

# MONEY



## Drabinsky facing jail

The prosecution in the Livent fraud case is calling for jail time; the defence is hoping for lighter punishment.

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**MAKE SAVE SPEND**

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# Concrete praise from Obama

**KRYTON:** Roads and buildings 'can last 20 or 30 years longer'

BY PAUL LUKE  
BUSINESS EDITOR

Kari Yuers might have wished Barack Obama's endorsement had been more concrete, but when the U.S. president praises your technology, you don't complain.

Especially considering the Vancouver company you run is one of the North American enterprises not yet owned by the U.S. government.

In discussing clean energy last week, Obama cited new forms of concrete that are waterproofed from within.

"That can mean that bridges and roads and buildings can last 20 or 30 years longer than using conventional concrete," he told a press conference.

Yuers, CEO of Kryton International, is still beaming about that remark, even though she could have told the president the technology isn't quite new.

Kryton, after all, has long been a world leader in products that do what Obama praised — turning porous concrete into an impermeable barrier from the inside out.

Ron Yuers, who is Kari's father and Kryton's founder, developed a crystalline waterproofing additive for concrete in the early 1980s.

The core technology had been around for decades, but her dad refined it and developed the world's first crystalline additive that waterproofs concrete.

Added to concrete and water, Kryton's formula sprouts millions of needle-like crystals that permanently block water flow by filling in holes and pores naturally found in concrete.

Kryton's eco-friendly products save the cost of installing conventional, petroleum-based waterproofing membranes, she



Kari Yuers, CEO of Vancouver-based Kryton International, was delighted that her company's technology for making waterproof concrete was praised last week by U.S. President Barack Obama. — HANDOUT

said. "You save weeks on construction time."

"You can pour your walls and the grader can come and push the dirt back and you don't have to worry about scratching or damaging the membrane," she added.

Kryton also makes waterproofing products that are applied to the outside of concrete to repair

cracks that have developed.

Since it began in 1973, family-owned Kryton has grown to 80 employees, just over 50 of whom are in Vancouver. The rest are scattered around the world in offices and a manufacturing facility in New Delhi.

Projects that have used Kryton technology range from the Shaw

Tower parkade in Vancouver to the Wellcome supermarket on Shantung Street in Hong Kong.

Ninety per cent of its materials are exported. Kryton's biggest single market is the Middle East, where a building boom has helped to offset a slowdown in much of the rest of the globe.

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## 'Small' deficits here to stay: Budget Office

BY DAVID AKIN  
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

OTTAWA — The independent Parliamentary Budget Office said the federal government will be running a relatively small but permanent deficit in five years.

That contradicts the view of the federal government, which believes the deficit will naturally disappear once the economy improves.

In his latest fiscal projections, obtained by *Canwest News Service*, budget officer Kevin Page said the combined federal deficits that began last year will total \$159.3 billion by 2014, a hole much deeper than the current predictions of \$103.5 billion from the Finance Department.

Moreover, while Finance still predicts a small surplus by 2014, Page believes the government will be running a deficit of nearly \$17 billion that year, of which \$11.9 billion will be a "structural" or permanent deficit, one that would keep on piling up debt year after year.

"The budget is not structurally balanced over the medium term," said Page's report, to be released tomorrow. "That said, [the deficits] are small relative to the size of the economy. Indeed, they amount to less than one per cent of GDP annually."

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Prime Minister Stephen Harper have insisted, ever since it became apparent last fall that Ottawa would post a deficit, that their government would avoid a "structural" deficit. Page is challenging that assertion.

The issue of the permanence of the deficit will affect some key decisions governments in Ottawa and in every province could have to make as early as the next budget year.

"If Preston Manning had a grave, he'd be rolling in it right now. Are there no fiscal conservatives left in the Conservative party? It's quite remarkable," said Liberal MP John McKay, one of his party's fiscally conservative members.

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