



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

March 22, 2023

Presentation to: **Mayor Scott Gillingham & Members of City Council**

From: Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B., President & CEO, MHCA

Subject: **2023 Preliminary Operating & Capital Budgets**

Foundationally, the MHCA's long-standing approach to budget structures is based on three pillars:

- A focus on growing the economy to grow revenues, to address rising demands for services.
- Be socially progressive, focusing on community well-being to better the lives of all; and
- Be environmentally responsible and advance resource stewardship.

The MHCA is on record supporting Budget '23. Members of EPC and of the Public Works have read or heard me speak to the budget, including the local and regional street renewal program.

What I want to speak to you about today, however, touches on the future of our city. In particular, the opportunity and imperative to grow our economy, so that all Winnipeggers, can share in the dividends and the prosperity that will follow.

You are to be congratulated for taking significant first steps in this budget, by recognizing and supporting the investments necessary for sustained economic growth.

Those steps include:

**1<sup>st</sup> An investment in the future of CentrePort Canada**

Extending water and waste-water service to CentrePort South lands, is the key that will unlock more than \$1 billion of private sector investment in lands within Winnipeg.

This investment will seed returns from that development, just as the RM of Rosser has from CentrePort North.

Your \$20-million investment to extend sewer and water services to CentrePort South, moved the province to contribute \$40 million, for which we are grateful , to get the job done. Again, congratulations.

**2<sup>nd</sup> An investment in Winnipeg's transportation arteries to expand its trade corridor network.**

The design studies for extending Chief Peguis Trail and expanding Kenaston Boulevard send signals to the business community, site selectors and capital markets – to the whole of Canada and beyond – that Winnipeg recognizes the central role trade corridors play, in moving goods to market.

These decisions tell our trade partners continentally and globally that Winnipeg is a trade hub, and that we are open for business.

Why is that increasingly important?

Winnipeg faces serious social challenges - addiction, crime, homelessness - as we move beyond the hangover of the pandemic economic turmoil. We need to provide critical services to those in our community who are struggling.

And that requires *financial resources* which is enabled by *fiscal power*.

Without economic growth, the challenges are daunting, if not impossible to address.

But Winnipeg can only do so much, with the current revenue-generation tools available to it.

That is why we implore you, Mayor and Council, to seize the opportunity before you now, with a looming 2023 provincial election.

Press the three provincial party leaders to commit to a new funding model that more fairly shares the tax revenues and, maybe, opens new revenue streams.

Winnipeg / municipalities, need new revenues to provide the core and critical services a growing population demands and deserves from a modern, world-class city.

The capital region hosts 66% of the provincial population and 70% of Manitoba's GDP.

Winnipeg is at the heart, of Manitoba's economy.

We need a new funding model that:

- does not leave Winnipeg begging cap-in-hand when time-limited funding agreements expire.
- that gives deserved attention to the social and well-being issues confronting our city; **and**
- that allows Winnipeg to plot an economic growth strategy, with strategic investments that will return dividends for sustained funding of social programs and cultural amenities.

To grow Manitoba's economy, we must grow Winnipeg's economy .... and the fastest way to that goal is through increased trade, coupled, with a new modern funding model that unleashes the potential of all municipalities.

That is the way to sustained future prosperity and community well-being.

As always, we thank you for your service and are willing to work collaboratively to advance good governance.

Respectfully submitted,



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

cc. All Members of Council  
MHCA Board of Directors.