

ECAM PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL NOTICE



Dave Cook - President,
ECAM Board of Directors

Provincial Government Signals Progress for Construction Industry Prompt Payment Regime

Manitoba Government officials confirmed progress is being made on a Prompt Payment Regime for Manitoba Construction Industry. Draft regulations of *Bill 38 - The Builders' Liens Amendment Act (Prompt Payment)* are set to be reviewed in coming weeks with intent of Bill 38 being proclaimed this coming fall.

Government will engage the Manitoba Builders' Lien Modernization Advisory Council to review and make recommendations of the draft regulations. The Advisory Council, appointed July 2023, represents a cross section of the construction industry impacted by delayed payments. ECAM Executive Director, Ramona Coey and MCAM National Director, Brad Mason (ServcoCanada) were appointed to the Advisory Council as representatives of ECAM and the Manitoba Prompt Payment Coalition.

Industry members have advocated for a provincial prompt payment regime dating back to 2012. The Manitoba Prompt Payment coalition representing 32 industry associations and unions was formalized in 2018. The Coalition worked with government to move the initiative forward in several iterations. Bill 38 received unanimous industry, government and official opposition support and Royal Assent in Spring 2023. A provincial election and change in government temporarily slowed progress of Bill 38, however, Manitoba is now back on track. An article highlighting the work of the Manitoba Prompt Payment Coalition was published in Building rural Manitoba Magazine 2023, Vol. 1.

Brad Mason, National Director of MCAM, Western Vice-President/President Elect of MCAC, Co-Chair of the Manitoba Prompt Payment Coalition and founding partner of ServcoCanada commented "Bill 38 is an industry bill. Delayed payments cause significant hardships for contractors, even bankruptcy. We are appreciative government has listened to Industry, committing to advancing Bill 38. This may be the single most powerful and impactful legislation ever introduced within Manitoba's construction sector, certainly since the creation of the Builders' Liens Act"

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