



August 30, 2023

Ron Hambley, President
Winnipeg Construction Association
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Re: Winnipeg Construction Association Election Priorities Response

Dear Mr. Hambley,

Thank you for taking the time to engage in this critical election. A Manitoba NDP government will work with all sectors to ensure Manitoba is a competitive place for businesses to grow and thrive, supporting an excellent quality of life for families across the province.

The construction industry is facing significant challenges in attracting workers as the population ages and as construction techniques and technology improve. The Manitoba NDP led by Wab Kinew will make it a priority to help the construction industry adapt and thrive.

Below you'll find responses to your questionnaire – we appreciate the opportunity to share our vision for making Manitoba better, together.

Policy Priority 1

Support of an Industry/Social Enterprise training Working Group

The Manitoba NDP support your proposal for a joint working group to address the labour challenges facing the province. We want to work with you and other partners to identify and address barriers that hinder underrepresented groups, including women and minorities, from entering the construction industry. The goal will be to promote inclusivity and expand the workforce especially apprenticeships.

Manitoba Construction Sector Council Support

The Manitoba NDP will continue to support the Manitoba Construction Sector Council in its efforts to provide English language training and the skills needed in the construction industry, including their work supporting participation of Indigenous peoples and northern communities.

Apprenticeship in Manitoba

We will consult with industry partners and workers to promote the good steady jobs and fulfilling work in the construction industry and end stigma. The Manitoba NDP will also expand the apprenticeship program, providing funding to increase the number of paid apprenticeships, making it easier for Manitobans to access and complete their training.

Policy Priority 2

Government Wide Contract Policy Review

The Manitoba NDP will begin the mandatory government-wide contract policy review within a year of taking government, with the goal of making it more effective in its aims to support safety, apprenticeship and Indigenous engagement.

Provincial Procurement Process Changes

The Manitoba NDP will engage directly with stakeholders to ensure provincial procurement and construction processes are transparent and fair – eliminating time consuming and unnecessary duplication. We want to work together with you to ensure the province is investing in Manitoba businesses and creating good jobs for workers here at home.

Vertical Infrastructure Plan

We know how important it is to invest in our vertical infrastructure. Heather Stefanson and the PCs cut the capital budget by millions of dollars, and we know it will take a significant effort to help repair the damage. The Manitoba NDP will work together with industry partners to develop multi-year plans, building on existing commitments. We will provide timely information on upcoming projects and invest every year to build the vertical infrastructure of the future.

Policy Priority 3

Builders' Liens Act Update

The Manitoba NDP will begin a review of the Builders' Liens Act within the first year after the election to understand how we might better protect the rights of contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers involved in construction projects.

Energy Code Adoption

The Manitoba NDP will move toward the responsible adoption of higher energy tiers of the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings to increase energy efficiency.

Municipal Permits and Inspections

We want to enable and incentivize new construction and remove barriers where possible. We will work together with stakeholders to ensure the City has the resources it needs to deliver efficient permitting and inspection services.

The construction industry plays an essential role building our province, providing good jobs, and supporting Manitoba's economy. Thanks again for giving us the opportunity to respond. The Manitoba NDP look forward to working with the Winnipeg Construction Association and other industry partners to build the province, together.

Yours Truly,

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF MANITOBA