



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES
MANITOBA



Manitoba Home
Builders' Association



April 14, 2020

Honourable Dan Vandal
Minister of Northern Affairs
dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca

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

His Worship Mayor Brian Bowman
Mayor, City of Winnipeg
mayorbowman@winnipeg.ca

Dear Minister Vandal, Premier Pallister and Mayor Bowman,

Your individual and collective leadership efforts since March to slow transmission, and thereby the impact, of COVID-19, are showing evident effect. You and your respective governments are to be congratulated.

The undersigned ask that you now lead public efforts toward a social recovery, recognizing those critical tools and protocols that have kept most of Canada from feeling the worst of the pandemic's potential threat. We ask that the public now hear messages of hope and economic recovery.

The underpinnings of our economy were sound pre-COVID-19. Personal income and business support -- critical complements to the public health programs that remain in place -- are key and much appreciated emergency measures. But people want to work and want to know there is work to go back to.

You have taken important first steps by identifying critical services accompanied by expectations of COVID-19 safety measures implemented to protect those working and the public from the risk of exposure.

Growing the economy remains a priority focus for each level of government. It is the engine of revenues with which to fund all manner of public sector services, in good times and in bad.

Static or retracted capital investment in the economy at this time would be counterproductive. All governments recognize the importance infrastructure investment plays in providing immediate employment and in the circulation of money in rural and urban economies.

Every dollar so invested provides a return of between \$1.30 and \$1.60 - some estimates are even higher. Their broad ROI to GDP includes immediate person-years of employment in design, construction, supply and support; and, immediate impact on supply-side industries e.g. purchase, lease and maintenance of capital equipment; oils, gas and petroleum products; aggregates and its extraction process.

Infrastructure investment accelerates retail sales; creates demand for room and board; boosts exports; grows PST, GST, corporate, income and indirect taxes paid to government; and reduces demand for employment insurance benefits and related subsidy programs.

And lastly, investment leaves the legacy of assets providing benefits for decades to come that enhance the economy's productivity, and therefore competitiveness and growth.

There is an overabundance of capacity in design, supply and construction and the marketplace is extremely competitive. This applies to infrastructure whether institutional, commercial and industrial, or heavy civil.

We urge you to not only continue advancing your infrastructure budgets as adopted, but to over-commit and accelerate their flow into the economy for our collective benefit in the short, medium and long-term.

No one person or group possesses all the answers. The collective public and private-sector knowledge harnessed collaboratively will ease the necessary transition from recession to recovery and growth.

As associations representing broad spectrums of the design, supply, construction, import/export, and transportation sectors, we offer our experience and assistance in implementing an economic recovery and growth strategy harnessing investment in Manitoba's infrastructure.

We are available as a group to meet with you and/or your administrations with short notice to contribute to your government's efforts and planning for recovery.

We have asked Chris Lorenc, President MHCA at 204 230 0994 or clorenc@mhca.mb.ca to coordinate further communication.

Regards,



Brad Cook, P. Eng.
President, ACEC-MB



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



Lanny McInness
President & CEO MHBA



Yvette Milner
President, Merit



David Boles
Chair, UDI



Ron Hambley
President, WCA

cc Hon. Heather Stefanson, Deputy Premier
Hon. Scott Fielding, Minister of Finance
Hon. Ralph Eichler, Minister of Economic Development and Training
Hon. Ron Schuler, Minister Manitoba Infrastructure
Hon. Rochelle Squires, Minister Municipal Relations
Hon. Reg Helwer, Minister Central Services
City of Winnipeg Councillors
Boards of Directors of signing Associations