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In Reply Please Quote Our File Number:

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Dear Stakeholder:

Over the past several months, the Department of Labour and Advanced Education has been consulting with the public to consolidate and amend the *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*. Improving and updating our regulations when necessary is part of the work underway to meet our goal of becoming the safest place to work in the country.

Since the consultation launched in September, we've received considerable feedback, and I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to share their ideas. You are some of the most engaged stakeholders in the country and I continue to be impressed with the value you place on safety. Your advice and input have been very valuable in helping us determine the best way forward. In fact, the consultation revealed that many of you want to be even more involved in the decisions around how these regulations, and future changes are made and rolled out.

Many of you have asked for the opportunity to participate in the drafting and implementation of safety regulations; you told us you want to have the time to fully understand impacts so that in the end we have a progressive, plain language regulatory framework that will contribute to safer workplaces and the protection of the provinces workers. We've listened, and have decided to completely re-think what regulatory changes are needed at this time. Together, we will re-evaluate how and when we implement updates and changes to our regulations in the future. We want to be sure that the people the regulations affect the most; workers, employers, labour unions and other valued safety partners have even more opportunity to have their say. We want to work alongside our stakeholders as we determine how safety regulations are designed and implemented.

I want to assure you that the feedback and input we've received to date will not be lost. The information collected so far has helped us make this very important decision, and will help guide our discussions going forward.

We will be in touch very shortly to provide more information on how you can get involved.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Conor O'Dea at Conor.ODea@novascotia.ca or 902-424-2157.

Thank you for all your participation in this important consultation.



Duff Montgomery
Deputy Minister