



NDP Caucus Briefing

Presented by:

Brad Smith, Executive Director

Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades Council

October 29, 2014



Our Mission

The Mainland Nova Scotia Building and Construction Trades Council is committed to providing access to highly trained, safe working industrial-commercial-institutional (ICI) tradespersons. By forging partnerships with owners and developers, we are driven to become synonymous with sound investment and growth in mainland Nova Scotia.

Affiliated Unions



Included in the Building Trades are the following Unions:

- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers - Lodge 73
- International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers - Local 1
- Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters, Millwrights and Allied Workers - Local 83
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Local 625
- International Union of Elevator Constructors - Local 125
- International Association of Heat & Frost - Local 116
- International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Ironworkers - Local 752
- Labourers' International Union of North America - Local 615
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America - Millwrights Local 1178
- International Union of Operating Engineers - Local 721
- International Union of Painters & Allied Trades - District Council 39, Local 1439
- Sheet Metal Workers' International Association- Local 409
- United Association of Journeymen Plumbers & Pipefitters - Local 56
- United Association of Journeymen Plumbers & Pipefitters - Local 244

Economic Prosperity



- The Building Trades play a fundamental role in the economic prosperity of Nova Scotia
 - Have a long established history and strong partnership with contractors and owners
 - We work on the front lines of labour supply and demand
 - The Building Trades brings an HR component that takes the chaos out of the industry
 - Proactively manage the supply of skilled tradespeople
 - Provide worker stability, and a ready skilled labour supply that responds effectively to changing labour demands

Build Right NS

**MAINLAND
NOVA SCOTIA
BUILDING TRADES**

www.BuildRightNS.ca

BUILD RIGHT
NOVA SCOTIA

An Initiative of Professional Unionized Contractors and Tradespeople.

WHO WE ARE WHY CHOOSE US WHAT IT MEANS CONTACT

BUILD BETTER. LIVE BETTER.

WHO
We Are

Expert unionized contractors and tradespeople working together to bring the best in construction quality to Nova Scotia.

[Learn More](#)

WHY
Choose Us

WHAT
It Means

Build Right NS



- Campaign has garnered local, national and international recognition
- Collaboration between, owners, contractors and unions has been taken to a new level
- Example: building state-of-the-art greenhouse for local youth-run social enterprise Hope Blooms



ICI Sector



- Construction is a key economic indicator and its health is an important reflection of our overall economy
 - The Industrial-Commercial-Institutional sector represents over 10% of Nova Scotia's GDP
 - An estimated 14,000 tradespeople work in the sector, and 11,000 of them belong to the Unionized Building Trades
 - There are 6,000 apprentices in the province's trades – the Building Trades have over 2,700 of those – accounting for the vast majority of construction apprentices

Economic Development



- Economic development and job creation are vital to the Building Trades
 - Roughly 15% of the Building Trades workforce are inter-provincial commuters
 - In a province with one of the highest costs of living, Nova Scotia had the second lowest average weekly wages in Canada
 - Nova Scotia's construction sector's weekly wages are 24% less than the national average
 - We believe that by working together with government and industry, we can create more training opportunities and good-paying jobs right here at home

Priorities



- The Mainland Building Trades have identified a number of priorities including:
 - Apprenticeship Training
 - The Building Trades have 2,700 apprentices
 - Member of the inaugural Apprenticeship Board
 - Enforcement
 - Two enforcement officers not enough
 - Provincial Tendering Practices
 - Need to reward companies who comply with regulations, not those who don't
 - Wages & Benefits
 - Higher wages are a key factor drawing workers to Western Canada
 - Roughly 15% of the Building Trades workforce, or close to 1,700 workers are inter-provincial commuters
 - NS has no "fair wages" legislation
 - Labour Representation on Government Committees
 - We represent 11,000 tradespeople it is essential that there is representation from labour on these committees

Labour Act



- The ICI sector falls under Part II of Nova Scotia's Trade Union Act
 - Merit NS has recently been lobbying for changes to the Act
 - Part II of the Trade Union Act has worked extremely well over the last 35 years in providing labour stability
 - NS's construction industry has a transient workforce; the Act takes the chaos out of industry
 - Without Part II of the Act, we'd be in same situation as 70s where labour disruptions were commonplace

Bill C-377



- Anti-union piece of legislation
- Unfairly singles out trades unions and imposes unprecedented reporting requirements
- The Bill's constitutional validity has been questioned by many
- Will violate the privacy of thousands
- Federal Government is encroaching on NS jurisdiction

Questions?

www.mainlandbuildingtrades.ca

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