



MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (MHCA)
Unit #3-1680 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0Z2

April 15, 2020

The Honourable Brian Pallister,
Premier,
Province of Manitoba
Premier@leg.gov.mb.ca

Good afternoon Premier,

On behalf of the MHCA Board which met earlier this morning, its members, the industries it represents and the thousands of women and men the industry employs, we appeal for your leadership to begin an urgent message of hope and economic recovery.

As unanimously endorsed by the Board, we ask for your visible leadership in supporting the below initiatives to kick-start economic recovery:

1. Pivot public messaging to include a focus equal to COVID-19 mitigation, to short, medium and long-term economic recovery;
2. Accelerate and enhance by over-committing provincial capital core infrastructure budgets by up to double, alone and/or jointly with the federal government, to get people working and money churning in the economy. This would leave a legacy of benefit to Manitobans for decades to come. We understand you and colleague Premiers will be teleconferencing with the Prime Minister on April 16 during which federal infrastructure programs will be discussed. This provides an immediate opportunity to press the Prime Minister - we are pressing at the federal level as well - to significantly enhance and accelerate the flow of federal infrastructure programs;
3. Direct resumption this season of the Provincial Quarry Rehabilitation Program whose reserve account holds more than \$8 million dedicated by legislation to quarry rehabilitation programs. This is a direct, immediate, fully funded way of putting small rural contractors and their employees back to work rehabilitating spent pits and quarries in local rural communities; and
4. Announce the creation of an economic recovery task force led by 5-7 key business leaders, resourced by Manitoba, equipped to reach out, assess and offer advice directly to you on the economic recovery matters.

As you well know there is broad alarm and concern about our economy. There is also a clear and coincident ask of you as Premier to pivot messages which focus on jobs and economic recovery to help restore consumer confidence. Workers and their families, businesses small medium and large, consumers are all worried. They need to hear those concerns directly addressed by their Premier.

It affords you the opportunity of championing clear directions:

- ***pivots messaging to economic hope and recovery*** as an equal imperative to ongoing COVID-19 mitigation
- ***acknowledges*** the fear in people (and their families) who not only want to work, but need to know there is work to go back to
- ***restores confidence in the economy*** by businesses and consumers alike, without which there is no investment, spending, purchasing, nor circulation of money within the economy
- ***commits that growing the economy*** is the primary responsibility of government partnering with the private sector,

- **reminds** that a growing economy *is the engine of revenues* with which to fund all manner of public sector services, in good times and in bad

This is the opportune moment for a partnership with the private sector led by you to: stem economic bleeding; help businesses - small, medium and large stay open; kick start the economy, and plan and prepare for its short, medium and long-term recovery.

We are ready to assist you in the above efforts.

Respectfully submitted,



Jack Meseyton, G.S.C.
Chair, MHCA Board of Directors



Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B.,
President, MHCA

cc Honourable Heather Stefanson, Deputy Premier
Honourable Scott Fielding, Minister of Finance
Honourable Ralph Eichler, Minister of Economic Development & Training
Honourable Ron Schuler, Minister Manitoba Infrastructure
Honourable Rochelle Squires, Minister of Municipal Relations
Honourable Reg Helwer, Minister Central Services

And to: Association of Consulting & Engineering Companies of Manitoba (ACEC-MB)
Business Council of Manitoba (BCM)
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters of Canada, Manitoba (CME Manitoba)
Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP)
Manitoba Chambers of Commerce (MCC)
Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA), Board of Directors
Manitoba Home Builders Association (MHBA)
Manitoba Real Estate Board (MREA)
Manitoba Trucking Association (MTA)
Merit Contractors Association
Urban Development Institute (UDI)
Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce (WCC)
Winnipeg Construction Association (WCA)