



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Increased funding for Building Futures for Youth program will allow more students to explore opportunities in the construction industry**

**Halifax, NS – (05/06/2016)** As part of Budget 2016-2017, the province has announced that more than \$12 million dollars will be invested in programs that provide skills, training and experience to connect young people to careers in Nova Scotia. Funding for Building Futures for Youth is expected to double from what the province has previously committed to the program.

“This announcement is extremely exciting for the program, all of its partners, the construction industry, and most importantly, for high school students throughout the province,” says Alain Lefebvre, Building Futures for Youth Lead at the Construction Association of Nova Scotia. “The increased resources are going to allow a greater number of Nova Scotia youth the opportunity to gain hands-on work experience and make valuable connections in our industry, while at the same time allowing a greater number of Nova Scotia employers the chance to identify, develop and retain their future workforce.”

The Building Futures for Youth (BFY) Program was created to help meet the current and future demand for skilled workers in the construction industry. Since the inception of the program in 2008, over 500 students across all eight regional school boards have participated at over 175 companies across Nova Scotia.

Premier Stephen McNeil commented that more young people are staying and working in Nova Scotia and this year’s budget is aimed at continuing this trend. Programs, including Building Futures for Youth, are helping youth get a foot in the door and obtain good jobs, allowing them to start their careers and build their lives at home.

“Building Futures has played a large role in what my future plans will be. I have been accepted to NSCC for the HVAC/R program, which I applied to because of my BFY co-op placement last summer with Black & McDonald. I am excited to get my foot in the door with a local company and work through my apprenticeship,” says Max Teeuwen, a grade 12 student at C. P. Allen High School.

Continues Teeuwen, “Increased funding will allow more students to participate in BFY, which is great for the program. Everyone I know who did the program loved their experience and all of the preparation it gave us for the job sites. The announcement from the Premier will help increase the appeal for young workers to stay in Nova Scotia.”

The Building Futures for Youth program offers grade 10 and 11 students the opportunity to safely explore careers in the construction sector through paid summer work terms. Through the program, students gain experience in a construction industry occupation, earn co-operative education credits, register as construction trades pre-apprentices, make connections with industry, become eligible for scholarship opportunities, and most importantly, gather information to help make informed choices about their future career.

Building Futures for Youth was developed in partnership with The Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS), NS Department of Education – English Program Services, NS Apprenticeship Agency, the Nova Scotia Community College, local school boards and industry representatives. Building Futures has partnered with the Nova Scotia Construction Safety Association to train and certify all of the students in Fall Protection and Scaffolding Awareness. As of 2015, Building Futures has also partnered with the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association (NSRBA) to connect students with employment opportunities.

For more information about the program, please contact Alain Lefebvre, Building Futures for Youth Lead at 902-468-2267 ext. 712 or [alefebvre@can.ns.ca](mailto:alefebvre@can.ns.ca)

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#### **About CANS:**

The Construction Association of Nova Scotia (n CANS) is the leading voice of the construction industry respected by members, government, industry, and the public. CANS represents more than 760 large and small companies throughout Atlantic Canada that build, renovate and restore non-residential buildings, roads, bridges and other engineering projects.

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