[Date]

[MP Name]  
House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada K1A 0A6

Dear [Honourable / Minister Name],

Payment delays are a significant bottleneck in Nova Scotia’s construction industry. Cash flow problems in the construction industry discourage hiring, lower investments in capital, training of apprentices and in the worst cases, lead to small business and personal bankruptcies. As one of your constituents, I am writing to say that the problem of delayed payments is unacceptable and to express my support for the adoption of prompt payment legislation in our province.

Our province needs a prompt payment solution that works for everyone including tradespeople, contractors, government and consumers. While this serious problem is being felt now in our industry, there is a serious risk to Nova Scotia’s competitiveness long-term if we do not take action to fix the issue. In December 2017, Ontario passed Bill 142 which amended the Construction and Lien Act to require payments to sub-contractors by general contractors within seven days of receiving payment from the project owner. This measure was supported across the construction sector by general contractors, trade contractors, suppliers, and labour groups and would be a fitting blueprint for Nova Scotia to follow.

The adoption of prompt payment legislation in Nova Scotia would stimulate the construction sector in our province at no cost to government, while bringing us in line with other jurisdictions. In the U.S., 49 of the 50 states have prompt payment laws. The United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S. all have federal prompt payment laws as well. These countries know that when contractors aren't paid for completed work that is not in dispute, everyone loses. This includes the provincial government, which funds substantial infrastructure projects. Taxpayers end up footing the bill for inefficiencies that could be easily addressed by passing legislation.

A prompt payment law would benefit the skilled trades by releasing cash flow in the industry: more cash would allow contractors to take a longer investment outlook and, hire more tradespeople and apprentices.

I am lending my voice to the hundreds of trade contractors across Nova Scotia who support this initiative and calling on you to ensure the government passes prompt payment legislation before the end of its mandate. Small businesses and the people who work for them are counting on you.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Company]