

August 9, 2011

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**RE: WINNIPEG SUN ARTICLE, AUGUST 6, 2011 – P3s Provide Cost
Certainty**

The article talks about the construction on the Chief Peguis trail extension and reports that it is not only on budget but ahead of schedule. Built as a public-private partnership, the article alludes to this P3 as a magic bullet that is a win-win for the taxpayers. The message continues that P3's make sense (even though I've never seen details of a P3 agreement/contract) as private firms want to get things done ahead of schedule to save on labour costs and increase profit margins. But, nowhere does it mention the number of P3's that have had disastrous outcomes including huge cost over runs and failed expectations.

Let's not forget the Winnipeg Floodway Expansion Project that was a historic construction success in Canada. It came in on time and below cost. It operated under a master labour agreement for all companies/workers involved and details of the agreement were publicly disclosed, unlike P3 contracts. The icing on the cake was that it provided employment and training opportunities for workers and strong economic growth to the businesses involved.

The floodway project is in fact the true example of how city projects should be done. It saved the citizens of our communities millions.

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