

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

## **Manitoba Prompt Payment Coalition Pleased Bill 245 – Prompt Payment in the Construction Industry Act, Pass First Reading**



**Winnipeg, MB (June 3, 2019)** – Monday, The Manitoba Prompt Payment (MBPP), a growing coalition of 32 Provincial Trade Associations and Unions, celebrated the introduction of a new and improved Provincial Bill introducing provincial Prompt Payment legislation to the Manitoba Construction Industry. Reg Helwer, MLA from Brandon West, introduced Bill 245, The Prompt Payments in the Construction Industry Act. Mr. Helwer acknowledged the extensive work Industry contributed to Bill 245. “Thank you to the industry for the many hours of work and consultation that went into this bill”.

Brad Mason, Co-Chair and Spokesperson for the industry coalition commented, “Like its predecessor Bill 218, I expect Bill 245 to find strong support across party lines.”

Session ended prior to the original Bill 218 reaching committee; however, Industry’s faith in Mr. Helwer to introduce new legislation was never in question. The new beginning provided opportunity for additional consultation and industry consensus to be weaved into the new version of the Prompt Payment Bill.

Provincial and Federal Prompt Payment Regimes have been at the forefront of shared concerns across the construction industry for over a decade “Delinquent payments hurt the entire economy while jeopardizing employment and financial security for thousands of workers in our industry.” Mason has past stated.

Ontario and Saskatchewan provincial governments have succeeded in passing Prompt Payment Regimes, which Industry hopes to see in action in coming months. "These successes have provided lessons learned for the Manitoba Prompt Payment Coalition. We believe Bill 245 provides a fair playing field for all levels of the construction Pyramid and addresses concerns raised in the wording of Bill 218." Commented Ramona Coey, Executive Director of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Manitoba and Coalition Co-Chair.

Next steps for Helwer's Bill 245 will depend on the Provincial Government's plan for calling an election; currently the million-dollar questions in Manitoba. If an election is called for this coming fall, Industry will have the opportunity to lobby all parties to make the Bill an election issue. Following the election, Mr. Helwer has committed to reintroducing the Bill for first reading early in new session. Should the election be held off until 2020, Helwer will present Bill 245 for second reading when session returns from break this October.

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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.*

**For further comment, please contact:**

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