



Featured Trade

International Union of Operating Engineers – Local 721

Operating Engineers operate and maintain cranes and heavy equipment. This includes conventional, hydraulic, overhead, tower cranes, and boom trucks. They also operate other heavy equipment including dozers, loaders, backhoes, excavators, graders, and compaction rollers to name a few. Operating Engineers can also be trained and operate Class 3 trucks.

The Operating Engineers of Local 721 run the **Operating Engineers Training Institute of Nova Scotia**. The 550 acre facility includes a multi-million dollar fleet of training equipment, mobile and crawling cranes and heavy duty earth movers. It's a perfect learning environment with an emphasis on safety and performance.

The Operating Engineers Training Institute was founded in 1992. Twenty-five years later, with more than \$7 million dollars in state-of-the-art heavy equipment, the industry continues to grow and graduates are in high demand.

The Training Institute offers three courses that run year round. Their mission – to train students to be safety-oriented, heavy equipment operators who will have an immediate and positive impact on the construction industry.

To learn more about the Operating Engineers Training Institute, visit trainingforthefuture.ca.

Feedback? We'd love to hear from you, please feel free to contact us:

✉ info@mainlandbuildingtrades.ca

🐦 [@mainlandtrades](https://twitter.com/mainlandtrades)

🌐 www.mainlandbuildingtrades.ca

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TRADES DISPATCH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MAINLAND NOVA SCOTIA BUILDING TRADES



2015 was filled with many exciting projects, and the Building Trades is looking forward to continuing this momentum through 2016.

Training for the Future



Training and safety is the fabric of the Building Trades. Trade unions in Nova Scotia invest more than \$7 million in training annually. Nationally, the Building Trades are the largest provider of private sector training in Canada with over 175 state-of-the-art Training Centers across the country, and an annual investment of \$300 million.

The Mainland Building Trades have multiple Training Centers across the province. Some unions operate Private Career Colleges offering standardized curriculum for apprentices and skills upgrading. While others have Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committees (JATCs) who administer apprenticeship programs and operate training centers funded by industry through Training Trust Funds. These programs are privately funded through contributions from the workers and our affiliated contractors. The

training institutions are acknowledged as centers of excellence across the country.

We have approximately 2,700 apprentices in Nova Scotia's Building Trades. Apprentices are the future of our trades, and it is critical to support these men and women. Our people are our product, and it's essential that we give them all of the tools required to work efficiently and safely.

In an effort to expand the training offerings that are already in place, we are in the process of creating a Private Career College at our new building in Lakeside. Four trades are under one roof at this new facility, and this will allow for not only collaborative training between the multiple trades, but also a more effective and efficient use of training resources.

Industry Highlights

Labour Market Assessment

In 2015, organizations representing the Industrial-Commercial-Institutional (ICI) construction sector in Nova Scotia launched an industry-wide assessment on labour market trends and issues. The focus of the project was to generate up-to-date, accurate labour market information, providing ICI industry stakeholders with a solid foundation from which to plan and address human resource and business needs, and effectively represent and influence industry requirements and outcomes going forward.

The primary objective of the study is to enable industry stakeholders to make informed decisions, supported by evidence, to address current and anticipated labour market changes and to more accurately assess and design succession strategies.

Report Highlights

Survey included:

- 783 Workers (union and non-union)
- 502 Students (in ICI-related programs)
- 111 Employers
- 17 Union Business Managers

- 34% reported being under-employed – indicating that they worked less than they wanted over the previous 24 months
- 76% told us that retirement is 10 or more years away
- 172 tradespeople are expected to leave the labour force (retire) each year for the next 5 years
- Only 16% expressed interest in starting their own ICI business

Some of the worker highlights from this study include:

- Almost 30,000 Nova Scotians directly depend on income from working in the ICI construction sector – 79% noted their trades-related employment as the main source of household income (with an average of 2.5 dependents)
- 63% work full-time in ICI construction with the rest of the time being spent working in other sectors or unemployed

The findings of this report help us better and more accurately understand the dynamics of the labour force in our sector – what we have now and what it can look like in the future. This information is also going to help us continue to grow the labour in Nova Scotia to better align with new and innovative projects coming to the region. For a copy of the full report, please visit our website at mainlandbuildingtrades.ca/labour-market-survey.

Community Relations

Historically, unions have been very philanthropic and the same can be said for the Mainland Building Trades. We have strengthened relationships with our community partners, and in 2016, we'll be looking for ways to further expand our engagement with these organizations.

Hope Blooms

Last year we celebrated with Hope Blooms at the opening of their state-of-the-art greenhouse that was built along with our contractors under the Build Right Nova Scotia initiative (a cooperative of contractors and the 11,000 tradespeople that make up the Building Trades). This group of talented youth continues to take their social enterprise to the next level, and we can't wait to see what 2016 brings! To learn more about the youth-run social enterprise, visit hopeblooms.ca.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax

This summer we will be hosting our 17th Annual Golf Classic in support of this terrific organization.

Big Brothers Big Sisters offers a wide range of mentoring opportunities to meet the varied needs of volunteers, children and families.



Hope Blooms' state-of-the-art greenhouse was built along with our contractors under the Build Right Nova Scotia initiative (a cooperative of contractors and the 11,000 tradespeople that make up the Building Trades).

IWK Health Centre Foundation

The Building Trades have been long-time supporters of the IWK Health Centre Foundation. In 2015, and for the next five years, the Building Trades' contribution will go to support the IWK's "Breakthroughs in Care" Capital Campaign. More specifically, we will be supporting the transformation of the IWK's neonatal intensive care unit.

Providing care to a population of over two million people, the IWK ensures those requiring specialized care have access to the best facilities, the best health care providers and the best programs.

Techsploration

We are proud supporters and sponsors of Techsploration. Techsploration provides young women from grades nine through twelve with opportunities to explore science, trades and technology occupations. The goal of Techsploration is to increase the number of women working in science, trades and technology occupations by assisting young women from diverse backgrounds to explore a wide range of career options.

Government Relations

The Mainland Building Trades advocates on behalf of our 11,000 tradespeople on policy direction and issues facing the construction industry. Our priorities include:

Investing in skills training and apprenticeship at all levels of government

- Financial supports of apprentices and the employers of apprentices
- The harmonization of trade and apprentice standards across Canada's jurisdictions
- Promotion of the value of a career in the Skilled Trades
- Certification and enforcement

Helmets to Hardhats – Training Canada's Veterans

Dedicated exclusively to Canadian Forces members making the transition from active duty to full time employment, Helmets to Hardhats offers apprenticeship opportunities to achieve a journeyman qualification in the building and construction trade of one's choice.

Helmets to Hardhats is supported by the Canadian Building Trades Unions, construction employers and the Government of Canada. The Building Trades recognizes the outstanding qualities and skills of our military personnel and assists them in finding an opportunity in the skilled trades. Additional programs need to be developed that will allow veterans support and where necessary, assistance in accessing jobs in the construction industry. To learn more about the Helmets to Hardhats program please visit, www.helmetstohardhats.ca.

Integrated Infrastructure Program

Canada needs a comprehensive integrated infrastructure program that will eliminate the infrastructure deficit and provide for growth. Such a program should be coordinated with the provinces and municipalities to ensure everyone from coast to coast gets the best value from this spending.

There should be a requirement for contractors bidding on projects to have apprentices included in their workforce as part of their proposal. This would allow our apprentices (the workforce of tomorrow) to gain the needed hours and experience on infrastructure projects being done today.

Nova Scotia has taken a good first step by implementing a new pilot procurement project aimed at getting more businesses to hire registered apprentices.

In this pilot, in order to qualify for five Nova Scotian school construction contracts, firms doing construction work under the scope of designated trades under the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualification Act must have all apprentices registered and have at least one apprentice registered any time within the last two years in any designated trade or have participated in a youth apprenticeship program.

It is the hope for projects like this that more people will consider the trades as a career, and provide further opportunities for apprentices to learn.



Upcoming Events

17th Annual Golf Classic Tuesday, June 14th, 2016

The Mainland Building Trades has been a long-time supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax. This June, we will be hosting our 17th Annual Golf Classic in support of this outstanding organization.

Over the past 16 years, we have raised over \$100,000 with this important event.

The tournament will be taking place at Chester Golf Club. The entry fee is \$640 per team of four, or \$160 per person. This includes your green fee, power cart, dinner and various registration gifts. For more information and to register, please visit the "Events" section of our website.

3rd Annual Conference *Building Today's Workforce for Tomorrow* Wednesday, June 15th, 2016

Our 3rd Annual Conference - *Building Today's Workforce for Tomorrow* is happening Wednesday, June 15th at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront.

This year's conference will feature a number of presenters speaking on topics such as apprenticeship, major natural resources projects and their impact on the province's economy, the Building Trades' impact on the community, state of the Building Trades and creating safer worksites.

The registration fee is \$149 person. For more information and to register, please visit the "Events" section of our website.