

March 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.

Welcome Karen to the MCAM Team

Karen Cairns joins MCAM as the Workforce Development Coordinator, bringing extensive experience in learning and development, training coordination, and program administration.

Most recently, Karen served as Flight Operations Training Coordinator in the aviation industry, where she coordinated regulatory training, administered a learning and qualification management system, analyzed training data, and supported compliance and continuous improvement initiatives.

Karen has held leadership roles in training, instructional design, and customer care, with a strong track record of collaborating with stakeholders, improving workflows, and supporting organizational goals through effective learning strategies. She studied Adult & Continuing Education at the University of Manitoba and is driven by a desire to help others grow, learn and succeed through workforce development. Nothing motivates Karen more than seeing someone gain clarity, confidence, and capability through learning.

Outside of the office Karen enjoys connecting with nature, spending time with her family, her dogs and acquiring copious amounts of yarn. Welcome, Karen!

Darryl Cruickshank Award

Nominations are now open for the Darryl Cruickshank Memorial Award, which recognizes the significant contributions of industry partners to the Red Seal Program. Named in memory of Darryl Cruickshank, the award honours efforts that support apprentice completion, encourage employer participation in training the next generation of skilled tradespeople, and promote innovation and flexibility in trades training systems. Apply [HERE](#).

Planning, Property & Development - Launching More Development Permit Exemptions

Planning, Property and Development Department introduced 25 development permit exemptions in March 2024, reducing permit volumes by over 30% year over year. A second phase in September 2025 added 11 more exemptions, with early data showing another 30% reduction for the same September–December period compared to 2024. Trends suggest the changes could reduce annual volumes by up to 20% compared to 2025 levels. Five new development permit exemptions will take effect on March 2, bringing the total to 41 exemptions introduced over the past two years. Read more [HERE](#).

Marc Lynch Scholarship

Marc Lynch Award is a scholarship is intended for MCAM member companies' staff and families. It will be awarded to students pursuing a post-secondary program (in the fall term following the deadline of this application) in any recognized educational institution and discipline. Submission deadline is March 31, 2026. Apply [HERE](#).

The Workplace Safety and Health Act Amendment (Bill 29)

The Board discussed The Workplace Safety and Health Act Amendment (Bill 29). It was noted that legislation is adapted from mining industry practices where companies track workers' lung health at the beginning and end of employment. Comparatively, in the mechanical industry, hearing tests are already required, and Bill 29 expands expectations by requiring full documentation of the process. This matter will be referred to the Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRC) for further review.

Next Gen Project Spotlight Tours - April 16, 2026

Join us for a behind-the-scenes tour of innovative building systems, followed by a networking reception with fellow Next Gen professionals. Featured building will be Buffalo Crossing, Manitoba's most sustainable and energy-efficient building. Register [HERE](#).

President's Ball - April 10, 2026

Join us at the Fort Garry Hotel for MCAM's largest event of the year. Red carpet themed, the event will feature live music from the Men in Cheap Suits, dinner, beverages, red carpet entrance, casinos, movie trivia and more. Register [HERE](#).

April Trade Talk - April 6

Trade Talk with Brian Korchinski, Senior Manager at Wesco on Succession Planning. Join us from 3:30–4:30 PM at the MCAM office. Learn more [HERE](#).

Welcome New Members

Dynamic Agencies Ltd. is a Manufacturers representative with a remote sales office in Winnipeg.

Master Group is a trusted North American distributor of HVAC-R solutions.

Western Regional Meetings

MCAM participated in the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC) Western Regional Meeting (WGM), held this year in Saskatoon. Key discussions focused on Workers Compensation Board (WCB) matters and ongoing developments in apprenticeship.



Wayne has been on MCAM's Board of Directors since 2014. He is the President of Randall Plumbing & Heating where he started over 32 years ago. Wayne graduated from Red River College with Business Administration and is a Journeyman Plumber. His favourite MCAM events are the President's Ball & Golf Tournament. Wayne says, "If you're going to do something, do it right the first time or don't bother doing it at all!". Wayne is chair of the MCAM Membership Committee.

Wayne McKenzie, MCAM President