



March 2, 2005

Incoming Chair Presentation – Priorities for 2005

I am pleased to be given the honour of carrying on a tradition of service to the Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association.

As you may know, the WCR&HCA was originally known as the Prairie Roadbuilders Association. It was established in 1943. Its founding members were the roadbuilder associations from the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In 1956 Alberta Roadbuilders joined followed by British Columbia in 1973. The current name was settled upon in 1996 to reflect not only our regional membership base but the broad industries we represent.

Although regionally based, the WCR&HCA focuses the majority of its attention to national policy issues. We develop consensus positions that reflect the views of western Canadians, and as a coalition we have a far greater chance of being heard and our views acted upon. Individually we would carry little influence in Ottawa.

As a result of that strategy, the WCR&HCA has made significant contribution to the shaping of national infrastructure policy positions in its sixty-two year history. I encourage you to visit our website for details on our history.

The need for the WCR&HCA to vigorously represent western Canadians whether through the CCA or in direct contact with western Premiers or their transportation ministers continues to drive who and what we are about.

The WCR&HCA Board we have identified the following priorities for 2005. We will pursue them at national, regional and local levels, utilizing the best strategies we have available. Some issues repeat as priorities year after year, in conjunction with trying to influence government policy development. They are as follows:

- a. *New Deal* for cities – press for narrow definition of infrastructure - streets, roads, highways, including the National Highways System (NHS), bridges & related structures; water treatment and distribution; wastewater collection and treatment; public transit;
- b. Press for allocation of a portion of the Petro-Canada share sale proceeds to the National Highways System;
- c. Pursue federal and provincial governments in support of federal fuel tax allocation towards a National Highways Program;
- d. Establish National Highways System (NHS) Deficit Counter and post on WCR&HCA website and link with supporting stakeholder associations;
- e. Develop envelope stuffers to employees urging phone calls to MPs, MLAs in support of our priorities;
- f. Support programs for Strategic Infrastructure Investments platforming investments in infrastructure assets which facilitate new economic activities.
- g. Continue support of Transportation Awareness Partnership (TAP);
- h. Work to cooperate with best practices with Infrastructure Canada;

- i.* Maintain fiscal stability of the WCR&HCA through the establishment of a WCR&HCA Convention Policy Handbook for use by all four western provinces; and
- j.* WCR&HCA promotion through the Website, Convention, other.

As you can see, there is still much to be accomplished. The traditions of the WCR&HCA provide a strong foundation that helps us carry out our tasks.

In closing I wish to thank all four roadbuilder associations for their membership and support of the goals, ideals, and objectives of the WCR&HCA.

I look forward to working with the new Board in advancing our industry interests in a fashion consistent with national and public best interests.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Hendry", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brent Hendry,
WCR&HCA Chair 2005