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## BOWMAN PUTS CITY-WIDE GROWTH, INTERESTS ON COUNCIL'S AGENDA

Photo: Mike Deal, Winnipeg Free Press

*MHCA ready to start work on 2019 Operating and Capital Budget planning*

**M**ayor Brian Bowman appointed his executive policy committee members this week, returning Coun. Matt Allard as Chair of the infrastructure renewal and public works committee and Coun. Scott Gillingham as Chair of its finance committee.

Bowman stressed at a news conference Monday that EPC members must demonstrate leadership and collaboration that "transcend ward boundaries in the best interest of overall city building.

"A critical part of being an effective EPC member is being willing to build a unified city rather than focusing on regional divisions and differences."

Allard was appointed Chair of IRPW last spring, when Marty Morantz stepped down from EPC after announcing his intent to run for the federal Conservatives in the next election.

Bowman appointed new councillors Sherri Rollins to the EPC, Markus Chambers as deputy mayor and Vivian Santos as acting deputy mayor.

Coun. Scott Gillingham returns to EPC as finance committee chair, and Coun. Cindy Gilroy becomes chair of water and waste.

Bowman made note of the fact that city

council must be mindful of positioning Winnipeg for growth, as it moves towards a population of one million. That will require special care to maintain fiscal balance, he said.

MHCA President Chris Lorenc said he appreciated the mayor's focus on city-wide interests and growth.

"That is a vision that reflects our industry's principled approach to sustained, strategic investment in core infrastructure and budget planning," Lorenc said. "We never tell political offices which specific infrastructure asset to prioritize; the MHCA asserts that the focus, first, should be on strategic investment that brings high economic return, which is our trade transportation route.

"Further, such strategy requires good procurement practice and policies, and multi-year budgeting to get full value out of each year's budget for streets, roads, bridges, and sewer and water."

Lorenc said the MHCA has had good collaboration with the mayor and EPC in the past and anticipates that relationship will continue with all of EPC and all members of Council. The MHCA looks forward to working with the mayor and council especially as planning for the 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets gets underway.

# Economic report card shows room to improve

Chris Lorenc and Yvette Milner, *Winnipeg Free Press*, November 6



Chris Lorenc

**We all like a good deal. We're Manitobans. Money in the pocket.**

When it comes to putting out a couple of bucks to make a couple more bucks, who wouldn't go for a guaranteed return?

Public investment in core infrastructure (streets, highways, bridges and structures, sewer and water land drainage) is about as close to a guaranteed return on the dollar as you can get.

But it's not all delayed reward: there is instant gratification in smoother roads and fewer traffic jams, too. Who would leave that kind of opportunity for return on investment (ROI) on the table?

As for the future ROI, strong investment in roads and highways is the gift that keeps on giving: it boosts our GDP for many years — it increases trade, and in Manitoba, trade is 53 per cent of our GDP. Who wouldn't grab that kind of opportunity?

This is the kind of investment governments can and should use, in the interests of the provincial economy, and of all Manitobans. We deserve better roads and we need to look after our economy — our kids' employment prospects.

This is Public Investment 101, pretty much textbook stuff. The text is backstopped by a hefty bibliography supporting the business case. Again, who wouldn't seize that opportunity?

Apparently, not the Pallister government.

Far from being Manitoba's economic saviour, this government is restraining immediate growth and putting our potential for growth at risk.

It has no multi-year plan for investment in core infrastructure. It has slashed the very budget that supports return on investment, that helps fill the treasury with tax revenues that carry social program budgets.

In 2015-16, \$628 million was invested in our highways. The Pallister government cut the budget every year and for 2018-19, it budgeted a mere \$350 million for highways.

Municipalities are hurting, too — the municipal roads

and bridges program was all but eliminated, cut from \$14 million to \$2 million.

The ride's getting bumpier, yes. But where the pain really hits the road is on our economy, because if we can't get trade on the road, 53 per cent of our GDP is impaired, employment takes a hit and incomes don't rise. Our standard of living doesn't get the solid lift it should.

How do we know these things? Economic analyses have documented infrastructure's predictable, high-value ROI. The primer for Manitoba was written in 2014 by the Conference Board of Canada.

The Conference Board analysis said Manitoba's plan, at the time, to invest \$1.02 billion annually in core infrastructure — roads, highways, bridges and water structures — would boost real GDP by \$6.3 billion over 2014-2018, create 59,000 person-years of employment and boost average incomes by \$1,100.

In 2015, the board checked its numbers. It reviewed the \$1.04 billion invested in core infrastructure in 2014, and found it boosted Manitoba's GDP by \$1.31 billion. The largest impact was on personal incomes and retail sales. The spinoffs were seen in tax revenues (people earn and spend) to governments.

The ROI of that kind of strategy? We get to invest in health and education. Cut deficits. Decide on where taxes might be adjusted. Our province and our economy get on a solid footing.

Setting aside the financial and fiscal benefits of sustained, strategic investment, let's talk about how well-maintained core infrastructure gets personal. It means your car doesn't get swallowed by a sinkhole; your water flows when you turn the tap; your sewage gets flushed and, equally importantly, treated. It means your house and your community won't get swamped when the snows melt and rains pound. The bridge or overpass you drive on (or under) doesn't spectacularly, tragically "fail."

It means things that must work actually do work. We don't think about that until something fails. We call core infrastructure an economic investment; really, it's an investment in people. In Manitobans.

We know there are no guarantees in life. But when experience and evidence repeatedly bear out that the ROI of core infrastructure investment is like money in the (treasury) bank, why wouldn't you invest?

It's Public Investment 101. The Pallister government apparently doesn't get it, and it's hurting our economy.

*Chris Lorenc is the president of Manitoba Heavy Construction Association. Yvette Milner is the president of Merit Contractors of Manitoba Association.*

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# Infrastructure concerns at the public 'top of mind'

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**T**he MHCA and Merit Contractors Association will be testing public attitudes towards infrastructure, specifically their top of mind concerns about highways, and how Manitoba can adequately invest in those roads to ensure the economy continues to grow.

MHCA and Merit will be conducting, with media consultants, two focus groups – young and older – to test their knowledge of infrastructure, funding and what are their priorities when it comes to keeping our highways in good condition.

"We know that our highways carry trade, and trade is 53% our provincial economy, but we want to know how

aware those in the general public are of this fact, of the critical role that good, efficient and reliable transportation infrastructure plays in the economy and its growth," MHCA President Chris Lorenc said.

"The current provincial government has slashed the highways budget by \$318.5 million, in cuts and under-expenditures, since 2016 – that leads to further deterioration of the highways and it hurts economic growth,"

The results of the focus groups will help the MHCA and Merit in preparing public messages to be carried on traditional and social media this fall.

## MHCA Committee Meetings

**MHCA Board of Directors**  
RBC Convention Centre  
November 16 • 11:00 AM

**Rental Rates Committee**  
MHCA Office  
November 20 • Noon

**MHCA Executive Committee**  
MHCA Office  
January 16

**MHCA Board of Directors**  
MHCA Office  
January 23

# Companies get a step up on safety



Al Williamson, NCSO

Al Williamson has spent 40 years in construction, and the last 10 to 12 as a safety coordinator at E.F. Moon Construction in Portage la Prairie.

This month, Williamson and his colleague at E.F. Moon, Dan Walker, were among four

safety specialists who successfully challenged the exam for the National Construction Safety Officer designation last month.

"The industry is getting more and more complicated, safety-wise," Williamson said. "There's more concern for workers' safety and companies are looking for the highest standard in safety."

"It's a designation that lets everybody know you're relatively competent in what you're doing." Walker, also a safety coordinator, is working at the Por-

tage Pea Plant being constructed west of the city.

Grandview's C&B Stirling Enterprises will benefit from its newly minted NCSO safety specialist, Michael Fraser. Fraser has been C&B Stirling's safety coordinator since 2017, but has worked in many roles on the construction side of the company since 2004.



Michael Fraser, NCSO

"I learned the importance of the role of a safety program by watching our company grow from having not much or a program to becoming COR Certified in the mid-2000s," Fraser explains. "The NCSO certification to me was a standard and a goal to show the dedication to the well-being and safety of all our employees, many of whom are my friends."

Fraser says his certification continues to help the company in its work to maintain safety excellence.

Joseph Priest, in Manitoba Infrastructure's Dauphin office, also achieved his NCSO.

## Feds launch Infrastructure Statistics Hub program

*DCN News Services, November 2*

**OTTAWA — The federal government has announced the launch of the Infrastructure Statistics Hub, described as an interactive tool that allows users to view data on the investment, stock and contribution of infrastructure to the Canadian economy from the recently launched Infrastructure Economic Account.**

It was developed by Statistics Canada with the support of Infrastructure Canada and launched in September 2018 as part of a commitment made in Budget 2017 to support a more evidence- and results-based approach to public infrastructure policies, programs and investment decisions, said an Oct. 29 statement.

The release said the program includes data linkages between infrastructure investment, value added, number of jobs and other variables for both the public and private sectors. Information for the period 2009 to 2017 can be viewed on a map, table and graph and is presented for three main subject areas: investment, stock and economic contribution.

"The government is committed to an evidence-based approach to decision-making and new approaches to measure the impact of infrastructure investment," said Minister of Infrastructure and Communities François-Philippe Champagne in the statement.

# Three things to look for in this year's State of the Province

Colin Fast, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, November 6



Photo: Robert Lowdon

Premier Brian Pallister will take to the stage on December 6th to deliver his third State of the Province address. Now sitting midway through his government's term, what will the Premier have to share with the Chamber audience? Here are three big issues to look for:

## 1. Economic Development Strategy

At last year's State of the Province, Premier Pallister announced that former Winnipeg Chamber CEO Dave Angus and Payworks CEO Barb Gamey would be heading up an effort to develop a new economic development strategy for Manitoba. Several months of province-wide consultations were held to gather input into the strategy,

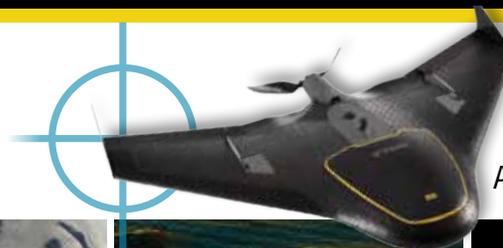
which is expected to be released soon. For several years the Chamber has championed the need for a comprehensive economic development plan, so we're excited to see how the government wants to work with the private sector to grow our province.

## 2. Carbon Tax

Maybe you've heard of this one lately? With the recent cancellation of the provincial carbon tax and the announcement the federal government will assess its own tax in Manitoba, there has been a great deal of confusion and concern over how we will reduce emissions in our province and who will be paying for it. We will be looking to the Premier to clarify his government's plans going forward, including next steps for the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan.

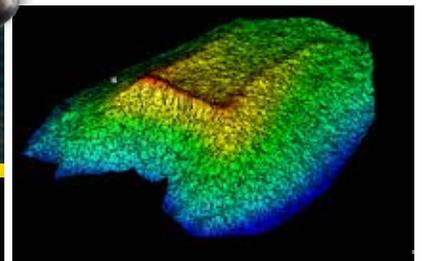
## 3. Education Reform

The province has promised it will begin a comprehensive review of the education system in 2019 that could include everything from curriculum to standardized testing, taxation, provincial funding and potential amalgamation of school divisions. As this is the next big policy issue for this government, we'll look for the Premier to give some signals about what he hopes to accomplish from this review and how changes to the education system might help young Manitobans prepare for the jobs of the future.



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# Brandon COR™ meeting gets updates on silica testing, workplace impairment *Back to you*

**Don Hurst**  
Director of WORKSAFELY™  
Education and Training



COR™ Meeting, November 7, Brandon

On our first snowy day of the year, WORKSAFELY™ had a great turn out for our COR™ meeting in Brandon. We would like to thank Jason Mofatt, and Allen & Bolack Excavating Ltd., for hosting more than 40 attendees from around the province. COR meetings allow us to share industry trends and news.

The November 7th meeting's highlights included:

- SAFE Work Manitoba reported that the current injury rate for the heavy construction industry remains below 4 workers per 100. While this is good news there is still work to be done to reduce the rate.
- WORKSAFELY's Phil McDaniel reported on work we are doing with the University of British Columbia on crystalline silica-exposure testing that will assist

companies in meeting Workplace Safety and Health requirements. WORKSAFELY is also working with SAFE Work Manitoba and WSH to monitor and test for diesel emissions in the new year. We are seeking 5 or more companies to volunteer to conduct diesel-emission exposure testing at no cost. Additionally, WORKSAFELY is trialing its new e-Audit tool, available to others.

- Finishing up our meeting, Jackie Jones talked about WORKSAFELY's new Managing Impairment in the Workplace workshop; the first class will be held in Winnipeg on November 13, and then in Brandon on December 4.
- The new Click Before You Dig Manitoba platform will be ready January 11, 2019. Companies are encouraged to attend information webinars to be held over the next couple months.

Thanks, again, to Allen and Bolack Excavating Ltd for hosting our meeting and to all who attended. Do not hesitate to call Phil or Jackie with questions on their initiatives.

## KNOW YOUR WORKSAFELY™ TEAM

### **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

### **Phil McDaniel, OH&S Cert., P. Gold Seal Cert, NCSO, CRM**

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

### **Ed Gregory, NCSO, OH&S Cert.**

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, NCSO**

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

### **Dave McPherson, NCSO**

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

### **Gerry McCombie, Gold Seal Cert, NCSO**

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

### **Jackie Jones, CAE**

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

### **Delaney Kunzelman-Gall, OH&S Cert.**

WORKSAFELY™ Client Services Advisor  
E: delaney@mhca.mb.ca T: 204-594-9060 C: 204-325-6170

### **Kristen Ranson**

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



# SAFETY TALK

## Freezing rain

Freezing rain is a common concern in fall with temperatures often at or below freezing.

### What's the danger?

Freezing rain can cause roads and walkways to be extra slippery.

Additionally, freezing rain can soak through your clothes, causing your body temperature to drop.

### How to protect yourself

#### Driving:

- Verify road conditions by checking local weather and traffic reports
- Slow down and allow a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you
- Make sure your headlights, taillights, beacons and windows are clean

#### Slips and falls:

- Always look ahead for slippery ice surfaces
- Wear footwear with rubber soles and attach grips to the bottom if necessary
- Be careful getting in and out of vehicles/equipment or when entering/exiting buildings

#### Working outside:

- Wear warm, waterproof clothes and footwear
- Dress in layers
- Change out of your wet clothes when you get home

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Concerns:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Corrective Actions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Employee Name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Employee Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Training Schedule

## Construction Safety Excellence™

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

**WINNIPEG - MHCA Office**  
**3-1680 Ellice Ave.**

**BRANDON**  
**St John Ambulance**

### November 2018

- 13 Impairment in the Workplace **\*FULL**
- 19-20 COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence**
- 21 COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management**
- 22-23 COR™ Auditor**

### December 2018

- 4 Managing Impairment in the Workplace (1/2 day AM)
- 4 Building a Harassment Free and Respectful Workplace (1/2 day PM)

### December 2018

- 3 Transportation of Dangerous Goods (1/2 day AM)
- 4 Safety Committee/Representative (1/2 day AM)
- 4 Flagperson (1/2 day PM)
- 5 Train the Trainer-Facilitation Skills
- 6-7 Traffic Control Coordinator
- 10-11 COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence**
- 12 COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management**
- 13- COR™ Auditor**

### January 2019

- 14-15 COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence**
- 16 COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management**
- 17-18 COR™ Auditor**
- 30 Train the Trainer-Facilitation Skills

### January 2019

- 10 Winter Roads Safety (1/2 day AM)
- 10 Emergency Response (1/2 day PM)
- 14-15 COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence**
- 16 COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management**
- 17-18 COR™ Auditor**
- 22 Excavating & Trenching (1/2 day AM)
- 22 Auditor Refresher (1/2 day PM)
- 23 Flagperson (1/2 day AM)
- 23 Safety Committee/Representative (1/2 day PM)
- 29-30 Traffic Control Coordinator

### February 2019

- 5 Flagperson (1/2 day AM)
- 5 Safety Committee/Representative (1/2 day PM)
- 6 Excavating & Trenching (1/2 day AM)
- 6 Transportation of Dangerous Goods (1/2 day PM)
- 11-12 Traffic Control Coordinator
- 20 Auditor Refresher (1/2 day AM)

### February 2019

- 5 Managing Impairment in the Workplace (1/2 day AM)
- 11-12 COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence**
- 13 COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management**
- 14-15 COR™ Auditor**
- 20 Train the Trainer-Facilitation Skills

# Before You Dig Partners

*Important update:* Testing period for new one-call software



*New cutover date is January 11, 2019*

Before You Dig Partners are extending the testing period for the new one-call software after delays shortened the time-frame for members and users to get involved in software testing. The testing period has been extended by five weeks, and cutover has been pushed back until after the holiday season: on January 11, 2019.

While development of the Pelican software remains on-track to be completed by November 30, we want to give our members and our users a comfortable amount of time to test the new system before cutover. Therefore, we have decided to extend the testing period to allow more time to make adjustments to inter-

nal software and ensure members are able to process tickets received from the new one-call software.

Over the next week, we will provide further information about milestones and scheduled dates that are affected by the extended testing period and the new cutover date.

Check [Beforeyoudigpartners.com](http://Beforeyoudigpartners.com) for updates.

**If you have any questions please contact Jackie Jones at 204-947-1379.**

## MANAGING IMPAIRMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

WORKSAFELY™ will be hosting workshops on impairment in the workplace.

Alcohol and drug use can have substantial consequences for the workplace.

These workshops will give you information based on a 'best practice' model for responding to alcohol and drug-related risk in the workplace.

**FOR HR/SAFETY PROFESSIONALS/  
SUPERVISORS**

November 13, 2018 \*FULL  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
MHCA Office - Unit 3 - 1680 Ellice Ave  
WINNIPEG

December 4, 2018  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
St. John Ambulance - Brandon  
Shoppers Mall - 1570 18th St  
BRANDON

\$78.75 (includes gst)/person

To register contact Kristen Ranson at  
204-947-1379, or [kristen@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:kristen@mhca.mb.ca)

**WORKSAFELY**  **MHCA**



## Infrastructure

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Commercial Vehicle Safety and Permits  
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Email : [permitservices@gov.mb.ca](mailto:permitservices@gov.mb.ca)

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## Canada's provincial-industrial export outlook

By Peter G Hall, Vice President and Chief Economist

**Canada's exports are caught between global mega-shifts in both opportunities and risks. On the positive side, global growth is strong, and the primary driver is our top customer. In addition, our US sales now enjoy more certainty, with the signing of the USMCA agreement. A further plus is the steady diversification of exports to fast-growing emerging markets. Weighing on the outlook are the dual threats of protectionism, rising interest rates and the consequent turbulence in emerging markets. In this context, how are Canada's provinces and industrial sectors expected to fare?**

It's not rare to see radical differences in growth among the provinces in any given year, given their contrasting industrial makeup and differing dependencies on world conditions. 2018 was no exception, producing more outliers than average performers. Things are expected to be more settled in 2019, but there are a few notable exceptions.

### Top performing provinces

Newfoundland and Labrador will again be top of the heap, and by quite a large margin. Outsized growth is directly due to the ramp-up of production from both the Hebron offshore oilfield and the Vale nickel processing plant at Long Harbour. Small-but-mighty Prince Edward Island is expected to grab second spot. After a soft 2018, next year should see frozen food exports and gains in the aerospace sector vault the province to 8 per cent export growth. All told, it will be a good year for Atlantic Canada as New Brunswick adds 6 per cent in 2019 to

its double-digit expansion this year. The reasons? Positive commodity prices, fishing sector success and rescinded US duties on newsprint.

On the other end of the scale are two provinces taking a pause after banner-year performance in 2018. Both Alberta and Nova Scotia are expected to notch 11 per cent growth this year. Alberta's performance has a lot to do with production increases at the Fort Hills oilsands project, but despite export capacity increases in 2019 and the opening of a large potato processing plant in Lethbridge, exports will only manage 3 per cent growth. Weak domestic oil prices won't help. Strong export potential and diversification to Asia won't be enough to repeat this year's growth, but Nova Scotia's 3 per cent projection for 2019 cements this year's gains.

Exports in the remaining provinces will float in the 4-5 per cent range. In Quebec's case, it will come off 6 per cent growth this year, and will gain its oomph from the aerospace, mining and electricity sectors. Ontario will match Quebec's 4 per cent performance in 2019, but in its case will accelerate from a slight decline this year. Flat US auto sales are a key factor, offset somewhat by stronger machinery, mining, and consumer goods exports. Investment in new export capacity could see a lift, thanks to the USMCA deal. Manitoba and Saskatchewan will also be in the middle of the pack, although their agri-food prowess positions them well for future global demands.

### Top industrial performers

Topping the industrial charts with the second consecutive year of double-digit growth is the aerospace sector. Strong global demand and orders for the A220 should produce a 10 per cent gain in 2019. Next in line is the machinery and equipment industry, which thanks to US growth,

corporate tax cuts and tightening industrial constraints is expected to repeat this year's 8 per cent performance. Just behind this is the forestry sector, at 7 per cent thanks primarily to stronger US housing starts.

Growth will be constrained by industries that command a high share of exports, but have a muted 2019 outlook. The energy sector is pausing after two very impressive years and the headwind of soft domestic prices. Autos and parts, another weighty category, has bumped up against peak US sales. And with their strong presence in overall exports and their considerable longer-term global promise, agri-food exports will rebound from a soft 2018 decline, but see just 4 per cent growth in 2019.

### The bottom line?

Final showings at both the provincial and industrial levels can be very different from initial projections. They are subject to shifts in weather, geopolitics, new project announcements and a host of other factors. All told, the outlook is good on both broad fronts, and in quite a few cases, is faced with upside potential.



MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

# AWARDS BREAKFAST & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, November 16, 2018

Tickets \$19 + GST (per person)

RBC Convention Centre  
York Ballroom 2

No. of tickets

8 AM - 11:30 AM

Keynote Speaker Mr. Don Leitch, Business Council of Manitoba



*Annual Chairman's*

*Gala*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018

RBC CONVENTION CENTRE  
YORK BALLROOM

COCKTAILS 6:30 PM  
DINNER 7:30 PM

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Company \_\_\_\_\_

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**Quote:** Manitoba Heavy Construction Association | Rooms are limited so please reserve early

Fill out this form in full and fax to Christine Miller at the MHCA office at 204-943-2279 or email christine@mhca.mb.ca.  
To request a special meal, to accommodate any food allergies and/or dietary restrictions, please call or email Christine at 204-947-1379.



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