



Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)

“Committed advocate for economic and industry growth.”

INTRODUCTION - WHO ARE WE

The Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA) consists of four member associations which represent Western Canada's heavy construction and related industries. The members are:

- Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA)
- Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association (SHCA)
- Alberta Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (ARHCA)
- British Columbia Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (BCRB&HCA)

The WCR&HCA brings demonstrated advocacy relevance and value to our industry, our country and our communities.

OUR HISTORY

Originally known as the *Prairie Roadbuilders Association*, the WCR&HCA was founded in 1943 in Regina, Saskatchewan. Our first members were the Roadbuilder Associations of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

In 1956 the Alberta Roadbuilders Association joined, followed by the British Columbia Roadbuilders Association in 1973, and at that time our name changed to the *Western Canada Roadbuilders Association*. In 1996 our name was expanded to better reflect the full spectrum of industries represented, and we became the *Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)*.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to advocate the need for strategic investments in Canada's core infrastructure and transportation networks to help grow Canada's economy.

Our work is guided by our mission statement: *"Committed advocate for economic and industry growth."*

OUR STRUCTURE & AFFILIATIONS

We are governed by a Board of Directors made up of two Directors and the Chief Operating Officers from each of the four member associations. The Chairman position transitions 'westward' annually by province. A list of all past Chairs is available on our website (www.wcrhca.org)

The WCR&HCA and its members network and advocate broadly with key public and private stakeholders, the media, public and governments in western Canada and nationally.

In particular we are active within the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) including its Board, the CCA Civil Infrastructure Council (*the national lobby arm of our activities*) and the CCA Industry Regulatory & Advocacy Affairs Committee.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2013

The WCR&HCA is respectful of the challenges, both fiscal and political, that face national, provincial and municipal governments.

However, those challenges pale in comparison to what our nation will face if we collectively fail to properly present to the public the economic and social standard perils of further infrastructure investment neglect.

We strive to advocate the need for sustained and strategic investment in public infrastructure and its linkages to economic growth. Our priorities centre around our mission being a *'committed advocate for economic and industry growth.'*

Our priorities for 2013 are to advocate with the public, media, stakeholders and governments to:

1. Endorse a long-term Infrastructure program (LTIP)

We will voice support for a long term economic growth and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure; leverage private sector partnership opportunities; and enable funding from all levels of government to ensure national affordability and sustainability over the long -term.

2. Advance the case for infrastructure investment & economic growth

We will promote the linkages between sustained investment in public infrastructure and economic growth with the help of national, provincial and local regional stakeholders and information from the Canada West Foundation report *'At the Intersection: The Case for Sustained & Strategic Public Infrastructure Investment'*.

3. Ensure Open Competitive Bidding

We will prepare appropriate messaging to persuade governments and the public of the advantages associated with using private sector construction services and, dissuade use of public sector (in house) construction services.

4. Focus on Canada's Next Infrastructure Report Card

We will support the development of the next infrastructure report card by ensuring that data presented assess the condition of asset classes such as bridges and structures, public transportation and related municipal infrastructure assets.

5. Add a Municipal Infrastructure Focus at the Annual WCR&HCA Convention

We will invite the Mayors of the Western Canada Big City Mayors Caucus and/or the rural municipal associations from each province to participate in forums addressing infrastructure challenges, opportunities, policies, funding strategies, delivery options etc.

6. Advance New West Partnership Objectives (NWP)

We will engage in supportive advocacy of the NWP, a far-reaching economic partnership between the governments of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan who are committed to ongoing collaboration on innovative ways to strengthen the economy of the West. It focuses on four areas key to economic growth in the West, namely: trade, international cooperation, innovation and procurement. The objectives help foster strong, vibrant and lasting economic and social prosperity for the region and our people.

PRESENT ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Infrastructure & the Economy

The WCR&HCA advocated at the national level that infrastructure investment is the engine that fuels economic growth. As a result of those efforts, the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) adopted the proposition as its primary infrastructure messaging in 2010. The WCR&HCA President was then tasked to co-manage with the CCA the Canada West Foundation (CWF) researching and writing a report specifically to research the proposition. The outcome was the February 6, 2012 Ottawa release of the report entitled *"At the Intersections: The case for sustained and strategic investment in public infrastructure"*.

The report makes a factual, powerful, evidence-based case for a national long-term infrastructure investment strategy in plain language to support economic growth enabling the funding of Canada's quality of life. A first of its kind report in Canada, it provides five recommendations to help governments harness infrastructure investment as a key element of long-term economic growth:

1. Sustained and strategic investment in Canada's public infrastructure should be continued.
2. Priority should be given to public infrastructure that enhances economic performance.
3. Governments should encourage innovative approaches to the design of public infrastructure.
4. Governments should not focus exclusively on new infrastructure and should give due consideration to renewing existing public infrastructure.

5. Ongoing analysis and evaluation of recent public infrastructure investments should be conducted and lessons applied to future investments.

The report received support at its official release from organizations such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Engineers Canada. Media across Canada were equally supportive, featuring the CWF report on evening news programs and editorials in major dailies.

WCR&HCA 2013 Recommendations to the Canadian Construction Association (CCA)

The most pressing issue facing the global economy, including Canada's, is its continued weakness. Therefore adopting strategies which strategically build up Canada's economy, enabled by sustained and strategic investment in public infrastructure is critical to advocate to the public, media, stakeholders and governments.

Accordingly, the WCR&HCA advanced three priorities for the CCA's attention for 2013, namely:

- Promote the linkages between sustained and strategic investment in public infrastructure and Canada's economic growth which enables Canada's quality of life;
- Address Canada's infrastructure deficit in a consensus driven, balanced and shared trilateral government effort; and
- Develop a national coordinated effort targeting meetings with premiers and the Big City Mayor's Caucus in support of the above principles.

The CCA adopted the above recommendations at its March 2013 meetings in Malbaie, Quebec.

Federal Budget 2013

Much of what the WCR&HCA has advocated is reflected in the 2013 Federal Budget including workforce enhancement through job grants; apprenticeship measures; career promotion; expanding support for small businesses; and allocating funding for apprenticeship.

The WCR&HCA has long championed long term federal infrastructure programs. In this context, the 2013 Federal Budget's New Building Canada Plan reflects many of the WCR&HCA long held positions.

At \$70 billion in infrastructure investments over the next 10 years it is the largest and longest such program in our country's history:

- It includes over \$47 billion in new funding in support of local and economic growth infrastructure projects and \$32.2 billion to build roads, public transit, recreational facilities and other community infrastructure;
- It indexes the Gas Tax Fund at 2 per cent beginning in 2014-15 which will add a further \$9 billion to the program over its term;
- It supports through a \$14 billion allocation, investment in major economic projects of national, regional and local significance; and
- It renews with \$1.25 billion, support for strategic use of public-private partnerships.

PAST ACTIVITIES

National Highways Commission

An example of commitment to its mission is reflected in the record of the Prairie Roadbuilder's Annual Convention held in Saskatoon in 1953. The Convention adopted a resolution calling upon the federal government to establish a National Highways Commission to co-ordinate the planning, financing and construction of national highways in Canada in support of economic growth.

The arguments cited were as sound then, as they are today. They were part of national lobby efforts which helped persuade the Diefenbaker government of the merits of constructing the Trans-Canada Highway in the late 1950's.

The Road & Information Program Canada (TRIP/Canada)

Commitment to the above principles led the WCR&HCA in 1983 to initiate formation of The Road & Information Program Canada (TRIP/Canada). TRIP/Canada produced successive reports on the condition of Canada's municipal infrastructure and highways which were circulated to all three levels of government.

TRIP/Canada helped persuade the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) to complete and release successive reports addressing the concept of, and funding for, a National Highways System (NHS).

In 1997, the WCR&HCA successfully recommended that TRIP's name be changed to "The Road & Infrastructure Program Canada (TRIP/Canada)" in recognition of TRIP/Canada's broadened mandate.

National Infrastructure Policy (NIP)

Mindful of its national focus, in 1996/97 the WCR&HCA adopted a National Infrastructure Policy (NIP) which targeted investment in three public policy area imperatives:

- Municipal Infrastructure deficit;
- National Highway System (NHS); and
- Strategic Infrastructure Investments enabling new economic activity.

The NIP approach was subsequently adopted by national and provincial associations including the Canadian Construction Association (CCA). It's also worth noting Prime Minister Harper's 2007 budget had two of the three elements. It lacked commitment to a National Highways System)

In 1998/99 the WCR&HCA supported a policy approach which fleshed out Canada's Premiers' "Guidelines to a New Infrastructure Program" they had approved at their 1996/97 Annual Conferences. The brief was used in national lobbying efforts to press the federal government to adopt a National Transportation & Infrastructure Policy.

Transportation Awareness Partnership (TAP)

By 2004 there was general agreement that to change public policy required the support of an informed public. As a result, the WCR&HCA led formation of the Transportation Awareness Partnership (TAP) stakeholder group. Its objective was to elevate the importance of transportation to the standard of life that Canadians had come to enjoy.

The campaign ended when there was insufficient interests from a broad enough national coalition to raise the necessary funds to pursue such a campaign. However, this initiative did accomplish something very worthwhile: It formed the basis upon which the WCR&HCA pursued its next national policy initiative launched in 2005.

Western Canada Transportation System (WCTS)

In March 2005, the Western Transportation Ministers' Report (WTM Report) was released. For the first time, a government report ignored provincial boundaries and considered developing a transportation system for western Canada in a regional, multi-modal, efficient, 'just -in-time' competitive global context. (In December 2005, the WTM Report formed the basis upon which the premiers again called upon the federal government to develop a 'National Transportation Vision.')

Then, in October 2005, based on the WTM Report, the WCR&HCA facilitated a Western Canada stakeholder-based group of associations to advance the notion and concept of a Western Canada Transportation System (WCTS).

Its mission statement was straightforward:

"To champion an integrated, internationally competitive, efficient, sustainable and secure multi-modal Western Canada Transportation System (WCTS), to achieve a healthy economy, environment and quality of life for Canadians."

Promoting its notion of a system laid out strategically to enhance east west, north south trade while seizing emerging trade with the Asia-Pacific Rim countries, the WCTS Group met with all four western Canada transportation ministers. Each minister committed their respective deputy minister to meet with the WCTS Group to pursue next steps. As a result of the December 2007 meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia there was unanimous agreement to update the WTM Report; to identify regulatory legislative harmonization and investment impediments to the free flow of trade; and to combine the two into one report.

These initiatives were accomplished by May 2008. Unfortunately, the economy went into recession in late 2008 and changed government focus. The link between infrastructure and economic growth was not lost on the WCR&HCA and it continued to champion the message regionally and nationally.

CONCLUSION - CONTINUED ADVOCACY

The WCR&HCA is an association with a proven track record of advocating for sustained and strategic investment in public infrastructure, and its linkages to economic growth, which in turn funds our quality of life.

Our mission statement commits the WCR&HCA to continued advocacy of the imperatives of investment in infrastructure. In short, sustained and strategic investment in Canada's core infrastructure, is Canada' economic healthcare program.

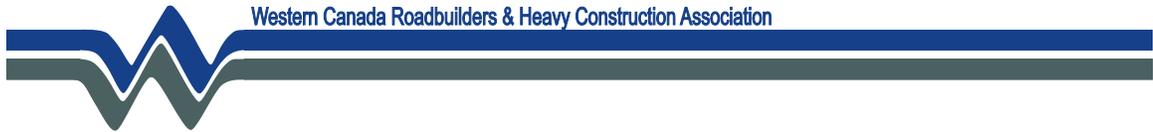
By its actions past, present and future, the WCR&HCA remains a "*committed advocate for economic and industry growth.*"

Regards,

Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)



Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B.,
President WCR&HCA
June 2013



**Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)
Past Chairs**

PRAIRIE ROADBUILDERS ASSOCIATION (PRA)

Year	Name	Province	
1943	Beattie Ramsay	Saskatchewan	Beattie Ramsay Construction Co. Ltd.
1944	Beattie Ramsay	Saskatchewan	Beattie Ramsay Construction Co. Ltd.
1945	Beattie Ramsay	Saskatchewan	Beattie Ramsay Construction Co. Ltd.
1946	F. Scott Fowler	Manitoba	Nelson River Construction Ltd.
1947	Fred Mannix	Alberta	Mannix Construction Ltd.
1948	Noel J. Vadeboncoeur	Manitoba	Power Construction
1949	E.C. Thode	Saskatchewan	Thode Construction Co. Ltd.
1950	Mervyn Dutton	Alberta	Standard Gravel & Surfacing Co. Ltd.
1951	D.H. Stratton	Manitoba	Stratton Engineering Ltd.
1952	Kent Phillips	Saskatchewan	Evans Construction & Gravel Ltd.
1953	James Anselmo	Alberta	New West Construction Ltd.
1954	Neville R. Williams	Manitoba	Maple Leaf Construction Co. Ltd.
1955	T. Vic King	Saskatchewan	Vic King Enterprises
1956	Walter J. Missiaen	Alberta	Square M Construction
1957	Ced White	Manitoba	Maple Leaf Construction
1958	Vern Tierman	Saskatchewan	W.C. Wells Construction
1959	Pat Mahoney	Alberta	Mannix Ltd.
1960	Don Brown	Manitoba	Maple Leaf Construction Ltd.
1961	Doug Ramsay	Saskatchewan	Ramsay Construction Ltd.
1962	Doug Ells	Alberta	Arthur A. Voice Construction
1963	Jack Fraser	Manitoba	Fraser's Sand & Gravel
1964	Ted Greenaway	Saskatchewan	Asphalt Services Ltd.
1965	Keith Mathews	Alberta	Mannix Construction Ltd.
1966	Frank Fowler	Manitoba	Nelson River Construction Ltd.
1967	Haig Fleming	Saskatchewan	Fleming- Mackay Construction Ltd.
1968	Ron Everall	Alberta	Everall Construction
1969	Don Brown	Manitoba	Maple Leaf Construction Ltd.
1970	Al Fraser	Saskatchewan	ASL Paving Ltd.
1971	Ivan Gouin	Alberta	North American Road Ltd.
1972	Alan Borger	Manitoba	Borger Bros. Ltd.
1973	Jack Smith	Saskatchewan	B.A. Construction Ltd.

WESTERN CANADA ROADBUILDERS ASSOCIATION (WCRA)

1974	Bob Boon	Alberta	Standard General Construction Ltd.
1975	Gil Jacobs	British Columbia	Emil Anderson Construction
1976	Ralph Borger Sr.	Manitoba	Borger Bros. Ltd.
1977	Wayne Maguire	Saskatchewan	B.A. Construction Ltd.
1978	Al Reed	Alberta	Carmacks Construction Ltd.
1979	Don Bird	British Columbia	Columbia Bitulithic
1980	Chuck Lee	Manitoba	Nelson River Construction Ltd.
1981	Jim Bortolotto	Saskatchewan	South Construction Co. Ltd.
1982	Bob Hollingshead	Alberta	PCL Construction
1983	Ray Wood	British Columbia	Peter Kiewit Sons Co. Ltd.
1984	Dave Brown	Manitoba	Atkins Underground L. P.
1985	Paul Morsky	Saskatchewan	Morsky Construction
1986	Dave Clark	Alberta	Standard General Construction

1987	Gordon Geddes	British Columbia	Geddes Contracting Ltd.
1988	Dick Mulder	Manitoba	Mulder Construction & Materials Ltd.
1989	Matt Campbell	Saskatchewan	Campbell Rentals Ltd.
1990	John Thompson	Alberta	Junction Engineering Ltd.
1991	Doug Smith	British Columbia	D.G. Smith Engineering Ltd.
1992	Barry Brown	Manitoba	Maple Leaf Construction Ltd.
1993	Brian Morsky	Saskatchewan	Morsky Construction
1994	Tom Brown	Alberta	Ledcor Industries Limited
1995	Tom Johnston	British Columbia	JJM

WESTERN CANADA ROADBUILDERS & HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (WCR&HCA)

1996	Colleen Munro	Manitoba	Hugh Munro Construction (HMC)
1997	Dave Hengen	Saskatchewan	Kramer Ltd.
1998	Norm Darichuk	Alberta	Lafarge Construction Materials
1999	Frank Rizzardo	BC	Emcon Services Inc.
2000	Calvin Edie	Manitoba	Edie Construction Ltd.
2001	Wayne Morsky	Saskatchewan	Morsky Construction Ltd.
2002	Lenard Soroka	Alberta	North American Construction Group
2003	Frank Rizzardo	BC	Emcon Services Inc.
2004	Cal Moon	Manitoba	E.F. Moon Construction Ltd.
2005	Brent Hendry	Saskatchewan	Anderson Rental & Paving Ltd.
2006	Dave Chamberland	Alberta	Cannex Contracting 2000 Inc.
2007	Frank Rizzardo	British Columbia	Emcon Services inc.
2008	Gord Lee	Manitoba	Nelson River Construction Ltd.
2009	Jayson Clunie	Saskatchewan	Clunie Consulting Engineers Ltd.
2010	Roger Walls	Alberta	Border Paving Ltd.
2011	Frank Rizzardo	British Columbia	Emcon Services Inc.
2012	Robert Reidy	Manitoba	Taillieu Construction Ltd.
2013	Jim Short	Saskatchewan	BLS Asphalt Inc.