

# Kansteel Manufacturing Inc.

*Deep Roots in Manitoba Manufacturing*

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Nearly a century of welding and fabrication history is held in good hands by those at Brandon's Kansteel Manufacturing Incorporated, a custom plate fabrication shop with deep roots as one of Manitoba's original steel tank manufacturers.

Kansteel Manufacturing Inc. was officially established in Brandon in 1985 when a Saskatchewan family from Estevan, SK. (who also owns Fre-Flo Oil Industries) acquired the assets of Canadian Brown Steel Tank Ltd - a metal fabrication company which had been in operation in Brandon since 1919. For the new owner the purchase was like coming home as he was originally from Arborg, MB. In acquiring these assets and incorporating them as Kansteel, the facility remained in its long-established location on Pacific Avenue in Brandon and became the steel tank fabricating arm for Fre-Flo to service oilfield clients from all over Canada. Until the Canadian oil industry's latest slowdown, purchase orders from Fre-Flo's oilfield clients made up the lion's share of Kansteel's annual output; however, the lag in oilfield activity pushed the company to re-acquaint itself with clients in Manitoba's mining, agricultural, and chemical industries. The company is well-known for its custom fabrication of oilfield tanks, fertilizer tanks, and grain storage tanks, and its ability to perform other custom steel work, such as rolling, braking, and shearing, also makes it a fabrication shop of choice for many Brandon and western Manitoba businesses. Aside from its work for Fre-Flo, previous work by Kansteel has also included large diameter cooling water pipe, smoke stacks, API storage tanks, ASME pressure vessels, UCL storage tanks, ash hoppers, and penstocks.

Kansteel employs a core group of between eight to 10 individuals, most of whom work in the facility's fabrication workshop. When an order for a steel tank is placed, design specifications are sent to Kansteel. Layout workers then take the raw steel product stored in the facility's warehouse and prepare the material by cutting or torching it into the proper dimensions for the welders to then weld it together. Sandblasting and painting of the vessels is contracted out to a separate Brandon company, but still performed on-site. Manufacturing of such pressure

- Established as Kansteel Manufacturing Inc. in Brandon, MB., in 1985, though the business's origins in Brandon date back to 1919
- Kansteel specializes in the fabrication of metal vessels and tanks, which its parent company, Fre-Flo Oil Industries, then sells to oilfield clients all over Canada
- Kansteel also services clients in the mining, agricultural, and chemical industries
- Core employee complement of 8-10 people, trained as welders and metal fabricators

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vessels must adhere to rigid inspection and certification from Manitoba's Office of the Fire Commissioner, after which the tanks are either shipped by semi truck back to Fre-Flo's facility in Estevan for distribution to clients, or trucked directly to the client if not a Fre-Flo client. Efforts to break into the American oilfield market continue by Fre-Flo, while Kansteel continues to seek out new clients on its own in the mining and hydro-electric power industries. The business's credentials serve them well in such ventures, as Kansteel's certifications include ASME code-certified manufacturer, CWB Division 3 manufacturer, B31.1 & B31.2 piping fabricator, and API and custom tank fabricator.

As with any business that exists in an urban environment where its site's establishment pre-dates much of the infrastructure around it, Kansteel's current location is on the edge of a neighbourhood growing in residential density and expanding its road network. The facility has worked hard to be a good neighbour to the residential community surrounding it by matching its hours of operation to regular weekday business hours wherever possible.

The company name has long been synonymous with quality and longevity, witnessed by the fact that many of Brandon's industrial facilities still bear tanks and vessels with the Kansteel or Canadian Brown Steel Tank name on them. With its efforts to re-diversify and seek out clients looking for high-quality steel fabrication services, Kansteel is working hard to ensure its name remains as one of Brandon's longest-serving and most reliable businesses around.



[Fre-flooil.com/Kansteel.html](http://Fre-flooil.com/Kansteel.html)