

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Manitoba Prompt Payment Coalition Welcomes the Introduction of Bill 38 – The Builders’ Liens Amendment Act (Prompt Payment)

Winnipeg, MB (March 24, 2023) - Yesterday, Manitoba Prompt Payment (MBPP), a coalition made up of 32 Trade Associations and unions across the province, celebrated Honourable James Teitsma, Minister of Consumer Protection and Government Services, bringing forward the first reading of Bill 38 – The Builders’ Liens Amendment Act (Prompt Payment).

Bill 38 enhances regulatory and economic competitiveness aligning Manitoba with other Canadian provinces. Brad Mason, MBPP Coalition Co-Chair explains, “A prompt payment framework guarantees timely payment, avoids increased construction costs and reduces project delays. A big part of this legislation is it gives us the ability to adjudicate dispute resolution in a timely manner. This is a game-changer.”

Ken Lancaster, spokesperson for the National Trade Contractors Council of Canada was pleased to hear Manitoba is following other provinces, “equitable payment provisions reduce financial risks faced by contractors and minimizes the strain on the judicial system. We are encouraged to see the provincial government in Manitoba take a step forward to installing their own prompt payment regime.”

Shawn Wood, Executive Director of the Construction Association of Rural Manitoba was optimistic about the amendments, “The construction industry is especially vulnerable to the impacts of late payments due to its tiered payment structure.” Minister Teitsma emphasized Bill 38 ensures employers have the cash flow needed to pay their suppliers and trades people “that account for eight percent of Manitoba employment. This is critical for small to medium-sized companies.”

Ramona Coey, Co-Chair for the Coalition commented, “This is the first step in Bill 38 receiving Royal assent, the Conservative Party delivering on their 2019 election commitment and Premier Stefanson’s 2021 leadership commitment to a ‘timely remuneration regime’ for contractors.”

Coey shared “the Coalition is optimistic Government will have the cooperation of the Official Opposition in seeing Bill 38 go the distance.” Stakeholders met with NDP leader, Wab Kinew to discuss impacts of delinquent payments and the importance of a Prompt Payment Regime. Coey continued, “We are hopeful Minister Teitsma’s comments that Bill 38 ‘has the unequivocal support of the entire Construction industry’ will resonate with all elected officials.”

The Coalition would like to acknowledge the dedication of Honourable Reg Helwer for years of consultation and dedication to providing a path towards the legislation of a Manitoba Prompt Payment Regime.

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Manitoba Prompt Payment (MBPP) is a sole-purpose alliance or coalition of contractor associations, unions, suppliers, general contractors, pension trust funds, who have an interest in seeing prompt payment legislation enacted in the province of Manitoba. Its purpose and goal are just that, to persuade the Manitoba government that delinquent payment is a growing problem in the construction industry and that legislation is needed to ensure that money flows as it is intended down through the contractor supply chain.

Find Bill 38 here.

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Minister Teitsma posed in the legislative building with members of Manitoba Prompt Payment Coalition, Construction Association of Rural Manitoba, Winnipeg Construction Association, and General Contractors Alliance of Canada — Manitoba.