



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
BUILD A FUTURE**



## **For Immediate Release: Building Futures for Youth Celebrates 10 Years of Helping Students Explore Careers in the Construction Industry**

*NOTE: Media are invited to attend Building Futures for Youth Day. Please find attached a detailed program agenda, including start times.*

**Halifax, NS – (09/26/2017)** On Wednesday, September 27, 2017, over 120 Building Futures for Youth students, host employers and program partners will come together at an event to celebrate 10 years of helping Nova Scotian students explore careers in the construction industry.

“The Building Futures for Youth Program was created to help meet the current and future demand for skilled workers in the construction industry,” says Alain Lefebvre, Manager, Industry and Corporate Education at the Construction Association of Nova Scotia. “Since the inception of the program 10 years ago, 652 students across all eight regional school boards have participated, and 392 companies have come on board as host employers.”

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.

“If it wasn’t for the Building Futures for Youth program, I probably wouldn’t have secured the amazing job that I have now,” says Bradley Hubbard, a 2014 graduate of the program who now works with CKG Elevator in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

According to the most recent Building Futures for Youth alumni survey:

- Approximately 195,600 “Construction Trades Pre-Apprenticeship” hours have been earned by program participants
- 76% of program participants have worked in the construction industry since participating in the program
- 85% of program participants who are working in the construction industry are working in Nova Scotia
- 46% of program participants indicated they are registered apprentices

“Being a Host Employer since the very first year of the program in 2008 has been a great experience,” says Lester Buckland from Black & McDonald. “The students we have supported have always been eager to learn and arrive very well trained. I believe because of the rigorous selection process, we as employers are getting the best of the best.”

Building Futures for Youth was developed in partnership with the Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS), Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, 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.

To RSVP for Building Futures for Youth Day, or for more information about the program, please contact Michelle Peters, Building Futures for Youth Lead at 468-2267 ext. 711 or [mpeters@cans.ns.ca](mailto:mpeters@cans.ns.ca)

-30-

**About CANS:**

CANS represents more than 760 large and small companies that build, renovate and restore non-residential buildings, roads, bridges and other engineering projects. We are an industry trade association representing the interests of contractors, suppliers and service providers throughout Atlantic Canada and across the country. Construction is a \$3.8 billion a year industry in Nova Scotia and employs over 30,000 men and women from across the province.

**Media Contact:**

Colleen Fiske  
Communications & Marketing Lead  
Construction Association of Nova Scotia  
Cell: (902) 818-0835  
[cfiske@cans.ns.ca](mailto:cfiske@cans.ns.ca)