

April 2018 (updated May 2019)

MHCA to Province: keep your promise

Restore highways investment to minimum \$500 million annually

The MHCA has worked constructively with the provincial government to ensure that investment in core infrastructure, including the highways capital budget, would be at a sustainable level. The Progressive Conservatives made a number of pledges pre- and post-provincial election in 2016. The province has not kept those promises. This hurts Manitoba's economy, compounds the decay of our roads, and threatens the sustainability of a vital industry that employs as many as 15,000 Manitobans, directly and indirectly.

Infrastructure investment – the wise dollar

\$1 invested in strategic infrastructure returns \$1.60 to the economy (Finance Canada, Report to Canadians, 2011)

- The province made repeated assurances (as recently as March 8) the MI highways budget would not fall below \$500 million annually, with no under-expenditure
- Since this government took office, the highways budget has been slashed by 40%, including an under-expenditure of \$92 million, or \$326.5 million in total
- This year alone, Manitoba's highways budget suffered a \$152-million cut (budget to budget), to \$350 million. A 30% cut is unprecedented in a single year
- Severe cuts to road repairs and new construction **hurts our economy** and **compounds the cost** of infrastructure maintenance (see sidebars)
- At a budget level of \$350 million, the heavy construction industry, employing 15,000 people directly or indirectly, cannot remain sustainable

Manitoba's highways budget

NDP	NDP	PC	PC	PC
Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget
14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
\$534m	\$628m	\$520m	\$444m	\$340m
		1st Budget	2nd B	3rd B

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Penny-wise/Pound-foolish

Manitoba's highways have an 'infrastructure investment deficit' of some \$6 billion – delaying the repairing of or constructing new highways for economic and population growth dramatically compounds deterioration and, therefore, the cost of re/construction