

Tim Jones



Tim Jones knew when he was 17 years old that sitting in a traditional classroom setting wasn't for him – a career in electrical construction seemed like the perfect fit. In 1979, Jones enrolled in the two-year electrical construction program at the Annapolis Regional Vocational School in Middleton (now known as the Nova Scotia Community College's Annapolis Valley Campus). After graduating from the program, Jones worked for two years in Western Canada and in 1984 returned to the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia to complete his apprenticeship.

Upon completion of his electrical construction apprenticeship, Jones moved to the Halifax area and continued to work in his trade until the Spring of 1990. This was a pivotal time in his career – Jones chose to decline an international offer to an exciting new course to pursue his own company.

"My wife and I wanted to call Nova Scotia home, even though her family lived in British Columbia. Our first son was two at the time and we went on to raise three children," says Jones. "I had a slow start building my own business that began at our kitchen table. After hard work and opportunities from my clients, we started to pursue a niche market in the energy sector." Over the next decade, Jones advanced his education to build his knowledge of the market and fuel his passion.

There have been many take-aways from owning his own business, but Jones says that "doing what you said you'd do, when you said you'd do it, and doing it well," is the best approach in any construction career or project. "I realized early on that it wasn't about if we could do the job cheaper than everyone else – it was about doing the job right." Continues Jones, "The company needs to make money to thrive but by using this approach, you're better able to attract not only the best clients, but also top employees."

It is through this approach that Jones chooses to lead his team. "Treat your employees as you would want to be treated – be clear, honest, caring and understanding." Continues Jones, "Each employee is unique and has different needs that take consideration and deserve attention and action."

"If I could give advice to those thinking of beginning a career in construction or already established in their field, I would say in order to succeed and be a great employee, you need to work hard for what you want and show up." Continues Jones, "With the right attitude, you will learn and thrive in what I still believe to be the most rewarding career ever."

Jones has always been involved in the communities around him. Over the last 30 years of his career, he's volunteered in many organizations. In the late 1980s, Jones volunteered with Search and Rescue in Waverly. He eventually moved into a position

as a volunteer firefighter in Lower Sackville and Fall River – something that would span a 14-year period. He rose through the firefighting ranks from a Class 1 Firefighter to Lieutenant and finally Captain. Jones also served as an operator and was involved with fire prevention and earned a level three fire investigation during this time.

In relation to his career in construction, Jones says he had the honour of sitting on many Board of Directors' within the industry. These include the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, the Nova Scotia Community College, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency / the Compliance and Enforcement Advisory Group, the Nova Scotia Electrical Contractors Association, ITCE working group, the Construction Association of Nova Scotia's electrical division (when it existed), and he served on the review committee for the Red Seal Occupational Standards. Jones was also a board member for Merit Nova Scotia for many years and served as their Board Chair from 2012-2013. In addition, Jones was on the board for the International Association of Electrical Inspectors – Nova Scotia chapter for several years and served as Board Chair for two years. Finally, and because of his commitment to bettering his community, he volunteered his electrical knowledge by wiring homes and donating company resources to Habitat for Humanity.

Jones was asked what he sees as the biggest challenge facing the construction industry. "Despite the ever-changing challenges facing construction including climate change, free trade, skilled labour, compliance, pandemics, and the economy, the best opportunities lie with energy and how we produce and use it with the help from future technologies. Wind, solar, hydroelectricity, plug in electric vehicles, to name a few, have come a long way but much more can and will be done." Jones concludes, "Most of these existing and new technologies will have some sort of a tie to construction. I believe the companies that stay and grow along with advancing technologies will thrive in the future."

Tim Jones is the Founder and Co-owner of TJ Electric, a full-service electrical company providing estimates, design, procurement, installation and service. On behalf of CANS' Board of Directors, staff, members and volunteers, we celebrate Tim Jones as CANS 2020 Honourary Life Member.