

News Release

## **Direct Entry - An answer to Nova Scotia's skilled trades shortage**

Nova Scotia desperately needs more skilled trades professionals.

Here's how that can happen: **Direct Entry** and **Enhanced Direct Entry**, where candidates earn while they learn – Tool Time versus School Time. In today's tight labour market for skilled tradespeople, the new emerging trend is **Direct Entry** – the best opportunity for those who are ready to start a skilled trades career - today.

The Building Trades Advancement College (BTAC) is the largest private sector training program in Nova Scotia – For the Trades and By the Trades. Seven campuses operated by 13 Building Trades Unions representing over 12,000 of Nova Scotia's Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICI) Skilled Tradespeople in partnership with our 350 ICI Contractors.

BTAC offers direct entry opportunities for over 20 different skilled trades. Training is provided by trades professionals for the specific skills required by our contractors to minimize non-essential in-class time, so candidates get started right away, learning productive, safe work methods.

More pluses - most of this training is free and, as a member of the Building Trades Unions, tradespeople earn above average wages with full benefits and a pension.

With a few short weeks of training (depending on the trade), candidates can progress to learning on the job. When dispatched to the job, supervision, mentorship, on-the-job training and ongoing technical training are in place to support them throughout their apprenticeship journey.

Direct entry with enhanced direct entry training gets tradespeople on the job quickly – where they are needed.

In the coming weeks BTAC will continue to expand and promote direct entry opportunities to fulfill our mandate to supply the best and safest tradespeople to meet the growing needs of our Nova Scotia contractors.

Quick Facts:

- Candidates can get started right now at [www.btacns.com/getstarted](http://www.btacns.com/getstarted)
- BTAC is operated by the Building Trades Unions of Nova Scotia in partnership with 350 ICI contractors and is part of a national network of 175 training centers and over 500,000 unionized trades professionals represented by the Canadian Building Trades Unions.
- The Building Trades Unions in partnership with our contractors invest over \$7 million/year in workforce development through our training centers.
- The Building Trades Unions Tradespeople are 31% safer.\*
- The Building Trades mandate is to supply skilled, safe and productive tradespeople for our contractors, so the training is directly connected to contractor and labour force requirements in real time.
- The Building Trades Unions employ the majority of the construction apprentices in Nova Scotia and have the highest retention and completion rates in the industry.

Quotes:

“In today’s tight market for skilled tradespeople, now is the time to build awareness of **Direct Entry**. Now is also a generational opportunity to increase the number of under-represented and equity deserving groups to benefit from a well-paying trades career.

The Building Trades Unions have always been the leader in supplying the highest skilled, most productive and safest tradespeople.

We share the Premier’s goal of ‘more, faster’ and we wrote to him shortly after his October 19<sup>th</sup> skilled trades announcement, outlining the steps we’re taking to help meet that goal.”

**Brad Smith** – Executive Director, Mainland Nova Scotia Building Trades

“The unionized training centers are best in class and so important in ensuring our contractors have access to the safest and best trained tradespeople. We are proud of our partnership with the Building Trades Unions and support the work of BTAC.”

**Bob Shepherd** – President, Nova Scotia Construction Labour Relations Association – Unionized Contractor Association

\*Union Safety Research Institute for Work & Health/Ontario Construction Secretariat, 2020

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