



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES
MANITOBA



Business Council
of Manitoba



CARM
CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION
OF RURAL MANITOBA



Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating
L'Institut canadien de plomberie et de chauffage



CANADIAN
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ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION
OF MANITOBA
Strength in Connection



*The voice of
Manitoba farmers*



The Manitoba Association of Sheet Metal
and Air Handling Contractors Inc.



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CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE**



MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION



Manitoba Home
Builders' Association



Manitoba Masonry
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MANITOBA
REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION



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**Manitoba
Wall and Ceiling
Association Inc.**



MECHANICAL
CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION
OF MANITOBA
ADVANCING INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE



CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA
Benefits Built In



**URBAN DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE OF MANITOBA**



The Chamber
The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce



WINNIPEG
CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION
Together We Build Manitoba

April 28, 2020

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
infc.minister-ministre.infc@canada.ca

Dear Minister McKenna,

We write as twenty (20) business organizations representing a broad cross-section of Manitoba's economy collectively employing tens of thousands of women and men. Those industries include engineering & consulting, heavy civil and

vertical construction, commercial and residential development, manufacturing & exporting, retail, agriculture, commercial trucking and skilled trades.

Our appeal to the federal government is that it assist in our provincial economic recovery by accelerating the approvals of and flexibility in the allocation from federal programs. Such measures would enable funding of key Manitoba projects that would immediately procure jobs, build legacy assets and be key instruments in help kick-starting Manitoba's economy.

The above is necessary to help correct the lack of confidence in the economy by all its sectors, the alarm, anxiety and fear of what lies ahead around the corner, and indeed where that corner is. That has led to private-sector projects being deferred or outright canceled. Those decision have resulted in lost jobs, supply and equipment sales, all of which reduces the collective ROI to GDP. Addressing consumer and investor confidence is critical to our recovery.

In that regard, we understand the Province of Manitoba has communicated its commitment to flow its capital programs, harnessing investment in infrastructure to help Manitoba's economy recover. We are told Manitoba has more than \$6B in project submissions for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) with many being shovel ready.

We urge the federal government to make the most of the current market conditions - competitive bid prices and extraordinarily low interest rates - to meet the formidable economic challenge in front of us. We ask that your government accelerate the ICIP Program approval process allowing our economy to benefit from the immediate economic stimulus resulting from infrastructure investment.

In working with our partners in the provincial government, we also understand there are opportunities for greater flexibility within the ICIP Program that can be implemented as an immediate measure to allow Manitoba to address its infrastructure needs. Our associations strongly urge a flexible allocation approach.

This increased commitment to funding, combined with increased flexibility to match need and opportunity and take advantage of billions of dollars of shovel-ready capital projects, is the best opportunity we have to spur activity in the Manitoba economy, with a significant ROI for both levels of government.

As we work together to kickstart the economy, we have confidence in our federal and provincial partners to ensure capital investment and infrastructure programs roll out as planned and as quickly as possible. Our industries will remain an essential partner to federal, provincial and municipal governments in shovel-ready projects to create jobs and restore confidence within the private sector and among the general public.

We have copied this letter to Manitoba's senior regional minister, the Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs, with whom we will be seeking a meeting to discuss these critical matters.

This is a community appeal, and in that non-partisan approach, we have also copied all Manitoba MPs.

We respectfully request your reply and look forward to our continued partnership as we rebuild our economy.

Please respond directly to Chris Lorenc, President MHCA at clorenc@mhca.mb.ca to coordinate further communication.

Regards,



Brad Cook, P. Eng.
President, ACEC-MB



Bram Strain,
President & CEO, BCM



Carla Milne, CPA, CA,
President, CARM



Nolan Shortridge
President, CPIH, MB Region



Ron Koslowsky
Executive VP CME Manitoba



Mike van Dam
President EAM



Patty Roshier
General Manager KAP



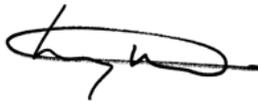
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cc **Hon. Dan Vandal**, Minister of Northern Affairs dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca
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Hon. Heather Stefanson, Deputy Premier, Manitoba

Hon. Scott Fielding, Minister of Finance

Hon. Ralph Eichler, Minister Economic Development & Training

Hon. Ron Schuler, Minister Manitoba Infrastructure

Hon. Reg Helwer, Minister, Central Services

Phil Houde, CEO Economic Development Office

Michael Kowalson, Director, Stakeholder Relations, Manitoba Premier's Office

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