MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA
ADVANCING INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE

MCAM NATIONAL DIRECTOR SPECIAL NOTICE

Shawn Henry, National Director
Shawn has served on the MCAM Board of Directors since 2014. He is the President at Wescan Construction Services. Shawn earned his Red Seal Plumbing certification and B license from Red River College in 2005.

His favourite MCAM event is the Golf Tournament. Shawn approaches his work with a forward-thinking mindset and often cautions against complacency, noting that the most dangerous phrase is, "It is the way we have always done it." He also expresses a strong commitment to his career and hopes to never retire.

Canada's Economic Response to the Ongoing Trade Dispute

Tuesday's announcement from the federal government marked Canada's economic response to the breakdown of trade negotiations between Canada and the United States last Friday. Effective September 8, 2026, Canada will be moving forward with reciprocal tariffs of 15, 25, and 50 per cent on incoming U.S. products, with individual product rates based on the matching U.S. rate for the same goods. These counter tariffs will apply to products covering $27.6 billion in imports, focusing heavily on the steel, electronics, agricultural equipment and appliance industries. Of importance as well, announced from Minister Champagne this morning, is that the remissions framework will remain available to assess requests for exceptional relief. In terms of the list of products where counter tariffs will apply, the federal government is maintaining a similar approach to what it had adopted last year; largely consumer-driven products where a Canadian or other alternative are generally available, in order to mitigate the impact on Canadian consumers and support "Buy Canadian" efforts.

A full list of products is available online here.

In addition to announcing today's counter tariffs, the government also announced a $7.5 billion support package, including, but not limited to:

Supports for Businesses
Expanded Regional Tariff Response initiative

- Cap on non-repayable contributions will increase from $1 million to $3 million.
- Liquidity support will be available for up to $2 million, in addition to existing support for pivot or capital investment plans.
- Program delivery through Regional Development Agencies

Business Development Bank of Canada *Pivot to Grow*

- Second $500m liquidity stream providing working capital to businesses facing cashflow shortfalls.
- Will be available to companies directly impacted by tariffs, regardless of sector.
- Loans range from $250,000 to $5 million, with interest only payments over 36 months.
- Annual revenue requirements for applicants lowered to $1 million.

Canada Strong Diversification Fund

- New stream of Strategic Response Fund – with an additional $2 billion in funding, expanded flexibility to support tariff impacted companies with shovel ready projects that support ongoing capital maintenance.

Expanding Large Enterprise Tariff Loan Facility

- Providing the flexible liquidity needed to bridge large employers by a) increasing the size of liquidity supports from 24-36 months of liquidity needs and b) increasing max loan term from 10-15 years.

Other
Employees

- Extending the temporary measures to a) waive the 1-week waiting period b) allow receipt of benefits without first using up separation payments by one year
- Extending the temporary measure that provides an extra 20 weeks of regular benefits for long tenured workers by 8 months
- Introducing a 1-year measure allowing workers who have voluntarily left jobs are no longer penalized when they want to access EI (as long as their most recent job loss is through no fault of their own).

Employers

- Introducing new Workforce Retention and Retraining program, combining existing EI Work-Sharing program and Worker Retention Grant into a single streamlined program. Employers will be eligible for additional funds to cover training and admin costs (up to $1,000 per participant).

More information on these supports is available here.

MCAC STATEMENT
With today's announcement, MCAC has offered the following statement:

In the face of an escalating trade conflict, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC) recognizes the need to take a principled stand in the face of aggressive trade practices, and we remain committed to supporting a strong and resilient Canadian economy through the hard work of Canada's mechanical, electrical, and plumbing contracting sector. At the same time, MCAC recognizes that any ongoing trade conflict will only serve to reduce investment in the North American economy through supply chain challenges and ongoing economic uncertainty, and the association remains supportive of efforts to end trade hostilities between Canada and the United States.

As an association, we will continue to advocate for the best interests of our members and our sector as the country faces economic headwinds because of this ongoing trade dispute.