

BUILDING FUTURES

Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades' 11th Annual Conference The Westin Nova Scotian – Atlantic Ballroom

AGENDA

Thursday, Sep 10

7:30am - 12:00pm	Registration
7:30am - 8:30am	Breakfast
8:30am - 8:40am	Welcome & Smudge Ceremony: Angela Doyle-Faulkner, Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Liaison & Education Human Rights Officer, Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission
8:40am - 8:45am	Welcome Remarks on Behalf of the City: Mayor Andy Fillmore
8:45am - 8:55am	Opening Remarks
8:55am - 9:25am	Session 1: Workforce Development Solutions – Made in NS <i>Speaker: Trent Soholt, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council (NSCSC)</i> Development has never been greater in this province, and industry has been creative when it comes to meeting labour demand. Trent Soholt will provide an overview of “Made in Nova Scotia” solutions that have caught the eye of the rest of the country.
9:25am - 9:55am	Session 2: Self-Directed Pathways Project – Growing Apprenticeship & Certification <i>Speaker: Kim Slauenwhite, Education Consultant, Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency</i> As demand continues to grow for certified, skilled tradespeople in Nova Scotia’s construction industry, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA) and industry partners recognized the need for a flexible and structured technical training pathway to support apprentices and trade qualifiers on their path to certification. In partnership with Skills Canada-Nova Scotia, NSAA launched the online <i>Self-Directed Pathways Program</i> for eight construction trades, enabling apprentices and trade qualifiers to complete training on their own schedule, while remaining employed. Program Lead Kim Slauenwhite will share how government and industry worked together to develop the program and highlight the impact it has had on Nova Scotia’s construction industry.
9:55am - 10:10am	Welcome Remarks: The Honourable Nolan Young, Minister, Labour, Skills and Immigration
10:10am - 10:40am	Session 3: Fireside Chat with Monte McNaughton and The Honourable Nolan Young
10:40am - 10:55am	Networking Break

10:55am - 11:15am	Session 4: Canada's Building Trades Unions (CBTU) National Update Speaker: <i>Sean Strickland, Executive Director, Canada's Building Trades Unions</i> Sean Strickland will provide key legislative updates on federal priorities, including the work CBTU is doing with the Major Projects Office on labour supply and labour conditions, National Safety Harmonization, and Increasing Labour Mobility for Canada's unionized skilled trades.
11:15am - 12:00pm	Session 5: Creating Safer Workplaces Together Speakers: <i>Jennifer Schnare, Senior Director, Labour, Skills & Immigration – Safety Branch</i> <i>Tracey Newman, VP Prevention & Employer Engagement, WCB Nova Scotia</i> Safer Workplaces Together is a new collaborative injury-prevention strategy to help keep more Nova Scotians safe on the job. The strategy brings together safety collaborators including WCB Nova Scotia, the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration (LSI), safety associations, employers, workers, unions, and others, and provides a framework for building safer, stronger workplaces across the province. Jennifer Schnare and Tracey Newman will provide an update on how things have been going and plans for the future.
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Session 6: Mental Health & Suicide Prevention in the Construction Workplace Speaker: <i>Alanna Marklund, Special Representative for Youth, Diversity & Indigenous Relations, UA Canada</i> A devastating reality is that the construction industry faces one of the highest occupational suicide rates globally. The United Association has many programs focused on eliminating the stigma around mental health and addiction in the skilled trades. Alanna Marklund will highlight a few programs like VitalCog – specialized training to recognize early warning signs of suicide in the workplace – as well as the brand-new Mental Health First Aid for the Skilled Trades. This in-person training gives you practical tools to recognize when someone is struggling, respond with support, and refer them to the resources they may need.
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 1:45pm	Session 7: Beyond the Firewall: Why Cyber Insurance is your Last Line of Defense Speaker: <i>Rob Vosseler, SVP & Principal, Union Power Insurance Brokers</i> No organization is 100% immune to cyberattacks. Data breaches, phishing and spear phishing attacks, online banking fraud, ransomware, and AI deep fakes all have the potential to bankrupt your organization. Rob Vosseler will discuss how Cyber Insurance is the only way to guarantee protection.
1:45pm - 2:00pm	Session 8: Nova Scotia Guard Speaker: <i>Neal Alderson, Director, Nova Scotia Guard, Department of Emergency Management</i> The Nova Scotia Guard is a volunteer organization that supports first responders and communities during emergencies like wildfires, floods, and storms. It organizes individuals with specialized skills as well as general volunteers to assist in a variety of ways. The Building Trades are proud partners of the Nova Scotia Guard, and Neal Alderson will speak about this partnership and the ways in which Nova Scotians can get involved.
2:00pm - 2:15pm	Closing Remarks