MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

T (204) 947-1379 F (204) 943-2279 E info@mhca.mb.ca
Unit 3 - 1680 Ellice Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3G 0Z2 www.mhca.mb.ca

September 12, 2025

The Honourable David McGuinty
Minister of National Defence
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister McGuinty,

The Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA), which represents the heavy construction industry across Manitoba, directly and indirectly employing more than 15,000 Manitobans, is pleased to submit its unequivocal support for the City of Winnipeg Mayor, Scott Gillingham's, call on the federal government to increase investment in military, defense, and trade gateways and corridors in our city and province, as outlined in his September 2025 letter to you.

The MHCA consistently champions the proposition that growing the economy is job #1 of every level of government. The introduction, maintenance, and improvement of programs and services of national, regional, and local importance will be unsustainable without economic growth.

The changing world demands Canada make increased strategic investments in its military capability and capacity. In that regard, Winnipeg has long held strategic significance to Canada's national defense, hosting key military institutions like 17 Wing and supporting a robust network of defense contractors and aerospace manufacturers. Investments in our military infrastructure not only reinforce national security, but also stimulate regional economic growth, job creation, and innovation.

MHCA recognizes the critical role that infrastructure plays in enabling effective defense operations. Increased federal investment in military bases, transportation networks, and supporting facilities will not only bolster defense readiness, but also generate meaningful local economic activity, including opportunities for trade and construction-related industries.

The above underscores the importance of Canada being recognized as a reliable partner in promoting and defending our hard-fought democratic values and institutions.

Funding investments in our national security requires a concurrent focus on shoring up aspects of our economy that significantly impact our national GDP. Trade is one such area.

The Prime Minister has rightly committed to investing in national infrastructure projects whose objectives are to build a diverse and reliant economy, while expanding Canada's global trade footprint and market reach. These objectives will help restore Canada's reputation as a reliable global supply chain and logistics partner, supporting the efficient movement of goods to and from market. These investments have become even more critical amid the shifting global order shaped by U.S. policy decisions.

The reconstruction of Route 90 and extension of Chief Peguis Trail, two key trade corridors for Winnipeg and its capital region, have long been recognized as trade enabling and enhancing investments supporting not just Manitoba, but Canada's trade reliant economies.

The existing Route 90 enhancements and the Chief Peguis Trail extension are each critical to feed, support, enhance and enable the improved, more cost efficient and effective movement of goods and services to and from market. They also connect

to the Winnipeg Richardson International Airport campus, including 17 Wing. This will not only improve access to military facilities but also the flow of equipment on and off the base.

The reconstruction of Route 90 supports key trade corridor functionality, which is already visibly restrained by lack of capacity. It tackles required upgrades to address current and future trade, commercial and commuter traffic volumes, new and future developments, as well as the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.

The extension of Chief Peguis Trail benefits also include maximizing the value and service life of existing transportation investments, reducing traffic congestion and unnecessary GHG emissions, time savings for commuters, and supporting new and adjacent economic development, which cannot occur without the project. This project supports improved access to industrial areas near the airport and promotes active transportation through the addition of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

The result is a net, tangible benefit to the local, regional, provincial and national economies. This helps realize the Prime Minister's above noted aspirations to build a diverse and resilient Canadian economy.

Strengthening the region's defense infrastructure and capabilities, while concurrently investing in critical trade gateways and corridors, are investments in Canada's security and the long-term economic resilience.

We urge the federal government to recognize, prioritize, and make the above investments to support security and national economic best interests.

Sincerely,
Manitoba Heavy Construction Association

Per:

John Highmoor, B.A., B.Sc., (C.E.)
MHCA Board Chair

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

cc. The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
Hon. Rebecca Chartrand, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
Hon. Wab Kinew, Premier of Manitoba
Hon. Jamie Moses, Minister of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation
His Worship Mayor Scott Gillingham, City of Winnipeg
Bram Strain, President and CEO, Business Council of Manitoba
Ryan Kuffner, President and CEO, Economic Development Winnipeg
Ron Hambley, President, Winnipeg Construction Association
Fred Meier, President and CEO, Red River College Polytech
Wendell Wiebe, Chief Executive Officer, Manitoba Aerospace Inc.
Loren Remillard, President and CEO, The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
MHCA Board of Directors