



March 30, 2020

The Honorable Ron Schuler, M.L.A.  
Minister of Manitoba Infrastructure  
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Mr. Tareq Al-Zabet  
Deputy Minister of Manitoba Infrastructure  
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**Re: Continued procurement of Consulting Services**

Dear Minister and Deputy Minister:

This is further to the recent letter that was sent to the Premier of Manitoba by the WCA regarding tendering of Public Projects. The letter, which was also signed by the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of Manitoba (ACEC-MB), MHCA, and others, stressed the importance of continuing to tender Public Projects during and following the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACEC-MB commends your leadership in addressing the COVID-19 response. All of our 30 member firms are willing and able to support the province in any way possible, both during the current emergency and afterward, to ensure Manitoba's economy is in the best place possible to facilitate a quick recovery. Continued procurement of Consulting Services to allow design and construction of provincial capital projects to proceed is one way to maintain economic activity and contribute to the GDP.

Based on current information, the amount of work that can be completed during our short construction season will likely be reduced due to social distancing and COVID-19 construction protocols. We also expect that, similar to other financial downturns, there will be a federal stimulus package following the outbreak to get people back to work quickly that will include transportation and water management capital projects.

We understand your staff are stretched at a time like this and want to assure you the consulting industry is ready to help expedite project design, tendering and construction administration, and assist with your service delivery if needed. We recognize that appropriate safety measures are required at each stage of design and construction, and we are well underway in ensuring these are in place and respect advice from public health agencies.

In fact, with the COVID-19 emergency impacting our private clients, we are in need of additional engineering work to keep staff in our companies busy, without the need for layoffs. With the use of technology, all firms have staff working efficiently from home that are able to quickly react to consulting assignments. We hope the Province will be able to act quickly and put out additional requests for proposals, or use master service agreements to negotiate work directly, to allow us to keep our staff working and to get projects shovel ready so Manitoba can lead the country in moving past COVID-19.

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ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
MANITOBA

Thank you in advance for understanding our perspective. With more than 1,600 staff between our member firms, we are ready and willing to assist you and the Manitoba economy. We would be pleased to arrange a video conference with you and our executive to discuss this further.

Thank you,

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