

MCA CANADA UPDATE – MAY 2025

BUILDING SMARTER TOGETHER

MESSAGE FROM MCAC PRESIDENT AND CHAIR BRAD MASON



So far, 2025 has proven that the only certainty we can rely on is ***uncertainty***.

Between the changing political landscape in Canada, and the impact of trade and tariff policies from the United States, our sector has had to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. At the same time, while this uncertainty has no doubt had an impact on each of us, the challenges we are currently facing are creating new opportunities in the years ahead. Governments across the country have

identified the need to build key infrastructure and accelerate project approvals and timelines; there is continued discussion about building a stronger, more resilient Canadian economy through building and construction; and, political parties of all stripes are recognizing how important the construction industry and skilled trades are to meeting policy objectives in the years ahead.

As many would have seen in the lead-up to the federal election, MCA Canada launched a “Build Canada Now” campaign. The purpose of the campaign was to demonstrate the importance of the mechanical contracting sector, and to encourage all political parties to consider policies and initiatives that would support our sector. In particular, the campaign focused on Workforce Development, an Improved Business Environment, and Tariff Support for Mechanical Contracting Firms. Since launching the



campaign, we have heard from all political parties the need to build, including Prime Minister Carney himself stating the need to “build big, build bold, and build now.”

As we look ahead to the remainder of 2025, there has been no better time to have a strong national voice to represent the best interests of the mechanical contracting sector in Canada. As uncertainty continues to reshape the economic direction of our country, it is as important as ever to ensure our voice is being heard in policy discussions at all levels. Earlier this month, the MCA Canada Board of Directors, alongside managers from provincial and local MCAs, met in Ottawa for our annual mid-year board and committee meetings to strengthen our national voice on several key issues. Importantly, there continues to be positive progress on our association’s strategic plan in the areas of industry advancement, advocacy, innovation, and governance.

As President and Chair, I have had the opportunity to travel to many MCA events across the country so far, and I am looking forward to taking part in several more as the year continues. It is always great to meet with members in person to discuss the important issues impacting your businesses and your local mechanical contracting sector. As a national association, these discussions and conversations help to guide the work that we do at MCA Canada to best represent the mechanical contracting sector from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

We are pleased to provide an update on several MCA Canada initiatives in this report. As always, if there are any questions on the items included in this update, I would encourage you to reach out to the MCA Canada office and our staff in Ottawa. In the meantime, I look forward to connecting with many more of our members over the year ahead, and to hopefully seeing many of you at our events or Annual Conference in Barbados this coming November.

Sincerely,

Brad Mason
2025 MCAC President & Chair

MID-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE



The following provides an overview of the ongoing initiatives and projects under the association's strategic pillars.

ADVOCACY

Federal Election Updates

- Prior to the federal election, MCAC launched the “Build Canada Now” campaign, calling on all political parties to consider policies that would support the mechanical contracting sector. In particular, MCAC focused these policy areas to:
 - o Workforce Development
 - o An Improved Business Environment for Contractors
 - o Tariff Relief and Support for the Sector
- More information is available at www.buildcanadanow.com

- Throughout the campaign, MCAC provided federal election updates to the MCAC Board and Provincial/Zone managers on a weekly basis, highlighting policy announcements from the three major parties.
- With the Mark Carney government now in place, MCAC has prepared congratulatory letters to his newly appointed Cabinet. As well, MCAC has finalized a letter to be sent to all Members of Parliament reiterating the asks from the Build Canada Now campaign. In addition to this letter, MCAC has prepared an online module where any individual can send the same letter to their elected representative, based on the postal code provided.

Price Escalation and Supply Chain Challenges

- Since January, MCAC has taken the lead on several items related to the impact of the Trump administration's tariffs, and Canadian countermeasures.
- In January, MCAC led a coalition of national industry associations in a letter to then Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc, seeking reprieve from Canadian countermeasures on any construction related materials
- MCAC has also shared several updates with its Board and Provincial/Zone managers, including an April 2025 Bulletin entitled ***"Price Escalation and Supply Chain Challenges."*** This bulletin contained several best practices and considerations for mechanical contractors as they navigate the challenges brought on by the Trump administration's trade war.
- Of particular concern for the association is a growing number of suppliers unilaterally increasing product pricing without referencing a particular cause, and without any express reference to the impact of US tariffs or Canadian countermeasures.

Economic Impact Study

- MCAC is close to releasing the first iteration of its National Economic Impact study, which quantifies the economic contributions of the mechanical contracting sector to the Canadian economy.
 - o In addition, the study is broken down on a province-by-province basis, and also includes separately the impact of the electrical contracting sector; this addition was

voted on by the MCAC Board of Directors in November, and helps to showcase the broad impact of the M&E sector to the Canadian construction industry

- Work is ongoing to better quantify the impact of the industrial sector, and in particular turnaround and shutdown work

INDUSTRY ADVANCEMENT

Susie's Shed and WiMC Rebranding

- Nationally, Susie's Shed sold more than 3,000 copies, making it a Canadian bestseller. The book has also sold copies in the UK, United States, Germany, and Australia.
 - Work is underway on the second book, which aims to be launched in November at the Annual Conference
- MCAC is working on a marketing strategy for the Susie Ambassador program, which will help companies step up to support sales of the book, as well as toolkits for schools and other learning institutions.
- At the most recent meeting, the Women in Mechanical Contracting Committee discussed and approved a name change for the committee, to better reflect the broad vision of the group: Women in Canadian Trade Contracting Committee.

Emerging Leaders Conference and Student Chapter Programming

- In March the association held its second Emerging Leaders Conference over two days in Toronto. The event brought young professionals from across Canada to learn and network; the feedback from attendees has been extremely positive, and the committee has already begun exploring next year's event.
- The Industry Advancement Committee is working on new resources and information to assist existing Student Chapters, as well as for those schools looking to start their own Student Chapters; these resources will be shared on the MCAC website once finalized.
 - MCAC wishes to once again congratulate McMaster University on their first-place finish at the MCAA Student Chapter Competition this past March, as well as the University of Manitoba for their top-6 finish (and inaugural entry) in the competition.

INNOVATION

National Innovation Conference & Tradeshow

- MCAC has secured and is holding space at the International Centre in Mississauga from September 23-25, 2025 to hold an Innovation Conference and Tradeshow
 - o The event will include both a tradeshow component as well as education sessions targeting field leaders, as well as middle management.

MCAC Converge

- MCAC continues to engage the organizing committee for the MCAA Converge conference to hold a Canadian version of this event.
 - o This annual event by MCAA brings together key decision makers at the contractor level with select associate members and suppliers to provide innovative solutions to the challenges currently being faced in the sector.

Innovation Publication

- MCAC will be launching a bi-annual publication called **Innovation Insights**, which will share innovative case studies between supplier members and contractors.

GOVERNANCE

By-Law Updates

- At its most recent meeting, the Board of Directors approved in principle new updates to the association's by-laws to adjust nominations and make-up of the national board. This includes:
 - o The nomination of Chairperson for all outside committees where a seat is currently held on the MCAC Board of Directors (ie. Women in Canadian Trade Contracting committee, Future Leaders Advisory Council, Associates Council).
 - o Ensuring the Future Leaders Advisory Council representative is a voting representative on the Board of Directors.

- The inclusion of a non-voting position on the Board of Directors to represent the Unionized Contracting Committee.
- These bylaw amendments, as well as any other required changes, will be voted on at the association's Annual General Meeting in November 2025.