

MANITOBA PROMPT PAYMENT UPDATE – BILL 218 DEAD BUT NOT DONE

Thursday, November 8th marks the day Bill 218 – The Prompt Payments in Construction Industry Act died on the order paper. What this means is Bill 218 is no longer under consideration to advance to the committee stage or 3rd reading, as the current session of government has ended. However, this does not mean there is a lack of Industry or Political commitment to the issue of Prompt Payment. This does not mean that Prompt Payment legislation is not in the works for Manitoba Contractors. This means Bill 218 was caught in a political process that requires a statement of recommitment. Is the commitment there, the answer is yes! There has not been credible industry representative group to say contractors should not get paid within a reasonable time-period and on time.

The Manitoba Prompt Payment Coalition (MBPP), a coalition of 31 trade associations and unions will continue to work with elected officials and industry partners to create a framework that provides for a realistic Prompt Payment Scheme. A framework that works in practice and on paper without the overuse of expensive litigation. Expensive for contractors and expensive for tax payers.

When Reg Helwer, MLA for Brandon West introduced Bill 218 for second reading, he referred to it as a working paper. Well, the work has not stopped! At the September meeting of MBPP, Mr. Helwer committed to the continued development and introduction of Prompt Payment Legislation. MBPP in cooperation with the Winnipeg Construction Association has developed a consensus document recommending amendments to the original wording of Bill 218.

Following the November 20th, Throne Speech, MCAM looks forward to working with MBPP, the Winnipeg Construction Association and Mr. Helwer re-introduce Prompt Payment Legislation for the Manitoba Construction Industry.

- MCAM Executive Director, Ramona Coey and MCAM National Director, Brad Mason are co-chairs of the Manitoba Prompt Payment Coalition.

