

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: Alison Casey, Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades |
| 8:55am - 9:25am | Session 1: Workforce Development Solutions – Made in NS
Speaker:
<i>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
Speaker:
<i>Kim Slaunwhite, Education Consultant, Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency</i>

Until recently, several designated trades have not had access to structured technical training. Workers in these trades could not register as apprentices or achieve certification. To address this, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency in partnership with Skills Canada-NS launched the <i>Self-Directed Pathways Project</i> . As a result, eight trades now have recognized and accessible training pathways in Nova Scotia. Project Lead Kim Slaunwhite will outline how government and industry partnered and the impact this project has had on the construction industry. |
| 9:55am - 10:25am | Session 3: 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. |
| 10:30am - 10:45am | Networking Break |

10:45am - 11:30am	Session 4: 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.
11:30am - 12:00pm	Session 5: 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.
12:00pm - 12:15pm	Session 6: 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.
12:15pm - 12:30pm	Session 7: Nova Scotia Guard Speaker: <i>Neal Alderson, Manager, Department of Emergency Management, Nova Scotia Guard</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.
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 1:45pm	Keynote Address: The Honourable Nolan Young, Minister, Labour, Skills & Immigration
1:45pm - 2:15pm	Session 8: Fireside Chat with Monte McNaughton and The Honourable Nolan Young
2:15pm - 2:30pm	Closing Remarks: Alison Casey, Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades