



WCA Welcomes Commitment and Clarity on Manitoba Restart Program

Winnipeg, June 11, 2020 – Yesterday’s announcement from the Province of Manitoba providing more information on how they intend to use the \$500 million over the next two years pledged under the Manitoba Restart Program was welcome news for the construction industry.

“We’re happy to learn more about the provincial commitment designed to get Manitobans back to work and lift the economy up following the COVID-19 pandemic,” said WCA President Ron Hambley.

The announcement from the province mentions \$150 million for asphalt highway resurfacing, \$50 million for water and sewer projects and \$65 million for highway safety projects. However, nearly half of the funding, \$230 million, is earmarked for the provincial share of projects under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), a cost-sharing, application-based program with the federal government.

“It’s good to see the province commit nearly half of its budget for this program to ICIP projects,” said Hambley. “Using a program that will bring federal dollars into the province can only be good for Manitobans.”

While \$230 million is earmarked for ICIP projects, the province didn’t provide any clarity on what types of projects that money would go towards.

“There’s certainly projects that have been left sitting on the ICIP list, and this announcement is definitely good for the status of those projects,” said Hambley. “That being said, we’d like some clarity on what types of projects this will fund.”

Manitoba entered the ICIP partnership with the federal government in 2018.

“The ICIP program has been around for a couple of years now,” said Hambley. “The sooner the provincial Government can announce the projects being funded, the sooner the construction industry will be able to get to work to help lift our economy out of the pandemic.”