



Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)  
Unit 3 – 1680 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0Z2  
<https://wcrhca.com/>

## **Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA)** **A record of advocacy - 1953-2025 - an overview**

### **'COMMITTED ADVOCATE FOR ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRY GROWTH'**

*The Western Canada Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA) consists of four Western Canada roadbuilder associations: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.*

*Our industry builds the core infrastructure that moves people to jobs and goods to market, provides critical public services such as water and wastewater infrastructure and protects communities, people and businesses through water-controls structures.*

*Together, we advocate regionally and federally for strategic transportation infrastructure investment plans to ensure trade – more than 65% of Canada's economy – moves efficiently and seamlessly. The WCR&HCA supports the free, unfettered movement of goods, labour and services across provincial boundaries.*

*National purpose and benefit - the hallmark of WCR&HCA advocacy - is highlighted below.*

#### **National Highways Commission**

**1953**

- Prairie Roadbuilders Association calls on Ottawa to establish a National Highways Commission to co-ordinate the planning, financing and construction of national highways in Canada
- As part of national lobby, we helped to press for the Trans-Canada Highway, officially opened in 1962.

#### **The Road & Information Program Canada (TRIP/Canada)**

**1983**

- WCR&HCA initiates The Road & Information Program Canada (TRIP/Canada). TRIP/Canada produced successive reports on the condition of Canada's municipal infrastructure and highways
- TRIP/Canada helps persuade the Transportation Association of Canada to produce successive reports on the concept of, and funding for, a National Highway System.

#### **National Infrastructure Policy**

**1996/97**

- WCR&HCA adopts a National Infrastructure Policy for targeted investment in:
  - Municipal infrastructure deficit;
  - National Highway System; and
  - Strategic infrastructure investments enabling new economic activity.
- National and provincial associations, including the Canadian Construction Association, adopt the approach

**1998/99**

- WCR&HCA prepares a brief to embellish the Premiers' *Guidelines to a New Infrastructure Program*; The brief is used to press the federal government to adopt a national transportation & infrastructure policy.

#### **Transportation Awareness Partnership**

**2004**

- WCR&HCA leads formation of the Transportation Awareness Partnership stakeholder group, to profile the importance of transportation to Canadians' standard of living

- Campaign suffers from insufficient broad interest to raise necessary funds
- Initiative forms the basis for WCR&HCA's pursuit of its next national policy initiative

### **Western Canada Transportation System**

#### **2005**

- Western Transportation Ministers' Report calls for consideration of a regional, multi-modal transportation system, ignoring provincial boundaries for the first time
- WCR&HCA facilitates a regional group to advance the concept of a Western Canada transportation system

#### **2007**

- The Federal budget includes references to municipal infrastructure investment deficit and need for strategic infrastructure investments enabling new economic activity

#### **2010**

- CCA adopts proposition advanced by WCR&HCA that infrastructure investment is key to economic growth.

### **At the Intersection**

#### **2012**

- Commissioned by the WCR&HCA and the CCA, the Canada West Foundation releases *At the Intersections: The case for sustained and strategic investment in public infrastructure*. The report, supported post-release by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Canadian Chamber of Commerce, recommends:
  - Sustained and strategic investment in Canada's public infrastructure
  - Priority should be given to public infrastructure that enhances economic performance
  - Governments should encourage innovative approaches to the design of public infrastructure
  - Governments should invest in just new infrastructure but must renew existing infrastructure.
  - Recent infrastructure investments should be reviewed, with lessons applied to future investments.

### **National focus on infrastructure investment**

#### **2013**

- CCA adopts WCR&HCA recommendations for priority attention
  - Promote the linkages between sustained, strategic investment in public infrastructure and Canada's economic growth
  - Address Canada's infrastructure deficit in a balanced and shared trilateral government effort; and
  - Develop a national coordinated effort, meet with premiers and the Big City Mayor's Caucus
- The federal budget's New Building Canada Plan reflects WCR&HCA's long-held positions. Its \$70-billion, 10-year infrastructure investment program was the largest and longest in our country's history.

#### **2015**

- The WCR&HCA is the driver behind the CCA funding three key reports that underpin our industry's ability to champion sustained, strategic investment in infrastructure:
  - The Canada West Foundation - *At the Intersection 2013* and *Building on Advantage 2014*
  - The Mowat Report - *From the Ground Up*
  - The reports can be viewed here [http://www.wcrhca.org/Briefs\\_and\\_Reports](http://www.wcrhca.org/Briefs_and_Reports)
- WCR&HCA advocates for a CCA task force to produce an Indigenous Peoples Engagement Best Practices Guide. President & CEO Chris Lorenc appointed task force Chair

#### **2016**

- WCR&HCA proposes the Western & Northern Canada Trade Transportation Prosperity initiative, to advocate for strategic investment in new and existing multi-modal trade-enabling infrastructure assets and pipelines to expand the region's global trade profile, wealth generation and jobs.

**2020**

- WCR&HCA works with Canada West Foundation a report on a strategy for national trade infrastructure investment to spur economic growth. Business Council of Canada and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce agree to assist financially and dissemination/advocacy
- WCR&HCA calls on Premiers of Prairie provinces to eliminate trade barriers, such as local preference practices, in compliance with free trade provisions of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

**Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan (CTIP)****2021-2024**

- WCR&HCA with CICC/CCA spurs the Canada West Foundation to prepare *From Shovel Ready to Shovel Worthy* (May 2022) <https://cwfc.ca/research/publications/new-report-from-shovel-ready-to-shovel-worthy/>
  - o Report recommends foundational principles for infrastructure investment, prioritizing projects that offer national and global trade-productivity gains, maximizing ROI
- Report serves as springboard for the Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan (CTIP) <https://ctip-picc.ca/>, proposed by national business organizations
  - o CTIP urges investment in *shovel worthy*, not just *shovel-ready*, projects. Its criteria prioritize projects that offer national and global trade-productivity gains, maximizing the nation's return on investment.
  - o CTIP coalition:
    - Business Council of Canada; Canada West Foundation; Canadian Chamber of Commerce; Canadian Construction Association; Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters; Civil Infrastructure Council Corporation; and WCR&HCA.
- In 2023, with the committed support of then Manitoba Premier Heather Stefanson, CTIP is on the priority agenda of the Premiers' Council of the Federation (CoF) meeting in Winnipeg
  - o CoF unanimously endorses CTIP principles; CoF calls for First Ministers' meeting with Prime Minister on linked priorities of competitiveness and strategic investment

**2025**

- WCR&HCA, with leading Canadian business organizations, prepares national advocacy campaign for CTIP
- It proposes in a May 2027 letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney that he:
  - o Embrace a four-pronged approach to building the economy and support national unity:
    - Eliminate internal trade barriers
    - Ensure Canada builds the necessary assets, including pipelines, to help export our products east, west and north (port of Churchill).
    - Harness the full value of existing free trade agreements and engage in trade discussions with more countries to enhance/diversify our global import/export market profile.
    - To help achieve the above, implement a sustained nation-building effort to invest in Canada's trade gateways and corridors as called for in CTIP.
  - o And
    - Within his first 100 days, deliver a major policy address on his vision and proposed direction for Canada, from a location in western Canada.

**Conclusion**

The WCR&HCA advocacy continues. It is influenced by events and always shaped by an assessment by the Board of the policies that advance Canada's best national interests supporting economic growth and social welfare. National purpose and benefit - the hallmark of WCR&HCA advocacy.

*May 2025*