MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (MHCA)
Unit #3-1680 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0Z2

March 11, 2024

Presentation to: **Executive Policy Committee**

From: Manitoba Heavy Construction Association & Winnipeg Construction Association

Subject: **Item 8 – Sustainable Procurement Action Plan Annual Report**

We appreciate the efforts made by the City and its partners to advance sustainable procurement practices and align them with the strategic goals and plans of the community.

While we acknowledge the progress made in developing and implementing various mechanisms under the Social Procurement Action Plan, including the engagement with stakeholders and the establishment of procurement tools and guidelines, we must express some concerns regarding the consultation process and some specific elements of the social procurement clauses themselves.

As representatives of the Winnipeg Construction Association (WCA) and Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA), we believe that meaningful consultation with industry stakeholders is essential for the success of any procurement initiative.

The report prepared by Administration outlines engagement sessions with industry groups such as ourselves, but does not fully reflect industry concerns in specifics, and regarding the depth of consultation and whether our feedback has been adequately addressed.

Specifically, while the draft social procurement clauses were revised to include some industry suggestions, the practical application of the requirements continues to cause concern among industry members, and therefore our associations.

We stress that continuing collaboration between the city and industry stakeholders is crucial for refining procurement processes and ensuring their effectiveness and fairness. This will be especially important during the pilot projects and afterwards during the evaluation phase.

We thank the City of Winnipeg staff for committing to providing notification to WCA and MHCA on which projects will be included in the pilot project. We look forward to a transparent evaluation of contractor/administration experience during the piloting of the social value menu clauses, the measurable benefits and the areas requiring improvement.

As we move forward, we urge the city staff to remain open to feedback from all stakeholders, including industry representatives, and to prioritize transparency and inclusivity in decision-making processes. Only through genuine partnership and dialogue can we achieve the shared goals of sustainability, equity, and community development outlined in the SPAP.

We note for the record that the report for EPC's information consideration is not from the Social Procurement Advisory Table, itself.

Having noted all of the above, we look forward to continued engagement with the city staff to address our concerns and ensure that the Sustainable Procurement Program benefits all members of the Winnipeg community.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B.,
President & CEO, MHCA

Darryl Harrison,
Director, Stakeholder Engagement & Advocacy,
WCA