

Building Today's Workforce for Tomorrow
Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades' 9th Annual Conference
Hotel Halifax – Baronet Room

AGENDA

Wednesday, June 12th

7:00am - 12:00pm Registration

7:30am - 8:30am Breakfast

8:30am - 8:40am Welcome and Smudge Ceremony - Debbie Eisan, Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre

8:40am - 8:55am Opening Remarks - Brad Smith, Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades

8:55am - 9:15am **Session 1: Building Trades Advancement College (BTAC) – Tool Time versus School Time**

Speaker:

Brad Smith, Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades

The Building Trades is the leader in skilled trades training, and demand for skilled trades professionals has never been greater. BTAC is seven campuses providing enhanced direct entry training in over 20 different skilled trades. Training is provided by trades professionals for the specific skills required by our affiliated contractors to minimize non-essential in-class time, so candidates get started right away, learning productive, safe work methods all while earning great wages along the way.

9:15am - 9:30am **Session 2: ReconciliACTION – Reconciliation at Work**

Speaker:

Brittany Colburn, Indigenous Relations Rep, LiUNA Local 615

Reconciliation is about process – ReconciliACTION is the process at work. Brittany will share stories and successes from her work on the front lines. What does it take to recruit, train and support indigenous and unrepresented tradespeople and what has been the impact on people's lives – where it counts.

9:30am - 10:10am **Session 3: Canadian Building Trades National Update**

Speakers:

Sean Strickland, Executive Director, Canada's Building Trades Unions

Lindsay Amundsen, Director of Workforce Development, Canada's Building Trades Unions

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. Sean will share highlights and successes. Lindsay will provide a deeper dive into "Building It Green" as the Nova Scotia Building Trades is leading the pilot for the roll out of this national program.

10:10am - 10:25am Networking Break

10:25am - 11:00am **Session 4: Quick Hits**

Speakers:

Dave Giannou, Director Atlantic Region, Helmets to Hardhats

Jason McBride, Partnership Specialist, Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work

Blaise MacNeil, CRSP, Safety Advisor, Awareness and Outreach, Safety Branch

So many programs, and so little time. These programs are important to highlight and so we thought we would squeeze them in for “quick hit” updates. Working with our vets, supporting our apprentices and the importance of highlighting safety. These speakers will provide some snapshots of what is available and whet your appetite for more information!

11:00am - 11:10am Remarks on Behalf of the City - Mayor Mike Savage

11:10am - 11:40am **Session 5: Labour Market Survey – Insights for Action**

Speaker:

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

Evidence based decision making is core to understanding the challenges with labour supply. NSCSC led a coalition of industry partners to assemble a comprehensive snapshot of the ICI construction industry’s labour supply and trends. Trent will share this research to-date along with insights on actions we need to implement in this era of unprecedented demand.

11:40am - 12:00pm **Session 6: Institutional Investment Update**

Speaker:

Dave Benoit, President and CEO, Build Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia has committed the largest investment in infrastructure in our history. It is big, it is complex and will create generational opportunities for Nova Scotians to build a skilled trades career here at home. Dave will provide an overview of the programs underway and what we can expect as we transform our institutional infrastructure while optimizing the benefits for Nova Scotians.

12:00pm - 1:15pm **Lunch with Keynote Speaker – The Honourable Jill Balser, Minister, Labour, Skills and Immigration**

1:15pm - 1:30pm Conference Closing Remarks - *Brad Smith, Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades*