

NEWS AND KNOWLEDGE FROM



WESTLAND
CONSTRUCTION LTD

BUILDING UP

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Westland has just finished with another complete remodel of the McDonald's on South Pembina. Scope of work included an additional pickup window for drive-thru and expanded kitchen with courier pickup room, total kitchen and dining room modernization.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATIONS

A powerful and dynamic tool in Westland Construction's toolkit



RON HAMBLEY



MARY VAN BUREN

When the team from Westland Construction looks back at their 43-year history - at how far they've come, the contributions they've made, both charitable and physical in the form of thousands of completed projects, it's easy to attribute their growth to the stellar staff, their mandate for continual improvement, and their transparent collaboration with project teams.

But Westland would be remiss if it didn't give credit to one of the most powerful and dynamic tools in their toolkit: the local and national construction association.

Westland is a member of both the Winnipeg Construction Association (WCA), Manitoba's largest construction association, representing the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sector, as well as the Canadian Construction Association (CCA), the national affiliate in Ottawa. With over 20,000 construction company members, CCA lobbies at the federal level for federal infrastructure spending, fair taxes, open procurement and free trade.

"CCA is a very effective advocate for the construction industry in Ottawa," says Ron Hambley, WCA President, who explains that membership with WCA includes membership to CCA. The work WCA and CCA does helps promote the strength and future of not only the construction industry, but member companies like Westland Construction Ltd.

"Our association is always evolving and advancing, and as membership grows, so does our comprehensive list of services," Hambley says. "We take pride in providing our members with unmatched access to construction opportunities, relevant education programming, and exciting networking and relationship-building events."

Westland has been a proud member of WCA since 1980, with president and CEO Peter Grose serving on the WCA Board of Directors for 11 years, and as chair for the 2018-19 term.

"It was an honour to serve a strong, relevant and healthy association," Grose says. "One of my priorities was to ensure that WCA continued as a strong member-driven organization - increasing member connectivity and knowledge of what WCA's many services are so that members can capitalize on the value."

For the construction company, benefits of being a WCA member include sending staff to WCA education sessions delivered by industry experts, connecting with colleagues and stakeholders at networking events, and receiving exclusive access to construction projects.

"In addition to the valuable services we offer our members, WCA advocates for the industry at all three levels of government, striving to create the best possible business environment for our members," Hambley explains.

Currently, WCA is lobbying for accelerated adoption of the Manitoba Building Code, prompt payment legislation, and updates to the City of Winnipeg contracts. With the skilled labour shortage becoming more and more urgent, the local association continues to work alongside industry groups to diligently promote and expand construction career benefits to the community.





As the industry's national advocate, CCA is also tackling these issues to create a business environment where members can thrive. According to CCA President Mary Van Buren, the association is working with the federal government on building codes, immigration, prompt payment and infrastructure investment.

"We look to make sure that the federal government sets aside money in its budget to invest in infrastructure," Van Buren explains. "Their latest program has \$180 billion in infrastructure.... we make sure that money is flowing into communities."

In addition to being a respected voice on Parliament Hill, CCA works with the local associations to provide value, including the development of CCDC documents, and access to training and education, specifically the Gold Seal Certification program.

"This is a way to show the professionalism of the industry and to give credit to those people in our industry who continue to work and develop," says Van Buren.

Grose currently sits on the CCA Board of Directors as well as the Finance & Audit Committee, working with a diverse group of industry representatives to govern the affairs of the association and support a more progressive, innovative and sustainable construction industry.

"When members get engaged, they also get a lot of value out of [membership]," Van Buren details. "That engagement also includes going to Hill Day, where [Grose] met with parliamentarians to bring CCA's message. It's important that they hear from the industry."

While Grose brings the general contractor perspective to the CCA board, Van Buren encourages all members and representatives in the construction industry to get involved in any way they can – even if it's a letter to a local parliamentarian.

"That engagement is super important," Van Buren emphasizes. "We appreciate Peter being an ambassador back to Winnipeg, and back to Manitoba, to talk about what's happening at CCA and how we can better align to have more impact."

Sounds like the relationship is win-win for both the associations, as well as for member companies like Westland Construction. A valuable tool to tuck in the company toolkit that they can continue to use 24/7. [🔗](#)

THE GROSE REPORT THOUGHTS FROM WESTLAND'S CEO



When it comes to Westland Construction's involvement with the local and national construction associations, it really is just as important to give as it is to receive. Over the years, I've come to realize how important contributing time and energy on boards and committees is to not only my personal and professional well-being, but also to the health of the construction industry.

I first became involved with the Winnipeg Construction Association (WCA) at the committee level, attending meetings of the General Contractor (GC) Division. This participation led to an opportunity for me to serve as the GC Division Chair in 2010, a role I held for a few years before joining the WCA Executive and serving as Treasurer, Vice Chair, Chair and then Past Chair until 2021. Westland continues to have representation on the WCA board with one of our Vice Presidents, Craig Hildebrandt, joining this past February.

Representation on boards and committees – or as a leader in a specific industry role – requires keen attention to industry issues. During my time on the WCA board, I was privileged to participate in advancing important initiatives such as prompt payment bills, the Manitoba Trade Definitions and the development of the association's education program.

While volunteering on the WCA board caused me to be fully immersed in the construction industry and dedicate extra hours to meetings and activities, the benefits far outweighed any costs. I enjoyed working alongside the stellar staff at WCA and developed close working relationships and friendships with other members on the board.

Just as my role with WCA evolved through the years, so has my involvement with the Canadian Construction Association (CCA). While I have served in a few facets with the CCA, including on the GC National Advisory Council, the next step, and what feels like a natural evolution, is representing Manitoba on the CCA Board of Directors, a position I accepted this past spring. With 11 years on the WCA Board of Directors under my belt, I'm excited to bring provincial and regional issues to the national level.

When I give back, when I'm engaged, I get so much more out of my membership. If you're an association member who has never participated in any capacity, I encourage you to attend a meeting, provide input on industry issues, collaborate with colleagues in the industry, learn from others, create new connections, and see the value of your membership increase. [🔗](#)

FROM OUR PEERS

"I WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND WESTLAND CONSTRUCTION FOR THEIR GREAT WORK AND UTMOST PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY."

- LILLIE ASIS, SERVICE COORDINATOR, FINEX DEVELOPMENTS

WAYNE BROWN



When Wayne Brown retired from Westland Construction in spring after 15 years as a superintendent, he thought his work on construction projects was over. Instead, the additional time has allowed Brown to tackle projects he's put off for years.

"[Now I can] get some long overdue projects on my own to-do list completed, house upgrades," Brown details, adding that he also plans to "volunteer, golf with my dad and brother, and enjoy what life brings."

Brown's retirement is much deserved after he devoted years in the construction industry. While he started working on the tools with Westland in March 2007, Brown's position quickly evolved and soon he was running a jobsite with added responsibilities as superintendent.

"[My role involved] dealing with people, trades and schedule," Brown says. "Just ensuring clients were getting the end result that architects and engineers had designed, by organizing trade workers and materials on a daily basis and ensuring timelines were met."

Through the years with Westland, Brown contributed to a myriad of projects, most notably in the health care industry, but one project stands out in his mind.

"[When we built the] Sunova Credit Union, we basically turned an old Red Lobster restaurant building into a state of the art bank facility with many features, including a 24 access robotic vault, drive-up personal ATM with bank employee, standalone kiosks and new ATM room," Brown explains, adding that the added pressure of long hours, numerous staff and trades onsite, with a timeline to beat made the success of the finished project that much sweeter.

While retirement means Brown can spend additional time with his family, which includes two adult children living in Alberta, his brother who recently moved to Winnipeg after 30 years in Ontario, and his loving and supportive wife, it's also bittersweet because it means less time with his Westland family.

"[I'll miss] being part of a work family and being on a team that tried driving to the goal of making successful projects for our clients," Brown says. [2](#)

"BROWN'S RETIREMENT IS MUCH DESERVED AFTER HE DEVOTED YEARS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. WHILE HE STARTED WORKING ON THE TOOLS WITH WESTLAND IN MARCH 2007, BROWN'S POSITION QUICKLY EVOLVED AND SOON HE WAS RUNNING A JOBSITE WITH ADDED RESPONSIBILITIES AS SUPERINTENDENT."

YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

YESTERDAY

In 2011 Westland Construction renovated the building at 1447 Waverley Street for the new home of the Winnipeg Construction Association (WCA) and the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba (CSAM).



TODAY

Fit up of an existing commercial retail unit for the new Salvation Army - Thrift Store on Empress.



TOMORROW

We will be working as a sub-contractor to Trotter & Morton on the Interim Phosphorus project located at the North End Sewage Treatment Plant. Scope by Westland will include Civil surface & underground works, as well as complete Structural & Architectural works for a chemical receiving building (new railcar shelter) and two safe industrial chemical storage facilities. [2](#)



ABOUT US

Westland Construction Ltd. is a full-service General Contractor serving the institutional, commercial, and industrial sectors through new construction, civil support, and renovations.

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