

## The Nova Scotia Construction Industry Celebrates Grand Opening of the Trades Exhibition Hall

A new facility aimed at promoting the construction trades as a career choice

**HALIFAX, NS – April 16, 2014** – Nova Scotia’s students can now easily explore the possibilities of a career in the construction trades. The Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council (NSCSC) celebrated the grand opening of their recently completed Trades Exhibition Hall earlier today. Located at the NSCSC offices in Ragged Lake Business Park, the Trades Exhibition Hall is a one-of-a-kind, interactive facility created to showcase trades and management occupations in the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) construction sector. Prominent members of the Nova Scotia construction industry, Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments, and various community groups gathered at the Hall for a ribbon cutting ceremony and a tour of the new facility.

“The Hall will provide students, teachers, career counselors, and parents with the opportunity to experience these occupations by visiting interactive booths complete with tools, materials and information specific to each trade,” explained Trent Soholt, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council. “The facility has been a long time in the making and we are so happy to finally be able to share it. Thanks to the support from the entire ICI industry and the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education, the final product has exceeded our expectations.”

The Hall consists of 14 booths, each showcasing a unique occupation (or set of occupations). The booths include carpenters and millwrights, non-destructive testers, boilermakers, finishing trades (including painters and glaziers), electricians, bricklayers, labourers, ironworkers, operating engineers, pipe trades (including plumbers; steam, pipe and sprinkler fitters, etc...), sheet metal workers, insulators, elevator constructors and a management trailer.

“We want to offer our visitors a complete and realistic experience of a day in the life of a trades professional,” added Mr. Soholt. “We treat the Hall as a real, active jobsite. Visitors

to the Hall will undergo a safety orientation and be required to wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while on the floor.”

“When this idea first came up, it was hard to envision the finished product as it had never been done before,” said Jack Wall, Past-Chair of the NSCSC Board of Directors. “As the idea became a reality, we were overwhelmed by the interest and support from the industry. Now that the Hall is complete, we are thrilled by the interest expressed from schools, community groups and career advisors to come and experience the Hall. If a visit to the Hall helps somebody discover a new passion or open up possibilities for their future, we have done our job.”

The Trades Exhibition Hall is now open to facilitate bookings. Interested groups can choose from experiencing a 1-2 hour “Construction Gallery” viewing; a 4-hour “Speed Trades” exploration; or a full day “Construction Immersion” workshop. The NSCSC is also planning a Parents’ Day for the Hall.

The Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council is a not for profit industry organization established to communicate and consult with member organizations, the construction sector and federal/provincial partners to identify areas of concern related to human resource planning and skills development within the sector. The NSCSC is a unique sector council made up of equal representation of labour (construction union representatives) and management (construction contractors, associations and business owners). This structure strengthens the NSCSC’s ability to address industry issues and allows for the development of cooperative solutions.

**For more information contact:**

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