

Message from Regional Manager Jeff Richardson

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,



Happy New Year to all our members and partners!

As I reflect back on 2019, I am proud of the hard work of our organizing team. They are hitting the ground running day after day, reaching new contractors and gaining ground on existing relationships with contractors all around the province. Not only have they brought forward applications but have also signed 17 new voluntary recognition agreements in 2019. This has created new opportunities for our members and contractors. I am proud to share with you our organizing team was awarded the trophy for Top Organizing Team in the region at the 2019 Year End Organizing Conference. It is proudly on display in our lobby at 1000 Sackville Drive.

This holiday season included lots of festive fun for the Local, it was great to see so many members come out to the General Meeting and enjoy some socialization and great food and prizes. We hosted a wonderful event to recognize the important work of our Shop Stewards, the work they do is so integral to the organization and it was our pleasure to host an event in their honor. Lots of holiday cheer was felt around the building and beyond with contributions to Feed NS which exceeded our expectations, thanks to all who donated and supported our communities.

I hope each of you enjoyed the season, 2020 is shaping up to be a banner year for our organization and we could not have done it without each one of you. All the best to you and yours in the new year.

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Richardson

Contractor Spotlight: Pinaud Drywall & Acoustical



It's been a busy fall season for Pinaud Drywall & Acoustical with projects throughout HRM. Featured above is the crew at Eastern District School in Sheet Harbor. This large project has a current crew of approximately 18 members onsite and the expected completion date is fall 2020. On November 6, our team from Local 83 visited the site and it was great to see a glimpse of sun and share a taste of summer with barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers. Everyone enjoyed a welcomed hot lunch. Like this site, Pinaud is busy with various other sites around HRM, some other site visits included the YMCA and Our Lady of Lebanon Church.



Non-perishable food donations were collected at 1000 Sackville drive in support of Feed NS throughout the month of December. Thank you to all who contributed, if you would like more information on how you can support your community, visit their website for more information. <https://www.feednovascotia.ca/>



Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades Council Update

The Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades Council's mandate includes promoting and developing business for our 11,000 members, and providing a united voice on issues affecting the professional trades. Our last article highlighted the importance of the work we do around government relations. This month, we're highlighting our advocacy work around Community Benefits Programs.

Over the last several months, we have been discussing the benefits of community benefits programs with municipal, provincial and federal stakeholders as a best value procurement approach. Community benefits are a tool to help local communities organize and leverage public infrastructure investments to create employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

Various levels of government have used community benefits agreements (CBAs) to incorporate community benefits provisions in infrastructure projects and programs. CBAs help to ensure public projects are completed on time and on budget, while providing benefits to the communities in which they are built. However, in Nova Scotia the "lowest bid" is still prevalent in much of our public procurement.

There are many examples of CBAs that would benefit members of Local 83, and the other 12 affiliated Locals of the Building Trades:

- Requirement for a percentage of the workforce be apprentices – building the workforce for tomorrow;
- Requirement for a local workforce – ensuring those at home get to work;
- Requirement for a percentage of under-represented groups – ensuring those groups including women and youth that experience higher than average unemployment get the opportunity to advance their skills;
- Paying fair wages and benefits, so bidding is based on safety and productivity, not discounted labour rates.

When there is a focus on best value procurement, Building Trades Unions are right for the job and able to deliver.

Carpenter Millwright College



Our Fall Carpentry Development Program has ended. It is bittersweet for us here at the School as we have come to enjoy seeing these faces every day in halls. We are so proud of all they have accomplished, and look forward to seeing what they bring to the industry. It is not too late to apply for our January session! Visit <http://www.carpentermillwrightcollege.ca/.../cours.../carpentry/> for more information or to register.

ACRC Texting Program

Sign up to receive texts from the Council right to your phone.

Text ACRC to 770077

Press send and you're enrolled!

Please note the ACRC does not charge members for this service; however, your standard text rates from your carrier may apply.

Dispatch Update!

The months of November and December saw a significant reduction in manpower requests in all sectors with a higher than average name hire ratio. There has been some noted growth with Lindsay Construction, formwork has begun at the new Healthcare Center in Middleton, and they are busy with renovations at the Harbourfront Marriott and have reached out to dispatch members who hold reliability status for work at CFB Shearwater. As the winter approaches, it is imperative to keep up to date with opportunities on our online job board; newly developed dispatch instructions are now available at the hall or by email, if you have not yet created a dispatch username and password, and need assistance, step-by-step instructions are available.

Meeting Reminder!

Monthly meetings are held in (four) locations (Stellarton, Sackville, Digby and Yarmouth) on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Stay in the loop and get news and information, on demand, and about the Atlantic Canada Regional Council.



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