

Grade six students learn about opportunities in the construction industry

Halifax, NS – (06/27/2017) On Friday, June 23, grade six students from Holland Road Elementary School had a chance to explore the world of building and construction when they visited the Ikea construction site in Dartmouth Crossing.

The idea came about after Rene Cox, Chairman of CANS Board of Directors and VP Atlantic of Bird Construction Company, had a conversation with his daughter's teacher at Holland Road Elementary School about construction and the importance of educating kids at an early age about the wide array of opportunities available in the industry.

"As industry professionals and parents, I think there is opportunity to take a more active role in helping kids connect their learning to real life practice," says Cox. "I am passionate about informing our kids how exciting and rewarding the construction industry can be. There are so many dynamic career opportunities in this industry it could make your head spin."

In advance of the site visit, students were asked to complete a homework assignment that allowed them to calculate various material quantities and construction cost estimates.

"This initiative engages students and educates them about the various aspects of the construction industry and how it relates to the work they are completing in school," says Duncan Williams, President of the Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS). "At this age, kids are learning about concepts, critical thinking and problem solving, and this exercise allows them to apply what they are being taught to a real construction project."

After the site tour, students gathered in a site trailer for an educational session on 3D computer technology (Building Information Modeling or BIM) as well as a crash course in safety principles on a construction site.

Glenn Wells is the grade six teacher at Holland Road Elementary School and attended the site visit with his students. "During this exercise, students were exposed to a variety of topics they are currently learning about, like technology and math, but also had the opportunity to explore green energy, mapping and other elements that go into the building of a construction site. It is a great learning experience that opened their eyes to future jobs they can explore."

Says Williams, "It is never too early for kids to explore opportunities in skilled trades, project management, engineering, etc. Even if they don't want to actually participate in the building process, there are plenty of opportunities to work in the industry as an accountant, designer, human resource professional, lawyer, estimator, architect, safety officer – the field is wide open. It is an amazing industry that is constantly evolving and changing."

CANS represents more than 780 large and small companies that build, renovate and restore non-residential buildings, roads, bridges and other engineering projects. CANS is 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. For more information about the Construction Association of Nova Scotia visit www.cans.ns.ca.

-30-

Media Contact:

Colleen Fiske
Communications & Marketing Lead, Construction Association of Nova Scotia
902-818-0835
cfiske@cans.ns.ca