

***Building Today's Workforce for Tomorrow***  
**Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades' 10th Annual Conference**  
**The Westin Nova Scotian - Atlantic Ballroom**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**

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| 7:00am - 12:00pm | Registration  |
| 7:30am - 8:30am  | Breakfast   |
| 8:30am - 8:40am  | Welcome and Smudge Ceremony   |
| 8:40am - 8:45am  | Welcome Remarks on Behalf of the City - Mayor Andy Fillmore   |
| 8:45am - 9:00am  | Opening Remarks - Alison Casey, Incoming Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades   |
| 9:00am - 9:15am  | <b>Session 1: "Ten in Ten" Reflection</b><br><b>Speaker:</b><br><i>Brad Smith, Outgoing Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades</i><br><br>The Building Today's Workforce for Tomorrow conference was launched with a vision to highlight and promote the value the Building Trades and our partner contractors bring to the ICI construction sector. The premise was that value and innovation untold is unrecognized and therefore undervalued. Today we are recognized as the best in trades training, safety and productivity and this is an opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments. And we are so excited about the potential of the future we are building together. |
| 9:15am - 9:30am  | <b>Session 2: Canadian Building Trades National Update</b><br><b>Speaker:</b><br><i>Nathan Carr, Public Affairs Manager, Canada's Building Trades Unions</i><br><br>With 500,000 plus workers and a national network, the Building Trades have the resources to tackle some of the most pressing issues faced by the ICI construction industry today. Challenges like supporting our apprentices to successful completion, transitioning to the green economy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and advocating for construction workers. Nathan will share highlights and successes.  |
| 9:30am - 10:00am | <b>Session 3: SkillPlan – Partners in Workforce Development</b><br><b>Speaker:</b><br><i>Kyle Downie, CEO, SkillPlan</i><br><br>When we talk about workforce development in the Industrial-Commercial-Institutional (ICI) industry, the Building Trades have the most successful training with apprentice retention and completion rates double the provincial average. Part of this success is due to the partners we  |

work with. SkillPlan is a leader in Canada in innovative workforce development for the ICI industry. The team at SkillPlan have developed leading edge supports for tradespeople such as the “Mentorship Matters” and “Build Your Skills” programs. The Building Trades have enjoyed a long partnership with SkillPlan, and Kyle will share how these programs are enhancing and supporting the learning experience for our tradespeople and the positive impact on outcomes.

10:00am - 10:25am      Networking Break

10:30am - 11:00am      **Session 5: Labour Market Survey – The Definitive Guide of Labour Market Information for the Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Sector**

***Speaker:***

*Trent Soholt, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council (NSCSC)*

The NSCSC has recently completed the “Nova Scotia ICI Labour Market Assessment”, the most comprehensive labour market study conducted for the ICI construction industry. Underpinning this study was extensive consultations with key stakeholders along with surveys of employers, workers, Business Managers, and students providing the most up-to-date data available. By “industry for industry”, Trent will share insights and findings from the study related to labor supply, skills gaps and other workforce-related issues.

11:00am - 11:30am      **Session 6: Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan (CIRP)**

***Speaker:***

*Vicky Waldron, Executive Director, Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan*

Nova Scotia’s Building Trades Unions have recognized the urgent need for a structured Mental Health and Substance Use program tailored specifically for construction workers. CIRP is a treatment program with a rich history of helping our brothers and sisters within organized labour. CIRP is a nationally recognized leader in construction-focused mental health and substance use services. Vicky has worked internationally, leading program delivery and will help us understand what it takes to duplicate the CIRP model in Nova Scotia.

11:30am - 12:00pm      **Session 7: Partnering with the Building Trades in Workforce Development - Lessons from Ontario**

***Speaker:***

*Monte McNaughton, Former Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development, Ontario*

Monte is a life-long conservative and former Minister of Labour for the Ford government. He returned to the private sector in October 2023. He is largely credited with forging unprecedented alliances with private sector unions including the Building Trades which was a key factor in the Ontario government’s success. When Monte took on the labour portfolio, he invested the time to meet and understand private sector unions. The lessons learned from this experience resulted in partnerships that drove prosperity for the province of Ontario.

12:00pm - 1:15pm	<b>Lunch with Special Guests from Hope Blooms</b>
1:15pm - 1:30pm	<b>Keynote Address</b> - The Honourable Nolan Young, Minister, Labour, Skills and Immigration
1:30pm - 1:45pm	Conference Closing Remarks - <i>Alison Casey, Incoming Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades</i>
1:45pm	Reception for Brad Smith, Outgoing Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades