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## NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 2009

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Creative Spaces Ltd  
Connotec  
D. A. Loewan  
Koolers Refrigeration

### LABOURWATCH

Merit Contractors Association of Manitoba is a member of LabourWatch, an internet and website information service, designed to provide free balanced information on employee and employer rights regarding union certification, decertification and a number of related topics. This is a valued and objective service to employees desiring sound information on choosing or rejecting a union. For more information go to [www.labourwatch.com](http://www.labourwatch.com)

### EMPLOYEE CONTACT CARDS

We have created a [Merit Contact Card](#) which will be useful to all members. It provides a synopsis of our benefit plan as well as pertinent contact information. We will distribute the card to our member companies within the next couple of weeks.

### PICTURES OF YOUR PROJECTS!

If you have been to our office you have likely noticed some of the pictures adorning our walls. We have taken the photos supplied to us by some of our member contractors and have had them enlarged and block mounted. They have become meaningful pieces of "art" and have created many a conversation with our visitors.

We need more pictures to fill empty wall space and would appreciate your contributions.

Photos can be from any stage in the construction project. The photos you provide must be of fairly high resolution in order for clarity when enlarged.

Photos can be emailed to [val.meritmb@mts.net](mailto:val.meritmb@mts.net).

*"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder"*

### BOARDROOM RENTAL

Our boardroom is available for rent to our members, during regular business hours, at a rate of \$75.00 ½ day and \$125.00 full day.

## TIPS FOR REMITTING HOURS

Mercon Benefit Services recently provided these tips on remitting monthly hours. The tips are quick, beneficial and definitely worth repeating. Mercon receives reports of more than 5.5 million hours each month, and this number is continually growing. In order to process these hours as efficiently as possible there are a few things the Plan Administrator can do to help.

- ❖ Ensure that all Social Insurance Numbers (SIN) are provided, even if the remittance form is only for a few employees
- ❖ Ensure that the full SIN, all 9 numbers, is provided
- ❖ Use large enough fonts that are easy to read
- ❖ Use plain black fonts
- ❖ Do not provide any employer/employee information other than SIN, name and hours
- ❖ If you remit hours electronically you should always receive a confirmation that the hours have been received by Mercon. If you do not receive a confirmation, call the Mercon office.
- ❖ On the remittance form, please ensure you complete the "month benefits to be applied to" section. This should be the month the hours were worked.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WEED KILLER

This homemade, chemical free weed killer works great. It is meant only for use to get rid of weeds in between cracks in driveways, sidewalks and patios. **Do not spray it on the weeds in your lawn** as it will kill the grass as well.

Mix together:

- 4 C (1 Litre) of white vinegar
- 1/4 C (50ml) of table salt
- 2 tsp (10 ml) of any liquid dish soap

Combine these ingredients in a spray bottle. Spray it on your weeds in the direct sun on a bright sunny day.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL (60 hours) BANFF, ALBERTA

A Project Management Course for Electrical and Mechanical Contractors is scheduled for November 16 – 22, 2009, in Banff, Alberta.

This 5 day course, developed by electrical and mechanical contractors and Purdue University faculty in Indiana, is designed specifically to meet the needs of electrical and mechanical contractors. Participants will obtain management tools that will help improve productivity, profitability, increase quality and customer satisfaction.

Participants will share valuable information and work experiences with fellow colleagues across Canada.

Professional instructors with extensive experience in the construction industry provide a wealth of knowledge and expert instruction. Curriculum topics include:

- Budgeting
- Total Quality Management
- Profitability in Planning & Scheduling
- Labour Costs
- Technology and Profit
- Effective Project Correspondence
- Negotiation Strategies and Techniques
- Managing Vendors and Subcontractors
- Materials Management
- Project Turnover
- Estimating

Gold Seal accredited with a value of 10 points.

Additional course information will be on Merit Alberta's training webpage later in the summer.

***Also watch the Merit Manitoba website for confirmed dates for the fall/winter courses offered in Winnipeg.***

**Our next newsletter will be in September**

**Have a great summer!**