

# :WORK & ECONOMICS



CARDUS

## WORK AND ECONOMICS

### COMPETITIVE CONSTRUCTION STRATEGIES

Building competitive and livable communities requires effective procurement policies for construction. Our **Work and Economics** research program includes developing an understanding of how a competitive labour pool model can improve on some of the bidding policies employed by buyers of construction, including municipalities. As municipalities face increased infrastructure construction, maintenance, and repair costs, they will be forced to find innovative ways to ensure that their projects are completed in a cost-effective and sustainable way.

Some of our publications include:

*Why is Construction So Expensive in Ontario?*

*Stepping Forward: The Face of Construction Labour is Shifting  
Competitively Working in Tomorrow's Construction*

### KEY SERVICE OFFERINGS

- Analysis of construction costs in various scenarios within a given municipality
- Research on labour supply and movement within cities and regions
- Development of strategies that can position municipalities and economic development groups for success given demographic, global, and other labour supply and demand realities.

### ABOUT CARDUS

The *cardus* was a kind of marketplace or public square that took the form of a street. Typically, it was the north-south road that connected people in Roman cities to their major public spaces. On the *cardus* (or *Cardo Maximus*), government, markets, temples, and other social groups met to establish a common life for the good of society. Many interests were represented in this square making it necessary to balance individual needs with common needs. This is never easy and is always a work in progress.

Civic, social, cultural, and economic flourishing requires ongoing reconsideration of how our numerous social institutions relate to each other. This in turn requires a realistic understanding of how culture changes and openness to public exchange about our most deeply held convictions.



The complex network of relationships between people, institutions, and culture represents what we at Cardus call *social architecture*. We research the existing social architecture and propose ways in which it might change to better serve the common good. The design of an individual institution and the wider networks of institutions that make up our society can be improved. Taking stock of the best ideas and practices in design thinking can help get us there.

## CONTACT

Ray Pennings  
rpennings@cardus.ca  
403.532.1801

Milton Friesen  
mfriesen@cardus.ca  
905.528.8866 ext 24

