On September 14th, 2018, the CWB Association wrapped up another successful year at CanWeld Expo and Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. With great content, the latest technologies and welding equipment, and a vast amount of information available to all attendees, we were able to make this year even more successful than our last.

Before the conference kicked off, the CWB Association hosted its annual National Advisory Council meeting which included a variety of experts and professionals in the welding industry, representing our 25 chapters across Canada. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss relevant topics that affect the welding industry on a daily basis including steel tariffs, pipeline and construction projects, best practices in the industry, innovative technologies, and providing continued support for our educational sector. At the meeting, each chapter offered detailed reports on their activities over the past fiscal year and plans for the future to improve and maintain our welding industry in today’s competitive global market.

Day One of the conference began with a keynote address from Paul Soubry, President and CEO of the NFI Group Inc., North America’s leading bus manufacturer. Paul Soubry sits on the Board of Directors for the Winnipeg Jets, and the Winnipeg Airports Authority, plus he was named one of Canada’s Top 40 under 40 in 2003. With his vast array of knowledge on the industry and his many impressive achievements, Paul Soubry captivated the audience with his address and started off the conference on a high note. Soubry’s speech was followed by David Gamble of Bean Wizard Solutions Inc., and Michael Klee of Lincoln Electric on a variety of engaging topics including discussions on fabrication considerations and business strategies for success, and productivity by welding with AC pulse on thin aluminum.
Due to the recent developments in Canadian politics, CWB Group felt that it was imperative to address the implementation of the steel tariffs on our industry and with the help of Nikita Perevalov at Scotiabank, Michelle Stanford, Senior Vice-President of Operations at the CWB Group, led a discussion about our company’s involvement in addressing this issue. The day ended with the CWB Group’s Annual Industry Awards Dinner at RBC’s York ballroom where attendees enjoyed networking, an awards ceremony and finally, were entertained by renowned Canadian comic, Derek Edwards.

The second day of the conference started off just as strong as the first with the CWB Welding Foundation hosting a breakfast which included presentations from both students and teachers with Susan Crowley providing insights into the work of the Foundation this year. Patricio Mendez from the University of Alberta provided a talk on polarity, pulsing, gas, and fluxes in the welding arc followed by Adrian Gerlich from the University of Waterloo discussing the next generation of welding technologies and its innovations and applications in the future. During lunch, Dan Tadic, Executive Director of the CWB Association outlined the benefits of his exciting new Enhanced Welder Apprenticeship Training (EWAT) program and the importance of encouraging employers to participate.

Lastly, we had some exciting and interactive competitions to showcase the world of welding, and they were very well received by participants. Our simulation competition had 76 competitors, and the live arc competition attracted 66 competitors with everyone genuinely enjoying the different types of welding technologies. The CWB Group is genuinely lucky to have such talented speakers and engaged attendees without whom, this conference would not be possible. 2018 marked another successful year for the CanWeld Expo and Conference with over 200 conference attendees, 500 expo visitors, and approximately 40 booths. We look forward to hosting you again next year in Halifax, Nova Scotia!

- Dan Tadic

"It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with many old friends and meeting many new people. Each year, our CanWeld Conference attracts audiences from coast to coast. We had an impressive group of speakers that covered a broad range of topics from Welding Technologies, Inspection, Application, Research and the Business of Welding."

- Dan Tadic