November 30, 2016 - 12:00 Noon

MHCA Executive Committee Meeting -
MHCA Office
January 18, 2017 - 12:00 Noon

MHCA Board of Directors Meeting -
Location TBD
January 25, 2017 - 12:00 Noon



US Housing: Stuck in 2nd Gear

By Peter G Hall, Vice President and Chief Economist



Enjoying the great summer weather? I hope it's giving you a chance to rest and recharge. For some industries, though, it's top-season. Construction is one of them. In particular, home-building takes advantage of the warmer months to get a good chunk of the year's supply in place. If the market is hot, then summer construction tells the tale. Stateside, market potential has been strong for a long time, but demand has failed to break out of its sub-par range. Is US housing in step with the hot summer temperatures, or defying them?

Before answering, it's important to understand why the US housing market has been so low for so long. Back in 2009, it was traumatized. Years of overbuilding, which saw housing starts peak at over 2 million units annually, created a glut of supply that triggered a collapse of new construction to the half-million-unit level. The industry stayed in that chasm for three years, and crawled out steadily. It's now hovering just below the 1.2 million unit level, impressive to some, but still well shy of the generally accepted 'water line' of demographic need.

That makes perfect sense if the US market is still absorbing that massive pre-recession glut. However, there are few today that believe this. First, we are now close to seven years beyond the recession, ample time to close the demand-supply gap. Second, the depths that the market plunged to accelerated the absorption of the surplus, as huge as it was. Third, various measures show that the US market is actually in deficit, and it is arguable that the deficit is growing by the month.

While that might sound like a stretch, consider that demographic demand pegs the annual need at about 1.4 million units. Then consider that after any period of under-building, there is usually a surge of construction that boosts units beyond basic requirements for a time. Even if underlying demand is somewhat less than the 1.4 million mark, starts currently stuck at 1.2 million units still defy past experience.

This has caused market-watchers and other hangers-on to do the usual. Impatient at the market's intransigence, they are casting about for possible structural explanations – in plainer language, why "it's different this time". Canadians have seen this all before. Back in the 1990's we had a very sluggish recovery thanks to significant fiscal reform. Housing plunged, and took a long time to recover. Analysts sharpened their pencils, and invented a host of explanations as to why housing demand was now permanently lower. Data corroborated their calculations – until the fiscal reform was complete, and the economy re-righted itself. Housing starts zoomed back to levels analysts never thought they'd ever see again...and all those 'new' arguments were hastily discarded.

This time around, the arguments for the US market have a familiar ring. What about the one that says that millennials have different preferences? Their 'nesting' instincts are different; their housing preferences have changed; attitudes toward household formation aren't what they used to be, and so on. Sure there is truth to these assertions – but the very same was said of Canada's market in the 1990's, and it still roared back. How about the debt-load argument? That is, unable to find work, millennials have gone back to school, and have piled up debts to the point that they can't afford a down-payment? Sounds compelling, until we see that indebtedness among the young is lower than it was ten years ago.

If Canadian history is indeed a guide for the current US experience, then it likely boils down to job-creation for the young. What's troubling about the impressive multi-year gain in US employment is that it has left out a large chunk of the labour force, including the youth. What is exciting, though, is that this seems to be changing. Faced with a low unemployment rate and looming labour shortages, companies no longer have the luxury of hiring experienced workers. They are now tapping into the youth market again, as evidenced by the recent jump in youth labour force participation. If this continues, history suggests that housing won't be far behind.

The bottom line? It has been a long wait, but if the very recent increase of youth labour force participation is indeed a trend, the embattled US housing market is in for an up-shift. That's good news for Canadian exporters well beyond just the wood sector.

Toronto council green lights litigation provision

Written by Lindsey Cole for the Daily Commercial News website on July 26, 2016 and published in the Canadian Construction Association newsletter



Members of the Construction and Design Alliance of Ontario (CDAO) state they are disappointed with Toronto City Council's decision to move ahead with a provision to disqualify suppliers who are in ongoing litigation with the city from bidding on projects.

"I'm very disappointed that they made that decision," says CDAO chair Barry Steinberg, who is also the chief executive officer of Consulting Engineers of Ontario. "We certainly don't believe it's in the best interest of citizens of any jurisdiction to have litigation exclusion clauses and we certainly think that it is an unfair procurement practice."

As part of changes to the city's purchasing bylaw and procurement processes policy, staff recommended that the city treasurer have "the authority to disqualify a supplier who is in ongoing litigation with the City related to a contract awarded by the City." Council approved this recommendation on July 15.

The intent behind the provision is to address suppliers that have a history of "bringing vexatious or frivolous litigation against the City" and not to stop suppliers who have legitimate issues from addressing them through the courts, the city stated.

For Steinberg, the decision to move ahead was surprising as there was little dialogue among councillors about the recommendation.

"When they (council) finally had the discussion I believed that our issue would be part of the discussion, if not all of the discussion," he says. "I don't feel that there was an informed decision made, this is my opinion, because there was no discussion about something that was obviously very important to the broader construction sector."

The recommendation was brought to the Broader Construction Association Consultation Group (BCACG), a city advisory group comprised of various industry representatives, at the end of May, but many stakeholders stated they felt there was no time to provide adequate input.

Michael Pacholok, Toronto's chief purchasing official and director of purchasing and materials management, told the Daily Commercial News in a previous interview that the industry will be consulted when it comes to developing proper procedures.

"To be clear, it's not necessarily a ban. It might be a disqualification with respect to a particular procurement. The treasurer will have to consult with the city solicitor on determining whether they would disqualify a supplier for a particular procurement," he said. "We will definitely be working with the industry to work on those procedures, late summer into the fall, so we get good consultation with respect to how it will work before it turns on in January."

While not an ideal outcome, Steinberg says, it's important the industry still participates in the discussion.

"We aren't happy with the bylaw change but hopefully we'll be more satisfied that the decisions made by the treasurer, in consultation with legal counsel, will be objective and made on the basis on some reasonable criteria," he says. "We want to get this to a point where it's fair."

A letter to the city from John Teahen, president of the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association, says the city needs to think of the consequences when approving such clauses.

"The fact that contractors bidding on City projects would not know whether they will be subsequently disqualified by the treasurer means that the pool of bidders interested in bidding may shrink considerably," it reads. "No one wants to spend time estimating and bidding on a tender only to learn, after the fact, that it had been a waste of resources because the treasurer unilaterally decided to disqualify that contractor. As a result, the City may face the unintended consequence of driving away good, qualified contractors from bidding on its projects."

The issue of restrictive bidding practices by public owners is not new, says Canadian Construction Association (CCA) president Michael Atkinson and it spans across the country.

“It started to bubble to the surface a couple of years ago when a number of our members started to run into this more frequently and in different regions of the country,” he explains, adding it has surfaced in Burnaby, B.C., Ottawa, with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and the City of Halifax, to name some examples.

The CCA adopted a policy statement that states it “opposes the practice by public owners of excluding construction contracting firms and suppliers from bidding their projects, or otherwise penalizing them, solely because of past or current litigation or other contested disputes with that public owner, or other public owners.”

Atkinson echoes Teahen’s comment that these provisions can negatively impact not just the construction industry but various other sectors too.

“It would drive perfectly reputable, great contractors away from doing business with public owners,” he says. “There are other ways to deal with this and I think that’s what the industry would like to see — rather than public bodies that run into what they consider problems and concerns with bad apples, that they don’t immediately jump to this kind of approach. It’s like using a hammer instead of a screwdriver. I think that’s where sitting down and consulting with their industry partners might go a long way.”

Back in Toronto, Steinberg hopes the industry’s voices will be heard.

“Over the years, whether it’s with Toronto or other municipalities, or provincial agencies, we have been involved in discussion and we have not been heard in certain circumstances. We have felt that we were consulted so that they can say we have been consulted,” he says. “We’re hoping that this won’t be of that nature, that our concerns won’t fall on deaf ears — that this promise will be carried through and we will be listened to in the consultation resulting in the development of appropriate procedures and decision-making criteria.”

2016 MHCA Annual Golf Classic



**NEW:
11:00 AM
SHOT GUN START!**

Team Captains:
If you haven't done so
already, please submit
the names of the golfers
on your team ASAP to
christine@mhca.mb.ca
Thank you

Wednesday, August 10, 2016 | Elmhurst & Pine Ridge Golf Courses

SOLD OUT

Please note only registrations cancelled prior to July 20, 2016 will be refunded.



**TO REGISTER,
PLEASE CONTACT:**
Kristen Ranson
kristen@mhca.mb.ca

Training Schedule

August

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Aug 15 - 16	MHCA Office
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	Aug 17	MHCA Office
COR™ Auditor	Aug 18 - 19	MHCA Office
Flagperson 1/2 day AM	Aug 23	MHCA Office
Committee/Representative Training 1/2 day PM	Aug 23	MHCA Office
Traffic Control Coordinator	Aug 24 - 25	MHCA Office
Excavation & Trenching 1/2 day AM	Aug 30	MHCA Office

September

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Sep 19 - 20	MHCA Office
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	Sep 21	MHCA Office
COR™ Auditor	Sep 22 - 23	MHCA Office
Flagperson 1/2 day AM	Sep 26	MHCA Office
Committee/Representative Training 1/2 day PM	Sep 26	MHCA Office
Traffic Control Coordinator	Sep 27 - 28	MHCA Office
Train the Trainer	Sep 29	MHCA Office
Excavation & Trenching 1/2 day AM	Sep 30	MHCA Office

KNOW YOUR WORKSAFELY™ ADVISOR

Don Hurst, B.A., M.A. (Econ.)

Director, WORKSAFELY™ Education and Training
E: don@mhca.mb.ca T: 204-594-9051 C: 204-291-4740

Ed Gregory, NCSO

WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor, Southern Region
E: ed@mhca.mb.ca T: 204-594-9058 C: 204-227-6932

Randy Olynick, CRSP

WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor, Eastern Region
E: randy@mhca.mb.ca T: 204-594-9057 C: 204-295-3876

Trevor Shwaluk, B.P.E

WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor, Central Region
E: trevor@mhca.mb.ca T: 204-594-9061 C: 204-871-0812

Terry Didluck, NCSO, OHSA

WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor, Western Region
E: terry@mhca.mb.ca C: 204-720-3362

Dave McPherson

WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor, Northern Region
E: dave@mhca.mb.ca C: 204-271-2088

Phil McDaniel, OH&S Cert., P. GSC, NCSO, CRM

CORTM Program Development & Quality Control Advisor
E: phil@mhca.mb.ca T: 204-594-9059 C: 204-997-5205

Jackie Jones, CAE

WORKSAFELY™ COR™ Program, Education and Training Advisor
E: jackie@mhca.mb.ca T: 204-594-9054 C: 204-509-0384

Sarah Higgins, OH&S Cert.

WORKSAFELY™ Client Services Advisor
E: sarah@mhca.mb.ca T: 204-594-9060 C: 204-979-3971

Kristen Ranson

WORKSAFELY™ Administrative Assistant
E: Kristen@mhca.mb.ca T: 204-594-9056 C: 204-330-3520

To contact your WORKSAFELY™ Advisor assigned to your area, please see <http://www.mhca.mb.ca/worksafely/know-your-advisor>



Hand Protection

Just the Facts:

Our hands are exposed to many different hazards on the worksite; from cuts to chemicals, pinching to crushing, and blisters to burns.

Work-related hand injuries are very common. Serious cases can lead to hospitalization and missed work. Damage to the nerves in your fingers and hands, loss of a finger, skin irritations and burns can negatively affect the quality of your work, productivity - or worse - end your career. Protecting our fingers and hands is important for work and quality of life.

Causes of Hand Injuries:

- Punctures, cuts or lacerations are caused by unprotected contact with sharp, spiked or jagged edges on equipment, tools or materials.
- Crushed, fractures or amputations are caused by unprotected contact with gears, belts, wheels and rollers, falling objects and jewellery, gloves and clothing getting caught and putting your hand in harms way.
- Strains, sprains and musculoskeletal injuries are caused by using the wrong tool for the job, or one that is the wrong size or too heavy for your hand.
- Burns are caused by direct contact with a hot surface or chemicals.
- Dermatitis and other skin disorders are pre-existing conditions that can be irritated or flair up when hands come in contact with certain ingredients in products and materials.

Identify Controls:

- Leather gloves provide better protection against sharp edges, splinters, and heat than cotton or other materials.
- Anti-vibration gloves should be worn when using power tools and equipment as they can help prevent hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)
- When working with chemicals, check the label to see if the product must be handled with gloves or not and what type of glove material is required. This information can also be found on the material safety data sheet (MSDS). MSDS must be available on site for any controlled products that are being used.
- Make sure you are using the correct gloves for the job. Some chemicals, like solvents and degreasers, can dissolve rubber gloves and burn the skin.
- Keep guards in place on machinery and power tools.
- Check tools and equipment to make sure they are in proper working order before beginning a task.
- Never cut towards the palm of your hand and always keep hands and fingers away from sharp edges (blades, protruding nails, etc.)

Introducing the next big thing in Workplace Safety & Health

Introducing WORKSAFELY e-COR™: the digital tool for supporting workplace safety & health practices in your workplace.

With WORKSAFELY e-COR™, you can:

- Provide instant access to your safety manual, safe work procedures and MSDS/WHMIS
- Sign and submit documents including Hazard Assessments, Tool Box Talks, and Inspections
- Effectively manage employees and their work sites from the office, home, or on-location
- Easily input, monitor and store information in preparation for yearly COR™ audits
- **And that's just the beginning.**



For more information, contact Sarah Higgins, WORKSAFELY™ Program Advisor, at 204-947-1379 or at sarah@mhca.mb.ca



Stay Connected



»»» mhca.mb.ca