



MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (MHCA)
2012 Year in Review report to the
Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)

Groundbreaking

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In 2012, the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) continued to work assertively and collaboratively ensuring key politicians and policy makers heard and understood what matters most to the heavy construction industry in Manitoba. A number of high-profile issues were addressed by the MHCA with recommendations, one-on-one meetings and proposals. Additionally, MHCA provided superior service its membership by providing a number of opportunities for member to grow their businesses and network with leaders in the heavy construction industry.

Policy, Government Relations and Partners

Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP)

The MHCA offered its support for a Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP) that is permanent in nature, and recognizes the clear links between investment in infrastructure and Canada's economy. The MHCA offered its assessment at an invite only round table meeting in June held by The Honourable Steven Fletcher, Minister of State (Transport). To read the complete LTIP recommendations made by MHCA, please visit www.mhca.mb.ca

MHCA Opposes Bill 34

Chris Lorenc, MHCA President, appeared before the House Standing Committee on Human Resources at the Manitoba Legislature in June to share industry disquiet with the lack of transparency and private sector consultation surrounding the drafting of Bill 34 – The Public Private Partnership Transparency and Accountability Act (P3 Legislation).

In addition to addressing Bill 34 concerns, a recommendation was presented that the government mandate a group of private / public sector subject matter experts and practitioners to review best practices across jurisdictions and recommend what regulatory framework, best practices and accompanying structure, if any, would make sense for Manitoba.

Hydro Charter Challenge

Led by Merit Contractors Association, a number of local construction workers are taking Manitoba Hydro to court over an agreement they believe strips them of their rights guaranteed under Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The legal action, filed in the Court of Queen's Bench in June, follows a decision by Manitoba Hydro preventing employees from obtaining work on large-scale projects such as the Bipole III, unless they join designated trade unions, and pay union dues. MHCA President, Chris Lorenc was consulted as part of the charter challenge given MHCA's history to a similar issue regarding expansion work to the Red River Floodway.

Proposed EI Changes

In May, the federal government announced details associated with proposed changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) program coming from Bill C-38, the budget implementation bill. Its changes could have a significant impact on the heavy construction industry – especially its seasonal workers who depend on EI. The MHCA offered a number of recommendations, including introducing an early tendering process to support extending construction seasons and therefore annual periods of employment.

2012 Provincial Budget

In mid-April Manitoba released its budget; an ultimate disappointment for the MHCA. Manitoba Infrastructure & Transportation (MIT) reduced the 2012-2013 program by deleting 10 projects whose construction value we estimated to hover in the vicinity of \$50 million - a huge blow to Manitoba's heavy construction industry. In addition, it had delayed the tender advertisement dates of an additional 15 projects to the back half of the season. In March, MHCA wrote Finance Minister Struthers asking for clarification regarding deleted projects and to advance those whose tender ad dates were delayed. as a result of our efforts, much of what had been deleted ended up being re-instated.

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Partner Association Involvement

As a respected association, the MHCA is involved with a number of associations and agencies across Canada that has an interest in promoting infrastructure. In 2011 – 2012, the MHCA collaborated with a number of key organizations, including the following:

Canadian Construction Association (CCA)

Over the past year, the primary government relations focus of CCA has been to work with the Government of Canada and other national stakeholders to build support for a successor program to the expiring Building Canada Plan. The CCA has devoted much of its lobbying resources to supporting this objective. A major part of that effort is communicating the right message: There is a direct correlation between investing in infrastructure and a stronger economy. It is a message created and spoken loudly by the MHCA, and now adopted by the CCA.

Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)

MHCA has proposed an annual municipal infrastructure Focus at the WCR&HCA Convention. Concept was proposed to add infrastructure forum to the Annual WCR&HCA Convention. Themes include Western Big City Mayors Caucus and Municipal Associations.

Manitoba Construction Sector Council (MCSC)

MHCA continued to offer support to Manitoba Construction Sector Council (MCSC) throughout the past year. It is a relatively new organization that is committed to strengthening the skills of the province's construction sector workforce.

CentrePort Canada

MHCA remains a steadfast supporter of CentrePort Canada. The country's first inland port continues to see tremendous progress recently signing an agreement with Invent and SinoTrans Eastern Company, China's largest transportation and logistics provider, to develop new technologies. Additionally, the new CentrePort expressway has already created strong investor interest in two industrial parks, which are located in the Brookside and Inkster section of CentrePort. And DTZ Barnicke is preparing a second site for development which will provide more than 100 acres for development. Throughout it all, MHCA has supported CentrePort Canada with guidance and expertise. MHCA President, is a senior CentrePort Canada board member and chairs its Governance & Nominations Committee.

Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce

MHCA President Chris Lorenc has been named Chair of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce's Transportation Committee. The Committee will undertake the following initiatives:

- Review the status of the Winnipeg Master Transportation Plan and its relationship to a Capital Region Master Transportation Plan
- Review the status of the Terms of Reference for a task force to review a Transportation Authority
- Review the status of outstanding Mayor's Trade Council (MTC) Report recommendations.
- Examine Winnipeg's transportation assets, including road, rail and air will be reviewed to ensure they are prepared for an expanded global role in trade.
- Examine the trade gateway relationship between Winnipeg and the Port of Churchill.

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WORKSAFELY™

In the past year, MHCA's WORKSAFELY™ program continued to help contractors develop a safer heavy construction industry in Manitoba. Delivered by our specialized team of construction safety advisors, our training and education programs and safety services, including COR™ certification, helped reduce and eliminate workplace injuries and incidents from occurring.

COR™ Certification

This year, a number of many new firms have registered to become COR™ certified. This increase in interest is due in part by firms seeing the many benefits attributed to COR™ Certification, some of which include enhanced safety performance, increased safety compliance, reduced WCB claims costs, and enhanced opportunity to bid on projects.

To date, the total number of firms in our industry who have achieved COR™ certification has grown to just over 200. This year, fourteen firms have attained COR™ certification and a further 160 firms have registered with our Safety Program. The program has seen a number of related firms, those outside of the 407/408 rate group category register with the safety program.

New Province Wide Tendering Policy

The new tendering policies further expand the "condition of contract" obligations for contractors and sub-contractors specific to COR™.

Beginning January 1, 2014, regardless of the project value, all bidders and subcontractors (subcontractors with employees working on the project) will be required to have a valid and current COR™ or SECOR certificate or evidence of equivalency.

Safety Training – Heavy Construction EXPO

Under our "Construction Safety Excellence" trademark, we offer the most current and highest standard of training and certification processes available for our valuable clients. This year, as with previous years, employers committed to enhance employee knowledge and awareness through enrolling their staff in our safety training and education courses. To date, we have delivered 143 courses and trained 1178 employees and managers throughout the province. In addition, WORKSAFELY™ instructors and trainers delivered course materials at the Heavy Construction EXPO and at the West Man Conference held in Brandon.

Traffic Control Coordinator – New course offering

WORKSAFELY™ contracted the services of American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) to develop and deliver the 2 day Traffic Control Coordinator course in consultation with MIT at the MHCA Expo. WORKSAFELY™ now has exclusive authority to deliver this course going forward. New course offerings are in the development phase and are expected to be launched near year end.

Heavy Equipment Operator Aboriginal Pilot Project (HEO-APP)

WORKSAFELY™ and WORKFORCE™ worked with Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade to deliver the Heavy Equipment Operator Aboriginal Pilot Project (HEO-APP) for 16 students last spring. The HEO-APP is the first of its kind in Manitoba, and is aimed at getting more Aboriginals into the heavy construction industry workforce upon completion of their training.

The WORKFORCE™ portion of the training program started in March 2012 and concluded in mid-April. After the training, the students were available to contractors or construction companies for one week of subsidized work experience. These students gained fundamental skills on the following pieces of equipment: Loader, Dozer, Excavator and Motor Grader.

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SAFE Roads Campaign

For the eighth year in a row, MHCA/ WORKSAFELY™ along with a group of community stakeholders teamed up as safety partners to launch the annual SAFE Roads campaign, aimed at raising awareness of the safety of road construction workers. The campaign included radio, billboard and transit bus ads urging motorists to simply slow down when driving through construction zones. This year's campaign ran from mid-May to mid-June.

WORKSAFELY in the community

WORKSAFELY™ and WORKFORCE™ were both active at a number of events throughout the year including MHCA's inaugural EXPO. Both programs were prominently promoted at MHCA's first annual EXPO last March at the Winnipeg Conventions Centre (see Membership and Events for more EXPO results). With a highly visible booth, both programs were presented in a highly professional manner, staffed by WORKSAFELY™ and WORKFORCE™ team members.

For the second year in a row, WORKSAFELY™ participated with an information and education booth at the annual general meeting for ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS INSTALLERS OF MANITOBA (OWSIM) last spring. Members of OWSIM are keenly interested in COR™/SECOR Certification. And, just over 50 people representing companies across Manitoba's landscape participated at the WORKSAFELY™ and WORKFORCE™ Education & Training Summit held last April in Winnipeg. The purpose of the Summit was to consider a heavy construction industry strategy to attract, train, educate and retain workers. WORKSAFELY™ will have its booth at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities AGM.

COR™ Advisory Meeting

The Director of the program will meet with business owners, those who are COR certified to engage their feedback on the safety program performance. These meetings are intended to obtain valuable feedback from the business owners, so that the Director and Safety Chair to the Board of Directors can shape and plan for the 2013 program improvements.

COR™ Quarterly Meetings

COR™ Quarterly meetings were held in Thompson, Manitoba and in Winnipeg this year. In addition to industry safety practitioner attendance, representatives from the Workers Compensation Board, and Workplace Safety & Health Division participated and gave brief presentations on safety performance indicators of the industry.

New Safety Advisors

This year, we increased the visibility and presence of our Safety Advisors throughout the Province in five established regions. This initiative and assignment helped us broaden support to COR™ certified companies, assist newly registered companies achieve COR™, and to promote and educate new firms of the safety merits.

MHCA Bursaries

In November 2013, MHCA awarded its annual bursaries to construction management students at Red River College in Winnipeg. MHCA has established the MHCA Cornerstone Award to recognize its past board chairs, who have assumed the leadership roles expected of the position and laid the cornerstone foundations upon which the association has been built since 1945.

Membership & Events

Membership

The Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) continues to grow. In 2011 – 2012, 44 new members signed up bringing our membership up to 360. As MHCA heads into its 70th year in 2013, we have targeted to meet and surpass the 400 membership mark.

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Events

For many MHCA members, the Association provides a resource to connect with other members, purchasers, policy makers and other stakeholders in the heavy construction industry through a number of annual events. In 2011 – 2012, MHCA membership events grew in attendance, all selling out quickly. The popularity of MHCA events increased our profile, presence and impact while giving our membership the opportunity to network in a relaxed, fun and entertaining environment. Our always sold out events include: **MHCA Annual Golf; Spring Mixer; MHCA Annual Curling Bonspiel.**

Manitoba Construction Career Expo (May 2012)

Connecting MHCA members to the future employees in the heavy construction industry was a priority for the Association in 2011/2012. MHCA participated in the Manitoba Construction Career Expo at the Red River Exhibition Park on May 16, 2012. Toromont CAT allowed us the use of their simulator and a loader for display/demonstration. Over 1700 students from across Manitoba attended, learned more about the opportunities in heavy construction and the resources offered by MHCA, WORKSAFELY™ and WORKFORCE™.

Heavy Construction Education EXPO (March 2012)

The MHCA successfully hosted the first annual Heavy Construction EXPO MARCH 20-22, 2012 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. EXPO was a first of its kind for Manitoba and Canada – blending vocational, educational, and safety training to address the labor shortage and skill level challenges in the heavy construction industry.

With great turnout and corporate sponsorship, over 750 individuals participated in our first EXPO. The objective of the annual EXPO is to create a heavy construction workforce that is highly trained, skilled and safety conscious. Furthermore, EXPO partners with vocational training providers, Government, the Aboriginal Community, and other stakeholders. The 2013 Heavy Construction EXPO is scheduled for April 8-11 at the Victoria Inn.

Heavy Santa (December 2011)

MHCA's Heavy Santa dropped by David Livingstone School in Winnipeg's North End to share his holiday spirit. Thanks to funds raised at MHCA's Spring Mixer, Heavy Santa was able to provide gifts for close to 100 kids and serve up a pizza lunch. Heavy Santa also fulfills one wish list item for the school every year, and in 2011, staff received an iPad for educational purposes.

MHCA Marketing Communications

Increasing the presence, profile and impact of the Association's activities through marketing and communications remains a priority for the MHCA. To further increase the reach and impact of MHCA's brand, a number of key initiatives were undertaken this year including, establishing MHCA's social media platforms, overhauling the Association's website and creating an external partnership for MHCA's magazine and directory.

In the summer of 2012 the MHCA entered into a partnership agreement with **Lester Communications Inc.**, a leading Winnipeg media company, to market, publish, print and distribute our magazine 'the Groundbreaker' (formerly known as **Perspectives**) along with our annual **MHCA Services Directory**.

With these three core projects (social media, website, magazine/directory partnership) successfully established, look for MHCA to engage in more proactive media relations strategies and multimedia campaigns with key partners in the months ahead in 2013.

Be sure to visit or follow MHCA online:

www.mhca.mb.ca

www.twitter.com/ManitobaHeavy

www.twitter.com/ChrisWLorenc

www.youtube.com/ManitobaHeavy

www.facebook.com/ManitobaHeavy

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NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2013

We respectfully urged the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) to include in its priority focus for 2013 the following two areas which we submit are in Canada's national self interest and which if properly addressed, enable society's priorities to be addressed:

Infrastructure and the Economy & funding Canada's infrastructure deficit

The most pressing issue facing the global and by extension Canada's economy is its continued weakness. Hence adopting strategies which *strategically build up Canada's economy* and the role which sustained and strategic investment in public infrastructure can play, is critical to advance with the public, media, stakeholders and governments.

On February 6, 2013, the Canada West Foundation (CWF) released a report "*At the Intersection: The Case for Sustained and Strategic Public Infrastructure Investment*," which *evidences the proposition* that sustained and strategic public and private sector investment in infrastructure fuels economic growth. Growth provides revenues to governments with which to fund societal priorities which shape our standard of living.

This report is a first of its kind in Canada.

It provides recommendations to help governments harness infrastructure investment as a key element of their long-term economic plans to enhance productivity, fuel economic growth and enable a globally envied quality of life.

Accordingly the MHCA endorses the submission made by the WCR&HCA Board of Directors which urges CCA's attention to two priority areas for 2013, namely:

- leading advocacy on the linkages between sustained and strategic investment in public infrastructure and Canada's economic growth which enables our quality of life; *and*
- addressing Canada's infrastructure deficit in a consensus driven, balanced and shared trilateral government effort.

Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP)

The CCA should as well continue its effort aimed at promoting a federal Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP) which focuses on infrastructure investment supporting economic growth, rehabilitation and maintenance; engaging and expanding private sector participation; and leveraging sustained municipal and provincial funding participation

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MHCA PRIORITIES FOR 2013

In summary form the following are the adopted priorities for the MHCA for 2013:

- Promote a federal Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP) referenced above
- Support the findings and recommendations of the Canada West Foundation (CWF) report "*At the Intersection: The Case for Sustained and Strategic Public Infrastructure Investment*"
- Promote with municipalities the need to augment existing levels of infrastructure investment in a transparent and accountable manner
- Approach funding for municipal infrastructure on the basis that there is a balanced and shared role for all three levels of government which should be appropriate to their respective capacities and responsibilities.
- Press municipalities and the Province to adopt early tender program release and tender ads, followed by timely construction contract awards
- Promote the WORKSAFELY™ Program and its COR™ Certification as the standard for workplace safety practices
- Continue to offer the *Heavy Construction EXPO* as the annual venue for certified education and training with which to attract, train and retain workers for the heavy construction industry
- Launch visible and assertive communications strategy, including full use of the social media, to ensure ongoing and enhanced MHCA presence, profile and impact upon public policy
- Continue our stakeholder networking whether at the local, provincial, regional or national levels. In particular we will continue to support the work of the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) and the Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)
- In 2013 the MHCA will be 70 years old and we have targeted to surpass the 400 membership mark in 2013

CONCLUSION

The MHCA has an earned reputation of being a collaborative voice of reason within our province and country. We will continue to attempt to influence public policy consistent with the public's best interests, with presence, profile and impact, and as always *groundbreaking*.

Respectfully submitted

MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (MHCA)



Henry Borger
MHCA Chair



Chris Lorenc
MHCA President

