

Advocacy

Bill C-377

Federal Conservatives recently reintroduced a controversial anti-union Bill to the Senate. Bill C-377 would force unions to publicly disclose details of their spending.

This legislation unfairly singles out trades unions and imposes unprecedented reporting requirements. The Bill's constitutional validity has been questioned by many, and the Building Trades see Bill C-377 as completely discriminatory and unjust.

The legislation raises questions regarding the disclosure of detailed financial information, including salaries, contracts, loans, investments, and spending on organizing, collective bargaining, education and training. The Bill would also require the reporting of pension and medical benefit information, and therefore the disclosure of members' sensitive personal medical and financial information. This information would appear online in a searchable database on the Canada Revenue Agency website. This would violate the privacy of thousands and is unacceptable. We believe that the internal administration of a union is a matter between the union and its members and not the general public.

A letter from the Mainland Building Trades was sent to Nova Scotian Senators in response, asking them to defeat the Bill. Letters were also sent to the Honorable Kelly Regan, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education and Provincial Political Leaders to bring to their attention the potential impact this Bill will have on labour relations in Nova Scotia.


The Canadian Building Trades have introduced an easy way to voice your opinions on this discriminatory legislation by setting up a website www.workersbuildcanada.ca. From this site, you can send messages to Senators in two easy steps. All you have to do is visit the website listed, create a profile and then choose one of five pre-drafted emails to send. All of this can be done in less than two minutes. We urge you to voice your concern over this unfair piece of legislation.


fast FACT


The Building Trades have the largest number of apprentices, with 2,700 throughout Nova Scotia. In partnership with our contractors, we spend over \$7 million annually on training and have multiple training centres throughout the province.

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



The Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades is pleased to present our inaugural newsletter. This quarterly newsletter will keep you informed on the activities of the Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades Council and issues affecting the industrial-commercial-institutional sector.

Who are the Building Trades?

The Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades Council, through our affiliated unions, provides highly trained, safe working industrial-commercial-institutional (ICI) tradespeople to the Nova Scotia construction industry. Our goal is to enhance the opportunities for our fourteen member unions and the professional tradespersons they represent. The Unionized Building Trades includes over 11,000 professional tradespeople, including 2,700 apprentices in Nova Scotia.

Our mandate is to supply the right people at the right time, with the necessary skills to complete the project safely, on time and to the highest standard.

Included in the Building Trades are the following Unions:

- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers - Lodge 73
- International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers - Local 1
- Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters, Millwrights and Allied Workers - Local 83
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Local 625
- International Union of Elevator Constructors - Local 125
- International Association of Heat & Frost - Local 116
- International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Ironworkers - Local 752

- Labourers' International Union of North America - Local 615
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America - Millwrights Local 1178
- International Union of Operating Engineers - Local 721
- International Union of Painters & Allied Trades, District Council 39, Local 1439
- Sheet Metal Workers' International Association - Local 409
- United Association of Journeymen Plumbers & Pipefitters - Local 56
- United Association of Journeymen Plumbers & Pipefitters - Local 244

The Mainland Building Trades Council advocates to government on behalf of our 11,000 tradespeople on policy direction and the issues facing the construction industry.

We have identified a number of priorities including:

- Apprenticeship Training
- Enforcement
- Provincial Tendering Practices
- Wages & Benefits
- Labour Representation on Government Committees

Industry Highlights

Build Right Nova Scotia

Build Right Nova Scotia, is a recently launched cooperative of unionized contractors and the 11,000 tradespeople that make up the Building Trades. We've joined forces with the goal of promoting the benefits of union-built industrial, commercial, and institutional buildings in Nova Scotia. The partnership will promote the contributions that our highly trained workers and employers make to the community.

A television spot, online ads and website (www.buildrightns.ca) have all been created as part of the campaign. The television spot highlights the benefits of union-built projects: safety, quality of work, impact on the economy, and superior training of workers.

This campaign has garnered local, national and international recognition and collaboration between owners, contractors and unions has been taken to a new level. One such example of this collaboration is the building of a state-of-the-art greenhouse for a local youth-run social enterprise called Hope Blooms.

Hope Blooms is a North End Halifax community garden and salad dressing business run by inner city youth with help from mentors. The children plant seeds, tend crops, and turn their produce into organic dressing which is sold locally. In 2013, they appeared on CBC's Dragons' Den asking for an investment to expand their business and walked away with \$40,000 towards a new greenhouse.

Members of Build Right heard about this and wanted to get involved. Build Right Nova Scotia will contribute all of the supplies and labour for the facility and have been working with the youth of Hope Blooms over the last number of months to incorporate their ideas into the project. This will allow for the money received on the Dragons' Den to be invested into other aspects of the program and the community.

The greenhouse will be located in Halifax's Murray Warrington Park. Construction has started and is expected to be completed in early November.



Kids of Hope Blooms at Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Apprenticeship

In 2013, a Reference Group was formed to review Nova Scotia's apprenticeship system. Comprised of employers, employer associations, sector councils, union representatives, NSCC and department officials, the group met to discuss employer engagement in apprenticeship.

After months of consultations and examination of various models of apprenticeship delivery and governance in other Canadian jurisdictions, the Reference Group concluded that Nova Scotia should establish a governance model that increases accountability and industry involvement in strategic planning, oversight, resource allocations and program outcomes. As a result, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency was established on July 1, 2014.

There are many desired outcomes for this new agency, one of which is - an apprenticeship system driven by excellence that

responds to the labour market needs of the Nova Scotia economy, remaining flexible and adaptive to changing economic and industry conditions.

Building Trades Unions have a working model that demonstrates how industry can lead and deliver apprenticeship training (such as joint apprenticeship training committees), and it is important that these good working practices continue. We are very involved in training apprentices; there are now over 2,700 apprentices in the province's Building Trades and in partnership with our contractors, we invest over \$7 million dollars annually in training and training facilities.

The Mainland Building Trades is fully supportive of this new special operating agency and its vision for Nova Scotia's trades training and certification system. Brad Smith, Mainland Building Trades' Executive Director, was appointed a seat on the inaugural Agency Board, and as the voice of organized labour around this table, will work to increase the profile and opportunities for our apprentices.

Featured Trade

United Association of Journeymen Plumbers & Pipefitters – Local 56



Plumbers and Pipefitters are commonly known as a multi-craft union whose members are engaged in the fabrication, installation and servicing of piping systems.

Plumbers install, maintain and repair pipes, fixtures and other equipment used to distribute domestic water or dispose of wastewater in residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

Pipefitters lay out and either fabricate or assemble piping systems that carry water, steam, chemicals and fuel. These systems may be used in heating, cooling, lubricating and other industrial processes. Steamfitters also clean, maintain and repair these systems.

For more information on UA - Local 56, please visit <http://ualocal56.ca>.

Marketing and Communications

Marketing and communications efforts were ramped up in 2014 to promote broader awareness and value of the Building Trades. We redesigned our website www.mainlandbuildingtrades.ca, and now have a presence on such social media platforms as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.



Follow us on Twitter:
[@mainlandtrades](https://twitter.com/mainlandtrades)



and find us at
[Facebook.com/mainlandbuildingtrades](https://www.facebook.com/mainlandbuildingtrades)

Take a moment to visit our website, any feedback is welcomed!

Events

Our first annual conference was held on June 19, 2014. **Building Today's Workforce for Tomorrow** highlighted the issues, opportunities and work to be done around labour supply. There were featured sessions on apprenticeship, safety and enforcement, tripartite partnerships, and training. Mayor Mike Savage kicked the day off, The Honorable Kelly Regan, Minister, Department of Labour and Advanced Education delivered the luncheon keynote address, and Senator James S. Cowan delivered closing remarks. There were over 130 people in attendance and the date for next year's conference has been set - **June 17, 2015**.



Our **15th Annual Golf Classic** was held on June 20, 2014 at Chester Golf Club. This annual tournament is held in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax. 32 teams participated this year, and \$15,000 was raised for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Next year's golf tournament will take place in Chester on **June 16, 2015**.