

Shovels ready on major highway works this fall

MHCA Message to Members

It was welcomed news, under a sunny sky. Three major provincial highway projects were announced Monday, funded by the Manitoba and federal governments. The projects – two extensive works on Highway 1 East and another on Highway 6 – will see an expected \$53 million invested in the important Manitoba arteries.

These highways, it was pointed out, are critical to trade routes as well as tourism, and keeping them in good shape is key to economic prosperity.

The projects, announced at the St. Norbert Yards by Infrastructure Minister Blaine Pedersen, are all to start in September or later this fall, wrapping up in 2017. The westbound Trans-Canada from PTH 11 to PR 308 will see the grade widened along a 21-kilometer stretch. Another 32-kilometer stretch, from the Brokenhead River to the Greater Winnipeg Water District Railway, will see the eastbound lanes resurfaced. The Highway 6 project is a rehabilitation of pavement from PR 248 to PR 415, along with intersection improvements and other safety upgrades such as paved shoulders with rumble strips.

The Highway 6 road work was awarded to Maple Leaf Construction and Highway 1 eastbound was awarded to Borland Construction. The tendering on the westbound Trans-Canada project was to close this week.

The investment is split evenly between the two levels of government, with funds coming out of the 2014 New Building Canada Fund's provincial-territorial infrastructure component. Pedersen said the projects were key investments from the federal and provincial infrastructure programs, noting Highway 1 is a lifeline for the province and Highway 6 is our gateway to the North.

MP Doug Eyjolfson called the projects much-needed upgrades to Manitoba's national highway system. "This work will provide a more reliable and safe ride for both Manitobans and visitors, stimulate economic growth and contribute to the high quality of life Canadians want and expect," said Eyjolfson, representing federal Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi.

The announcement was attended by a variety of stakeholders, including the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, trade associations and Winnipeg provincial and federal politicians. The MHCA was represented at the event by Board of Directors past-president Henry Borger and policy analyst Catherine Mitchell.



(L-R): Association of Manitoba Municipalities executive director Joe Masi; Manitoba Infrastructure Minister Blaine Pedersen (speaking), MP for Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia-Headingley Doug Eyolfson; AMM President Chris Goertzen.

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Why Are Canada's Exports Tumbling?

Peter G Hall, Vice President and Chief Economist



Let's call it as it is. Canada is hardly setting records on the international trade track these days. Far from it – we're actually digressing. Growth surged at the beginning of the year in line with expectations, but a swift U-turn dashed those hopes, and the news has been pretty gloomy since. The upbeat outlook at the beginning of the year made sense, and still does. After all, the US economy is still powering ahead, and our dollar remains well below its post-recession average. What went wrong?

The data gyrations are dramatic. A 2-month surge through January lifted exports 5.9% – the sort of payback that was expected, given how the drivers were lining up. Then a 2-month 10.2 per cent crash that made it all look like a fluke. Since then, total exports have meandered, with nothing dramatic really going on. Strip away price movements, though, and the story is more serious. The trend in physical shipments of goods has been persistently negative, almost without interruption. Worse yet, the trend is broadly based across a number of industries. It might be some comfort if this was a bizarre change in our less-traditional market, or due to recent uncertainty in Europe. Not so; the problem is almost squarely with our key market, the US.

Does that make sense? Is something faltering down there that we didn't initially notice? Look at the labour market, and you get a resounding 'no'. There was a job-creation hiccup a few months back that was more of a statistical aberration, but apart from that, the US job machine has powered ahead, and is for the first time pulling in a cohort of the labour force that the recession left behind. The unemployment rate is below 5%, a tight market by anyone's standards. Housing is holding firm. Industrial production has some decent recent lift. And key categories of business investment outside the resource sector remain impressive. So with all this going on, why is GDP not looking great? Well, that high greenback is not helping the trade picture. But look closer at the data, and there's more. In spite of the good news stateside, there was a surge of inventories. It seems businesses got a bit ahead of themselves in their purchases. Realizing this, they were able to cut orders and limit their buying activity to bring inventories back into line.

Fair enough, but that doesn't sound like enough to rock our trade. Oh, but it is. The inventory swing knocked 1.2% off annualized US growth in the second quarter, after shaving about one-fourth of that from first-quarter growth. Given America's propensity to source goods abroad, imports can – and certainly seemed to – take a disproportionately large hit. The good news? Thankfully, inventory swings are temporary, especially in the resilient environment the US is enjoying today. How temporary? Looks like this one will be wrapped up in the third quarter. Indeed, US imports are already on a 3-month upswing. It looks like the worst of this swing may indeed be behind us.

If this really is all a temporary blip, then we shouldn't be the only ones suffering. We're not. South of the Rio Grande, exports aren't ship-shape either. On a US-dollar basis, Mexico's fob merchandise exports are also on a down-trend – almost exactly in synch with Canada's. The only difference is that theirs isn't as deep as ours. Why? Firstly, the peso depreciated by 30% over that period, while the Canuck buck fell by just 16%. Secondly, resource exports are a greater share of Canada's total, and have wracked our bottom line thanks to plunging world prices. That aside, it helps to know that export weakness is not just a 'Canada thing'.

Canadian exporters may end the summer break a bit more twitchy about recent results, but it looks from this vantage point that the year will end with positive momentum. Numbers stateside are already looking more positive on several fronts, meaning that beyond the inventory adjustment, there could be some serious buying going on.

The bottom line? Recent trade trends in Canada are scary, partly because of the world's persistent wobbles, but mostly because they don't line up with our key trade partner's solid performance. But the data show that they maybe got a bit too exuberant about stocking their shelves, and needed to take a breather. That won't last long, so be ready for a late-year export resurgence.

Express Your Opinion on EI Services by Aug. 31

From the CCA Weekly Newsletter



The government is taking action by launching the employment insurance (EI) service quality review, a nationwide consultation process with key stakeholders and the public to seek their input on ways to improve services to EI claimants. The review will examine how Service Canada administers the EI program so that resources are focused on providing the best possible service to Canadians, with a focus on streamlining applications, reducing wait times for service delivery, and reducing administrative burden for employers.

Consulting with Canadians - Employment Insurance Service Quality Review Employment Insurance Service Quality Review Survey

Privacy Notice Statement

About this consultation

Millions of Canadians rely on the Government of Canada to provide them with easy access to the services and benefits to which they are entitled. They expect quality and fast service from their government—whether the service is provided online, over the phone or in person. According to Service Canada data, too many Canadians are not receiving the level of service they expect.

Through Budget 2016, the Government of Canada committed to improve services for Canadians. To support this commitment, the government is taking action by launching the Employment Insurance Service Quality Review, a nationwide consultation process with key stakeholders and the public to seek their input on ways to improve services to Employment Insurance claimants.

The review will examine how Service Canada administers the EI program so that resources are focused on providing the best possible service to Canadians, with a focus on three key areas:

- streamlining applications
- reducing wait times for service delivery
- reducing administrative burden for employers
- EI is funded by employer and employee premiums—consideration will also be given to trade-offs between improving services and managing premium rates.

It is clear that Canadians have something to say on this subject—this is your opportunity to share your views with the government on the administration of the EI program.

This consultation will be open until the end of August 2016. A summary report of feedback received through these consultations will be released in fall 2016.

How to participate

Share your views online (online consultation open until August 31, 2016)

Send your comments by email to: consultation@servicecanada.gc.ca

Consultations with stakeholders will also be taking place through regional and national meetings from May to August 2016.

Visit http://www.esdc.gc.ca/en/consultations/ei/service_quality_review.page to learn more



WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor Terry Didluck is bringing Traffic Control Coordinator (TCC) Training Week to Thompson, Manitoba

Traffic Control Coordinators are considered leaders in our industry. Become familiar with standards and requirements used to create and maintain construction zones on our highways and provincial roads and be educated in the legal, safety, and functional requirements of setting up and coordinating traffic control measures.

REGISTER NOW

Contact **Kristen Ranson** at **204-594-9056** or **kristen@mhca.mb.ca**

LOCATION:

University College of the North
55 UCN Drive
Thompson, MB R8N 1L7

From September 19-21, 2016,
training will include:

- 1/2 day Flagperson Training
- 1/2 day Confined Space Awareness
- 2 days TCC Training



Meet Terry Didluck: your WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor within the Western Region of Manitoba.

Terry is here to help you achieve COR™/SECOR Certification with professional education, training, and a structured audit package that's customized to your company.

Training Schedule

September

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Sep 12-13	(Brandon) St. John's Ambulance
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	Sep 14	(Brandon) St. John's Ambulance
COR™ Auditor	Sep 15-16	(Brandon) St. John's Ambulance
Flagperson Training 1/2 day AM	Sep 19	(Thompson) UCN
Confined Space Awareness 1/2 day PM	Sep 19	(Thompson) UCN
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Sep 19-20	MHCA Office
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Sep 19-20	(Thompson) UCN
Traffic Control Coordinator	Sep 20-21	(Thompson) UCN
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	Sep 21	MHCA Office
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	Sep 21	(Thompson) UCN
COR™ Auditor	Sep 22-23	MHCA Office
COR™ Auditor	Sep 22-23	(Thompson) UCN
Confined Space Awareness 1/2 day AM	Sep 26	(Dauphin) Canway Inn
Fall Protection Awareness 1/2 day PM	Sep 26	(Dauphin) Canway Inn
Flagperson 1/2 day AM	Sep 26	MHCA Office
Committee/Representative Training 1/2 day PM	Sep 26	MHCA Office
Excavation & Trenching 1/2 day AM	Sep 27	(Dauphin) Canway Inn
Committee/Representative 1/2 day PM	Sep 27	(Dauphin) Canway Inn
Traffic Control Coordinator	Sep 27-28	MHCA Office
Hazard Assessment 1/2 day AM	Sep 28	(Dauphin) Canway Inn
Train the Trainer	Sep 29	MHCA Office
Excavation & Trenching 1/2 day AM	Sep 30	MHCA Office

October

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Oct 17 - 18	MHCA Office
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	Oct 19	MHCA Office
COR™ Auditor	Oct 20 - 21	MHCA Office
Flagperson 1/2 day AM	Oct 25	MHCA Office
Committee/Representative Training 1/2 day PM	Oct 25	MHCA Office
Traffic Control Coordinator	Oct 26 - 27	MHCA Office
Excavation & Trenching 1/2 day AM	Oct 28	MHCA Office
Auditor Refresher 1/2 day PM	Oct 28	MHCA Office

November

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Nov 14 - 15	MHCA Office
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	Nov 16	MHCA Office
COR™ Auditor	Nov 17 - 18	MHCA Office
Flagperson 1/2 day AM	Nov 22	MHCA Office
Committee/Representative Training 1/2 day PM	Nov 22	MHCA Office
Traffic Control Coordinator	Nov 23 - 24	MHCA Office
Excavation & Trenching 1/2 day AM	Nov 25	MHCA Office
Auditor Refresher 1/2 day PM	Nov 25	MHCA Office
Train the Trainer	Nov 29	MHCA Office

December

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	Dec 12 - 13	MHCA Office
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	Dec 14	MHCA Office
COR™ Auditor	Dec 15 - 16	MHCA Office
Flagperson 1/2 day AM	Dec 19	MHCA Office
Committee/Representative Training 1/2 day PM	Dec 19	MHCA Office
Traffic Control Coordinator	Dec 20 - 21	MHCA Office
Excavation & Trenching 1/2 day AM	Dec 22	MHCA Office



WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor Terry Didluck is bringing COR™ Week to Brandon, Manitoba

From September 12-16, 2016, training will include:

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

REGISTER NOW - Space is limited!

Contact **Kristen Ranson** at
204-594-9056 or **kristen@mhca.mb.ca**

LOCATION:

University College of the North
55 UCN Drive
Thompson, MB R8N 1L7

WORKSAFELY™ requires at least six (6) people registered to deliver the course.



WORKSAFELY™ Safety Advisor Dave McPherson is bringing COR™ Training Week to Thompson, Manitoba

From September 19-23, 2016, training will include:

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

REGISTER NOW - Space is limited!

Contact **Kristen Ranson** at
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SAFETY TALK

Back Care - Basic Lifting

Back injuries represent a large percent of injuries in the heavy construction sector. Approximately 1 in every 100 construction workers report back injuries - typically causing them to miss 7 - 30 work days per year.

Explain dangers

Heavy construction involves a lot of manual lifting.

- Back, neck, and shoulder injuries are common
- Manual lifting in cramped or awkward conditions increases the risk of injury

Identify controls

Avoid lifting above shoulder height. This causes your back to arch and puts a lot of stress on your shoulder and spine.

Push rather than pull. Pushing puts less stress on the spine.

Lift safely by planning

- Size up the load
- Make sure the path is clear
- Get help if you need it
- Use a dolly or other materials handling equipment whenever you can

Demonstrate

As you talk demonstrate actions.

- Get as close to the load as possible
- Put yourself in the best position for the lift. Avoid twisting from the waist, reaching out, and leaning over equipment or material when lifting
- Keep one foot slightly ahead of the other for better balance
- As you lift, tighten your stomach muscles.
- Use your legs to lift
- Pivot to turn. Avoid twisting your back
- Lower the load by maintaining the curve in your lower back

Print and review this talk with your staff, sign off and file for COR™ / SECOR audit purposes.

Date: _____

Performed by: _____

Concerns:

Employee Name:

Supervisor: _____

Location: _____

Corrective Actions:

Employee Signature:



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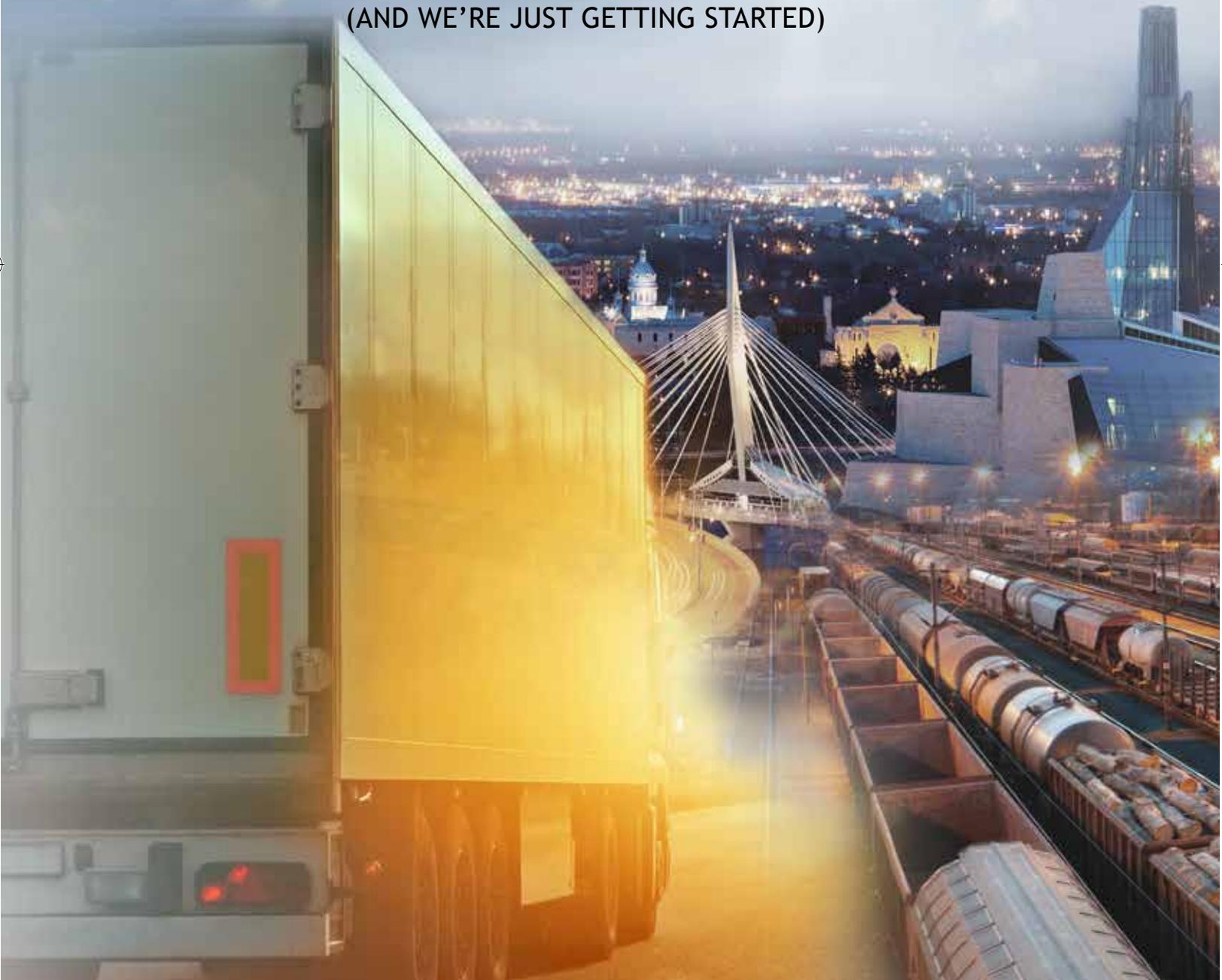
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