

June 17, 2011

**MANITOBA UNVEILS NEW POLICIES THAT WILL PROMOTE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES,
WORKPLACE SAFETY ON PUBLICLY FUNDED PROJECTS: MINISTERS**

Manitoba has moved forward on developing and implementing three new policies to expand the skills of the workforce and ensure compliance with safety requirements on publicly funded projects, Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade Minister Peter Bjornson announced today.

“The province’s commitment to expand skills and training, and invest in strategic capital projects is integral to Manitoba’s economy and will play a key role in contributing to strong economic growth into the future,” said Bjornson. “These new policies will also create more career options and meaningful employment in Manitoba’s labour market.”

“Safety on the job is paramount and anything we can do to increase workplace safety is a step in the right direction,” said Labour and Immigration Minister Jennifer Howard.

The three new policies will be implemented provincewide for tendering on publicly funded capital works projects, with the initial phase beginning on July 1.

The new tendering requirements policy will help ensure the highest legislative and safety standards, as contractors will have to be Certificate of Recognition/Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (COR/SECOR) (or equivalent) certified and declare they will follow provincial laws through a bidders certification form including:

- the Workplace Health and Safety Act,
- the Employment Standards Code,
- the Construction Industry Wages Act, and
- the Apprenticeship and Certification Act.

An apprenticeship training policy will be implemented to help build the skills of the workforce. As an employer of skilled trades, the Province of Manitoba is leading by example through the consideration of the support for and participation in apprenticeship training in all project tendering for publicly funded capital contracts, Bjornson said.

A new Aboriginal-people training and development policy is also being introduced, to increase Aboriginal participation in trades and other construction related occupations, Howard said, adding contractors on selected government capital projects will have to certify that they will hire and train Aboriginal people.

“The industry supports the policies and is pleased to have been consulted by government in their development. The new policies will provide increased opportunities, improved skills and will ensure staff is adequately trained to ensure their safety,” said John Schubert, Manitoba Construction Sector Council.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ATTACHED

TRAINING POLICIES TIMELINE

The tendering requirements and apprenticeship training policies will be phased in over the next three years.

Beginning July 1, 2011

- bidders, contractors and subcontractors will be required to complete a bidder's certification form for legislative and safety requirements;
- bidders must be COR/SECOR certified or enrolled in the program, where the project value is \$150,000 or greater;
- bidders with more than 20 employees and all mechanical contractors, bidders and subcontractors must be engaged in apprenticeship training; and
- bidders, contractors and subcontractors on selected government pilot projects will be required to complete the bidder's certification form for opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Beginning January 1, 2012

- bidders and subcontractors must be COR/SECOR certified or enrolled in the program, where the project value is \$150,000 or greater.

Beginning April 1, 2012

- bidders with more than 10 employees and sub-contractors with more than 20 employees must be engaged in apprenticeship training.

Beginning January 1, 2013

- bidders and subcontractors must be COR/SECOR certified or enrolled in the program, where the project value is \$100,000 or greater.

Beginning April 1, 2013

- bidders and sub-contractors with more than 10 employees must be engaged in apprenticeship training.

Beginning January 1, 2014

- all bidders and subcontractors must be COR/SECOR certified.

Beginning April 1, 2014

- all bidders and subcontractors must be engaged in apprenticeship training.

For more information about the Capital Project Policies, visit:

www.manitoba.ca/tce/capitalprojects.