



Manitoba Home
Builders' Association



July 19, 2023

Hon. Cliff Cullen,
Minister Responsible for Manitoba Hydro
Room 103, Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Mb, R3C 0V8

Re: Potential IBEW Local 2034 strike; utility locates as essential service

Dear Minister:

The undersigned write on behalf of the Boards of Directors and members of the Construction Association of Rural Manitoba, Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, Manitoba Home Builders' Association and Winnipeg Construction Association.

We understand Manitoba Hydro may be facing strike action involving employee members of the IBEW Local 2034 as early as Friday, July 21. We seek your urgent assistance in the matter of the provision of utility locate services to the construction industry.

Location of underground utilities is an essential service to the construction industry. Our work – housing development, ICI construction or heavy civil construction of highways, bridges, water-related infrastructure – simply cannot proceed until utility locates are provided.

The inability to proceed with work puts contractors in legal/contractual jeopardy, displaces employment for those in and supporting construction and obstructs the provision of infrastructure services to the general public and property owners. Delayed start to development and infrastructure projects in our short construction season risks considerable set back to the projects' completion, with accompanying negative economic impact.

Further, delay or disruption to the provision of locates poses a safety hazard for construction crews and the public.

In the immediate, we request your assistance to secure assurance from Hydro that contingency plans will ensure no disruption to services, in the event of a strike.

Further, given the above considerations, we ask that the provision of locate services by all utility owners be deemed an essential service, resulting in the necessary contingencies to prevent disruption and resulting risk in the event of a strike or other occurrence.

In closing, we wish to emphasize how important Manitoba Hydro's locate service and personnel are to our industries, to the completion of construction projects in a safe and timely manner.

The undersigned request a meeting at your soonest availability to discuss the deeming of utility locates an essential service.

Should you wish to discuss further, please contact Chris Lorenc at 204-230-0994 or clorenc@mhca.mb.ca.

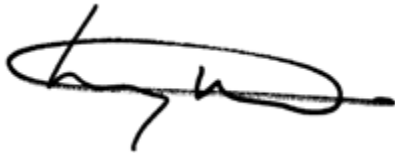
Sincerely,



Shawn Wood, CD
Executive Director, CARM



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



Lanny McInnes
President & CEO, MHBA



Ronald Hambley, MCP
President, WCA