



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES
MANITOBA



MHCA
MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION



**Manitoba Home
Builders' Association**



MERIT
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA

Benefits Built In



UDI | **URBAN DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE OF MANITOBA**



**WINNIPEG
CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION**

Together We Build Manitoba

April 17, 2020

Hon. Ron Schuler,
Minister, Manitoba Infrastructure
minmi@leg.gov.mb.ca

Hon. Ralph Eichler,
Minister, Economic Development & Training
minedt@leg.gov.mb.ca

Hon. Reg Helwer,
Minister, Central Services
mincentral@leg.gov.mb.ca

Dear Ministers,

We write to you as the business organizations at the core of design, development and construction. The engagement of each is critical to the planning for economic recovery.

Our #1 priority? As repeated at the April 16 teleconference townhall, we respectfully suggested and appealed for the Premier's visible and public commitment to leading our provincial economy back to health, supported by you and colleague ministers in a coordinated engagement with the business community.

There is declining confidence in the economy by investors, the private sector, consumers and our labour force. At the April 16 townhall teleconference, examples were cited of three companies down \$55 million in year-to-date booked work, multi-million dollar projects planned for 2020 construction being stopped, and companies reticent to continue 2020 construction projects out of concern the broad construction industry might be shut down by government.

Manitoba is facing an imminent halt to private sector capital investment. This is inevitable if we do not see an immediate focus on an economic recovery strategy. Public messages of renewal now, are necessary to prevent continued job losses and the ballooning of wage and related relief programs currently underway. The outcome of that would be a devastated economy and astronomical public fiscal liability.

We urgently call upon you as key ministers to champion an economic recovery plan that includes, as central elements:

1. Public messaging by the Premier that gives immediate and long-term economic recovery a focus equal to COVID-19 mitigation;
2. Over-committing provincial capital core infrastructure budgets by up to double, on its own or jointly with the federal government, to get people working and money churning in the economy, leaving a legacy of benefit to Manitobans for decades to come; and
3. Announcing an economic recovery task force led by 5-7 key business leaders, resourced by Manitoba, to advise government directly on economic recovery matters.

We ask for your leadership and we are ready to support in whatever manner suits you, to ensure this advice can effectively assist our government to our collective benefit.

We have taken the liberty of copying your colleagues, Ministers Stefanson and Fielding, and key individuals and organizations listed below.

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

Regards,

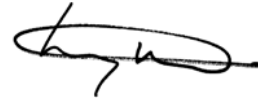
Regards,



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
Michael Kowalson, Director Stakeholder Relations
Tareq Al-Zabet, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Infrastructure
Phil Houde, CEO, Economic Development Office
Bram Strain, President & CEO, Business Council of Manitoba
Chuck Davidson, President & CEO, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce
Loren Remillard, President & CEO, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
Boards of Directors of signing Associations