



## NEWS RELEASE

### NB Building Trades Unions fully support Energy East

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Saint John, NB:** The head of the New Brunswick Building Trades Unions (NBBTU) says the Energy East pipeline project is about the future for NB construction workers.

*"The economy has been slow over the last few years in NB. This has caused many of our workers to travel out of province for work and many of our apprentices to struggle to achieve their journey person status." says NBBTU President Gary Ritchie, "Energy East will enable many New Brunswick workers to work at home in high salary jobs and foster the development the next generation of NB Skilled Trades workers"*

Gary Ritchie says that at present, New Brunswick is experiencing a significant shift in its construction workforce due to retirements and ongoing outmigration due to lack of major industrial construction investment. Energy East is an opportunity to support our existing NB workforce but also train our young apprentices who are our future construction workers.

*"Aside from the pipeline construction, many people probably do not realize that once these large scale infrastructure projects are built they need annual maintenance," says Ritchie, "Maintenance projects, keep many of our members employed. Last year, over 3000 of our Building Trades members worked at the Fall turnaround at the Irving Oil Refinery. In addition to annual maintenance work; large scale infrastructure investment can attract other construction investment."*

The NBBTU represents New Brunswickers with specialized skills needed in the construction industry and our members are ready to work. In April, 2015, an in-house NBBTU workforce survey revealed that some of their member locals were experiencing 70% unemployment rates.

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**About the NBBTU:** Originally formed on May 25, 1971, the New Brunswick Building and Construction Trades Council is a non-profit umbrella organization representing 18 building trade unions across 14 construction trades around the province with more than 8,700 active members. More commonly known as the New Brunswick Building Trades, the Council is a forum for unions in the NB construction industry to develop a common front on issues affecting the sector, such as Industry Legislation, Occupational Health and Safety Leadership, Trades Pre-employment & Apprenticeship Training Standards, Labour Representation on numerous Industry/Government Boards and Commissions, Jurisdictional Assignment Mediation and an Industry Best Practices Exchange. Overall the Council works with both employer organizations and government to improve the working situation of our union members as well as all construction workers in the province of NB. Our website: [www.nbbctc.com](http://www.nbbctc.com)

**Our Locals:**

Boilermakers Local 73, [www.boilermaker73.ca/](http://www.boilermaker73.ca/)

Bricklayers Local 8, [www.bac8nb.ca/about-your-local-bac-8/](http://www.bac8nb.ca/about-your-local-bac-8/)

Elevator Constructors Local 125, [www.iuec.org/](http://www.iuec.org/)

Heat & Frost Local 131, [www.heatandfrostinsulators.ca](http://www.heatandfrostinsulators.ca)

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 37, [www.ibew37.com/](http://www.ibew37.com/)

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 502, [www.ibew502.org/main.html](http://www.ibew502.org/main.html)

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 1555, [www.ibew1555.ca/](http://www.ibew1555.ca/)

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 2166, [www.ibewlocal2166.com/](http://www.ibewlocal2166.com/)

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 946, [www.local946.com/home.html](http://www.local946.com/home.html)

Ironworkers Local 842, [www.ironworkers842.ca](http://www.ironworkers842.ca)

Labourers Local 900 [www.liuna.ca](http://www.liuna.ca)

UA Local 213 Plumbers & Pipefitters, [www.ualocal213.org/](http://www.ualocal213.org/)

UA Local 325 Plumbers & Pipefitters, [www.ualocal325.ca/](http://www.ualocal325.ca/)

Carpenters Local 1386, [www.acrc.ca/join-us/new-brunswick/carpenters-local-1386/](http://www.acrc.ca/join-us/new-brunswick/carpenters-local-1386/)

Sheet Metal/Workers Local 437, [www.local437.ca/sheet-metal/](http://www.local437.ca/sheet-metal/)

Sheet Metal/Roofers Workers Local 437, [www.437.ca/sheet-metal/](http://www.437.ca/sheet-metal/)

NB Regional Council of Millwrights Local 2262, [www.acrc.ca/locals/new-brunswick/contact/millwrights-local-2262/](http://www.acrc.ca/locals/new-brunswick/contact/millwrights-local-2262/)