

YOUR Construction Safety Association of Manitoba - 30 Years and Counting

While the world watched and waited for the fall of the Berlin wall and the world wide web prepared to launch in 1989, the building construction contractors of Manitoba initiated a program that would forever change how we look at safety in construction. YOUR Construction Safety Association of Manitoba (CSAM) is proud to celebrate 30 years of providing the building construction industry with proactive education, training and consulting that supports safe work practices, incident reduction and COR™/SECOR™ Certification across the province.

Run by and for the building construction contractors in Manitoba, CSAM has spent the last 30 years providing “Practical Solutions for a Safer Workplace”. From providing information regarding incident prevention methods, to helping contractors meet their legislated responsibilities and providing guidance in the development of tailored health and safety programs, CSAM is truly a pre-paid consultant to the building construction industry.

Since its inception, CSAM has enjoyed being a key part of Manitoba’s advancing safety culture. CSAM prides itself on providing the same high level of service regardless of trade, location or size. Phil Fileccia, National Safety Program Development Manager with Qualico Group of Companies noted that since Qualico became involved with CSAM in 2002, they have appreciated how CSAM brings safety awareness and training to the residential construction industry.

“CSAM has provided us and our industry with solid professional support from the start. They continue to collaborate with us and assist in anything we require,” Fileccia said.

“I feel that this association has delivered safety to the Manitoba construction industry and at a high level of professionalism while keeping it practical so that our work force understands what they are learning and how to use the training,” Fileccia continued, “My position at Qualico requires my involvement in Western Canada at our other regional offices, and I can safely say the CSAM COR™ program is the most comprehensive and practical in the country.”

According to the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba, since the establishment of CSAM in 1989, safety performance in the building construction industry has improved greatly. Over the past 30 years, the building construction industry has seen a 68 per cent reduction in time loss claims and a 66 per cent reduction in the overall injury rate. During this time the building construction industry has continued to grow, with 25 per cent more companies working in the building construction industry in Manitoba today than there were in 1989, proving the significance behind these numbers.

The National Certificate of Recognition and Small Employer Certificate of Recognition Programs (COR™/SECOR™) have been

a major influence for the reduction of incidents in the province. CSAM is the authority having jurisdiction for the COR™/SECOR™ programs in Manitoba which verify that a company has a fully implemented safety and health management system in place. Since rolling out the program in 1995 CSAM has trained and certified more than 1000 Manitoba employers which directly and indirectly account for 70 per cent of the payroll in building construction. Everett Medeiros, Safety Coordinator with Wes-Man Mechanical explained that Wes-Man Mechanical has been COR™ Certified for 13 years now, thanks to the services provided by CSAM. “CSAM today is like a big brother, if I have any safety concerns, they’re just a phone call away, and if I’m in the area close to their office, I can just stop in and talk to them,” Medeiros explained.

“CSAM’s program has brought together all types of construction trades, general contractors, mechanical, electrical, the list goes on. You see companies and sub-trades who are competitors to one another in the field of construction, but they’re all there for the same reason - to listen and discuss safety. That’s why it’s a great program.”

As the building construction industry has grown and evolved over the last 30 years, so too has CSAM’s compliment of staff from three people in Winnipeg, and one person in the Westman area to 20 staff in 2018. CSAM has also greatly expanded its training and services.

Bob Kirkhope was there at the very beginning, when the program was named the Manitoba Construction Safety Program (MBCSP). Watching the small association double in size in a few short years, Bob knew the growth wasn’t slowing down anytime soon. “We had a slogan, ‘A program by the industry, for the industry,’” Bob said. “It was obvious during my tenure as Director that the program was advancing and being well accepted in the construction industry. I could only see it expanding and providing needed services which you can see in many ways today.”

Mike Jones, Executive Director of CSAM since 2013, is thankful for all the hard work that went into building the foundation for CSAM all those years ago. “Coming into an association with such a strong foundation affords us the ability to innovate and progress by adding to the compliment of services we already offer,” says Jones. “CSAM has grown and evolved and will continue to evolve but we will forever stay true to the objectives and mandate established in 1989.”

CSAM would like to thank all staff past and present, as well as all the Manitoba employers and workers that have worked so hard to make the past 30 years such a success. YOUR Construction Safety Association of Manitoba looks forward to serving the building construction industry for another 30 years and beyond.