

## ECAM PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL NOTICE



Terry Henry - President,  
ECAM Board of Directors

**ELECTIONS  
MANITOBA**

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### ELECTION 2023 – ISSUES IMPACTING TRADE CONTRACTORS Political Leaders Engage ECAM

Following consultation with ECAM members, the Board of Directors collaborated with MCAM in establishing key issues impacting Manitoba trade contractors. Contractors and their employees responsible for building the vertical infrastructure both the Progressive Conservative Party and NDP are relying on to Grow Manitoba's Economy.

Questions quickly developed a theme of authentic industry engagement. Identifying MCAM and ECAM as the uncompromised voice of trade contractors in all issues impacting vertical construction, one of Manitoba's largest industry sectors and the door that opens the province to economic growth and success.

ECAM and MCAM invited Conservative leader, Premier Heather Stefanson and NDP leader Wab Kinew to meet with Industry representatives.

### WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY.....



September 22, Progressive Conservative Leader, Premier Heather Stefanson and PC Candidate for Radisson, Minister James Teitsma met with ECAM and MCAM industry members at the ECAM/MCAM Office.

Complexities of the construction industry, Bill 38 – The Builders' Liens Amendment Act (Prompt Payment), The Construction Industry Wage Act, the Conservative Party record, authentic industry engagement and the Party's Election platform were discussed.

See below for the Party's formal response.

#### ECAM REPRESENTATIVES

Terry Henry - WESCAN, ECAM Board President  
Daniel Hartley - Powertec Electric, ECAM Board Member  
Bryan Trottier - Trotco Electric, ECAM Executive Committee

Ramona Coey – ECAM & MCAM Executive Director

#### MCAM REPRESENTATIVES

Julien Lafleche - SERVCO Canada, MCAM Board President  
Shawn Henry - WESCAN, MCAM Government and Industry Relations Chair  
Chris Derksen - Derksen Plumbing & Heating, MCAM Executive Committee

**REGULATION DEVELOPMENT AND ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF BILL 38 *The Builders' Liens Amendment Act*** - Will the conservative party commit to continued representation from MCAM & ECAM in the development Bill 38 regulations and commit to Bill 38 receiving royal proclamation within the first year of its mandate?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, we remain committed to fully implementing Prompt Payment legislation and regulation in consultation with MCAM, ECAM, and other stakeholders as quickly as feasible, and definitely within the first year of our renewed mandate.

**CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WAGE ACT – WAGE SCHEDULE UPDATE** - Will the conservative party commit to a newly appointed Minister's committee, representing a cross section of the construction industry? Within a timeframe that provides for recommendations to come into effect April 1, 2025.

**RESPONSE:** We believe the Construction Industry Wages Act (CIWA) belongs to industry first and foremost. As such, we will move forward in full consultation with industry on timely updates to the wage schedule, well enough in advance to allow predictability when bidding on tendered projects.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - LABOUR SHORTAGE – LABOUR STRATEGY** - How will Manitoba compete to attract skilled trades? How will the myths of skilled trades as a viable career choice be dispelled. At the National and Provincial level, these are ongoing discussions. With the announcement of a \$16 million skills training and recruitment fund, identifying construction and the second highest sector to have openings; How will experts within the mechanical and electrical industry be engaged in the development of a labour strategy?

**RESPONSE:** We recognize how important it is to train and attract more skilled trades to Manitoba. Our economic growth plan as well as our significant vertical infrastructure budgets all hinge on more and more skilled trades here in our province. That's why we announced a \$16 million skills training and recruitment fund. We will give MCAM and ECAM a seat at the table when it comes to deciding how we can best recruit and train more skilled trades with strategies that already start in high school. We will also involve industry stakeholders like MCAM and ECAM when developing Manitoba's labour force strategy for the years to come.

**HARMONIZATION & LABOUR MOBILITY** - Will a conservative government review the process for authentic, proactive industry engagement with such actions as re-instating the Building Standards Board and creating an industry advisory table to identify industry barriers, inform RCT Work Plans and advise RCT leaders as work plans progress?

**RESPONSE:** We regret the negative impacts Manitoba's skill trades industries have experienced through changes made under the RCT and look forward to amplifying your voice and ensuring that our province benefits. We need to better understand the levers and mechanics of how this table functions before committing to reinstating the Building Standards Board, however we remain committed to fixing these issues and ensuring our province is competitive and successful, including in discussions at the RCT table.

**VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION** - Will a conservative government continue the practice of assigning vertical infrastructure to a ministerial portfolio? Further, will a conservative government consider strengthening this portfolio description by consolidating programs, departments and ministerial responsibility of legislation impacting vertical infrastructure to one ministerial portfolio?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, we will continue the practice of assigning vertical infrastructure to a ministerial portfolio, independent of highways and transportation.

**GENERAL RESPONSE:** Throughout this discussion, it is evident that MCAM and ECAM want to have a government that listens, consults, and cooperates with industry. We are that government. We look forward to working together with you to move Manitoba forward to become 2-million strong and prosperous – to make Manitoba a HAVE province.



September 19th, Manitoba NDP Leader Wab Kinew greeted ECAM representatives following the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce Leaders Series Breakfast.

ECAM Board Members, Scott Shepherd, Black and McDonald and Lionel Penner, A&N Electrical, highlighted the importance of strengthening the voice of Trade Contractors with the Manitoba's new Government following the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Election.

Mr. Kinew's Election campaign schedule was too hectic for a sit down with ECAM representatives; however, the party provided a formal response to ECAM, MCAM questions.

**REGULATION DEVELOPMENT AND ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF BILL 38 *The Builders' Liens Amendment Act*** - Will the NDP party commit to continued representation from MCAM & ECAM in the development Bill 38 regulations? Will the NDP commit to Bill 38 being proclaimed within the first year of its mandate?

**CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WAGE ACT – WAGE SCHEDULE UPDATE** - Will the NDP party commit to a newly appointed Minister's committee, representing a cross section of the construction industry? Within a timeframe that provides for recommendations to come into effect April 1, 2025.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - LABOUR SHORTAGE – LABOUR STRATEGY** - How will Manitoba compete to attract skilled trades? How will the myths of skilled trades as a viable career choice be dispelled. With the announcement of a Premier's Business and Jobs Council, how will experts within the mechanical and electrical industry be engaged?

**HARMONIZATION & LABOUR MOBILITY** - Will a NDP government review the process for authentic, proactive industry engagement with such actions as re-instating the Building Standards Board and creating an industry advisory table to identify industry barriers, inform RCT Work Plans and advise RCT leaders as work plans progress?

**VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION** - Will a NDP government continue the practice of assigning vertical infrastructure to a ministerial portfolio? Further, will a NDP government consider strengthening this portfolio description by consolidating programs, departments and ministerial responsibility of legislation impacting vertical infrastructure to one ministerial portfolio?

## WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY.....



Sept. 29, 2023

Mechanical Contractors Association of Manitoba  
Electrical Contractors Association of Manitoba

Thank you for engaging in this critical election. We appreciate the advocacy of your associations and all that your members do to help build our province.

The Manitoba NDP is committed to working with you to advance our shared priorities. We are committed to ensuring there are good Manitoba jobs for Manitobans and that we make use of our local excellence to help build our province. We have an ambitious program and look forward to working with you to realize it.

The Manitoba NDP was pleased to support Bill 38 The Builder's Liens Amendment Act. We are committed to working with both your associations in the development of regulations on this important bill and ensuring that it can come into force as soon as possible.

Fostering the conditions for the creation of good paying jobs is a priority for our party and we are committed to helping support a Minister's committee on updates to the Construction Industry Wages Act. We will ensure the work of this committee is done in a timely fashion in advance of recommendations that could come into effect in April of 2025.

As you note in your letter, our leader's approach is captured by the phrase 'the economic horse pulls the social cart'. We are committed to creating the conditions for economic growth in our province. We know this starts with a commitment to increase support and participation in the skilled trades. The Manitoba NDP is committed to training more apprentices and to helping young Manitobans enter the skilled trades. We will support this goal by providing more support for apprenticeships in our province and ensuring more training is offered to help workers skill up.

What's more we are committed to the creation of a Premier's Business and Jobs Council to help ensure there is representation from business, labour and other groups in order to come together to help grow our economy. The concerns of members of your association will be recognized as part of this council to ensure the needs of Manitobans can be properly addressed.

The Manitoba NDP is committed to a 'Manitoba Jobs for Manitobans' strategy. We know there is significant local excellence in our province and many skilled workers who are able to contribute. A Manitoba NDP Government will prioritize projects that ensure the benefits of investment benefit Manitobans and local communities first.

This strategy will be forefront, if we are so honoured to form Government, as we invest in the vertical infrastructure of the future. The Manitoba NDP is the party of builders and we are committed to investing in vertical infrastructure projects that help improve our province. We will work with your associations on how best to collaborate to ensure this goal is realized.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to respond. The Manitoba NDP looks forward to working with your associations and other partners to move towards a shared vision for a thriving and strong province.

Sincerely,

**The Manitoba NDP**