



Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council

Industrial-Commercial-Institutional

For Immediate Release

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MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

Labour Shortage, Skills Shortage, Lack of Work – the Real Picture! Supply and Demand

Halifax, NS – The Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council – ICI has completed their 2005-2007 Labour Market projects: A **Labour Market Assessment** of the Industrial, Commercial, Institutional construction sector, an **Information Technology Skills for the Workplace Assessment** and the **Major Workforce Activity Schedule Model**.

Anecdotal reports and comments of labour and skills shortages within the construction sector drive concern and frustration among employers and labour representatives alike often clouding the issues at hand. The Labour Market cannot be defined in absolutes. The Labour Market Assessment details the current labour situation in Nova Scotia.

The **Labour Market Assessment** followed a “grassroots” approach to gathering labour market information from Union and Non-Union Labour, Employers and Business Managers. This study profiles the ICI construction sector from over 700 survey participants. It details the demographics of the sector, employment trends, worker availability, education, mobility, perspectives on entering the trades, etc. (Please see the attached “*Fact Sheet*” for more details)

Many employers state they have a difficult time finding employees with the basic skills required for new projects. The **Information Technology Skills for the Workplace Assessment** investigates the use of IT in the Construction Sector, barriers and obstacles to its adoption, occupations that would benefit from better utilized technology and knowledge and skill gaps among workers as technological skill requirements grow.

So how do we better align the demand for skilled labour and make the required skills and qualifications more apparent to both workers and employers?

The Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council developed the **Major Workforce Activity Schedule Model**. This schedule presents a compilation of information for major construction activities in Atlantic Canada. The schedule details the number, types and qualifications of tradespersons required per project over the next 24 months. It is a tool for employers and labour to coordinate supply and demand of skilled labour.

The Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council – ICI is a not-for-profit organization established to provide Labour Market and Human Resource Information to industry partners.

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