



Nova Scotia Construction Industry Stakeholders Join Together to Launch Labour Market Assessment Project

HALIFAX, NS – May 15, 2014 – Industry stakeholders from across the province are partnering to launch a labour market assessment of the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) construction sector. The assessment involves surveys targeted towards specific segments of the industry: employers, workers, students, and union representatives. The project aims to assemble up-to-date, accurate labour market information to help address human resource issues in the industry. A final report of the findings will be released in 2015.

Organizations behind the initiative include the Cape Breton Island Building and Construction Trades Council, Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS), Mainland Nova Scotia Building and Construction Trades Council, Merit Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), Nova Scotia Construction Labour Relations Association (NSCLRA), Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council (NSCSC), and the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education (LAE).

“This project is exciting because it is the first time that all these groups have come together to analyze the industry as a whole,” says Trent Sohlt, NSCSC Executive Director and project manager of the initiative. “As industry priorities change in our province and demographic shifts occur, it is important for us to identify emerging trends in the ICI construction trades. There is often miscommunication between different levels and we want to help align the needs of employers with the needs of workers and our future tradespeople.”

The surveys have been designed to collect information from a broad segment of the industry. The study encourages participation from students, employers, and both union and non-union tradespeople from across the province. The surveys are available online by visiting www.novascotiaconstruction.com, or by requesting a printed copy through the NSCSC. Participants will be entered in a draw to win one of two rugged Motion personal computers (PCs) designed for industrial use, donated by [Motion Computing®](#) and [Dymaxion Research Limited](#) in Halifax.

“This project will benefit the industry in a number of capacities,” says project co-sponsor Brad Smith, Executive Director of Mainland Nova Scotia Building and Construction Trades Council. “Our goal is to help define regional gaps in areas such as: employment opportunities, training and apprenticeship, job-

readiness, mobility issues, trade certification, and forecasted labour supply. This information will benefit all sides of the industry.”

“It is important for us to participate in this project because it will have a direct effect on the future of employment in our province,” adds Duncan Williams, President of the Construction Association of Nova Scotia and co-sponsor of the project. “By identifying specific issues impacting hiring within the industry and assessing labour market supply and demand gaps, we will be able to advocate for policy change accordingly.”

The Labour Market Assessment project will also include interviews with prominent stakeholder groups in the ICI community including purchasers of construction. GroupATN Consulting Inc. of Halifax has been hired to complete the assessment. The entire project is estimated to take 10-12 months to complete, with the final report communicating the project findings to be released in early 2015.

The Labour Market Assessment is an update of a similar project completed by the Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council in 2007 and 2001.

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