

June Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The MCAM Board of Directors is comprised of a cross section of Industry members; Residential through Heavy Industrial, urban and rural, sub-contractors, engineers and associate members. The Board meets bi-monthly September through June and is served by standing committees, advisory councils and working groups.

Apprenticeship Manitoba

Meghan Lavallee, Executive Director of Apprenticeship Manitoba, and Tanya Palson, Chair of the Apprenticeship and Certification Board provided an update on current initiatives and changes relating to Apprenticeship Manitoba. They provided an overview of the following topics:

- Ongoing enhancements to the client management system, including expanded employer access and continued change management support.
- Staffing increases, including new Apprenticeship Training Coordinators in Brandon and Northern Manitoba.
- Website content refresh and upcoming marketing campaigns promoting apprenticeship benefits and career pathways.
- Certification verification tool for journeypersons planned for release in the fall.
- Upcoming apprentice funding supports, including federal EI and employer benefit grants.
- When working in Ontario, apprentices in compulsory trades must register with Skilled Trades Ontario in accordance with mobility requirements (mobility guide available [HERE](#)).
- Review of Gasfitter Occupational Training Standards.

Meghan and Tanya emphasized the following **online registration recommendations for apprentices:**

- Apprentices should only login from one device when completing online registration to avoid system interference. One login from one entry point.
- Employers should update apprentice hours every 3–6 months to ensure records remain current and support seat eligibility. Regular reporting is encouraged to support apprentice progression.
- If apprentices are not initially placed, apprentices should contact their ATC to be added to the interest list for future seat availability.

Save the Date - TradeConnect 2027

ECAM and MCAM's annual one-day conference, TradeConnect, returns to the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg, March 23, 2027. Join industry leaders and peers for a full day of valuable education, insights, and networking opportunities. Mark your calendar today! Informanix has recommitted as TC2027 Keynote Sponsorship!! Thank you Informanix!! Breakout Session speaker applications may be found [HERE](#).

Trade Contracting Project Management Training

In partnership with MCAC and the University of Waterloo, MCAM is offering this valuable in-person training event for mechanical contractors, driven by industry insights and demands. Gain practical project management skills for today's trade contracting workforce. Learn more [HERE](#).

Marc Lynch Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the 2026 Marc Lynch Scholarship recipients:

- Charlie Tardiff
- Dakota Bear
- Hayden Clarke
- Jewel Lafleche

Pioneer Nominations

A Pioneer is a person who has made a significant contribution to the Mechanical Industry by demonstrating actions characteristic of a Pioneer; innovator, inventor, forerunner, developer or creator. This contribution may have been in the form of service to the association through strategic planning and volunteering or ideas and/or actions directly impacting the functioning of the Industry through activities such as driving legislation, mentorship and innovative change. Criteria: Retired, past employee or owner of MCAM member company (contractor, associate or affiliate member). Nomination deadline: June 30, 2026. Pioneers will be inducted at Pioneer Night on October 8, 2026. Nominate [HERE](#).

Strategic Growth

The MCAM Strategic Advisory Council continues to advance its work on schedule. Guided by MCAM's core purpose: strengthening the voice, visibility, and influence of Manitoba's mechanical contracting industry so the people behind the systems that make modern life possible are better understood, better represented, and more highly valued.

At the heart of this work is MCAM's belief that mechanical contractors are essential to public safety, economic progress, and the functioning of modern life. When the industry is clearly represented and strongly aligned, standards rise, the collective voice strengthens, and the systems that support communities, buildings, businesses, and infrastructure are better served.

The Council's mandate is focused on two connected priorities that support this long-term direction. First, working with a branding specialist to clearly articulate the value of the mechanical contracting industry and MCAM's role as its unified, uncompromised voice. This work is intended to elevate understanding of the industry—shifting perception from background function to essential infrastructure—and reinforce the importance of strong representation in shaping how the industry is seen, respected, and advanced.

Second, implementing the recommendations of the Fee Structure Advisory Council to ensure a fair and balanced model that reflects MCAM's commitment to equity across its contractor membership. This work supports a stronger and more sustainable association, built on shared responsibility and shared value, where all members are contributing to and benefiting from a stronger collective voice.

Together, these initiatives reflect MCAM's broader mandate: stronger standards, stronger influence, and greater recognition for the contractors who keep Manitoba safe, functioning, and growing.

To support this work, MCAM staff and Council members will be engaging in one-on-one consultations with contractor members throughout July and August. These conversations ensure every contractor can be heard directly and contribute to shaping the future direction of the association and the industry it represents. For questions or to schedule an in-person meeting, please contact Ramona at Ramona@mcamb.ca.



James Kopec, MCAM President

James has been a member of the MCAM Board of Directors since 2009. He is the General Manager at Bornhorst Mechanical Inc., where he oversees operations and project management. James earned his Red Seal Certification in Plumbing in 1997 and achieved his Gold Seal Certification as a Superintendent in 2009. He is actively involved in the industry as Chair of the Apprenticeship Provincial Trade Advisory Committee for Gas Fitters and has extensive experience in estimating, field work, and managing projects across Manitoba. Originally from the Interlake region, James enjoys spending time outdoors, particularly hunting and farming. His favourite MCAM event is the President's Ball. He lives by the motto: "Measure twice and cut once."