



NEW BRUNSWICK BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
Conseil des métiers de la construction du Nouveau-Brunswick

In Affiliation with

Building and construction trades department

American federation of labor – congress of industrial organizations

June 5th, 2014

Subject: Call for Immediate Support – Lorneville Barge Terminal

I am writing this letter on behalf of the **New Brunswick Building & Construction Trades Council** (NBBCTC) which represents 8,000 'rank and file' members to ask that you support the proposed Lorneville Barge Terminal in Saint John.

The NBBCTC membership is sure that this project has the potential to provide much needed work for our members both short term and into the future. In our opinion it is long overdue that New Brunswick residents have access to a facility that can compete on the Canadian and world market when it comes to the fabrication of modular units. I understand this project has been on the table and has been worked on for approximately 10 years and a lot of time and effort has been made to bring it to fruition. Currently we have the businesses and expertise to build the modules but we lack the ability to transport them to market due to current transportation methods. This project is estimated to cost around six million dollars and has the potential to create long term year round employment for many people and long lasting positive economic and social impact on the province.

As you may be aware, modular fabrication is a very popular and extensively used method now employed to build many units for construction projects. They are built in a controlled environment at a large fabrication shop, shipped in modules to the construction site and then pieced together. The result is that construction time on big projects is reduced as it allows for many things to happen in parallel whereas in the past things were built on site and installed in much smaller pieces one after another. Modular fabrication is now proven as cost and time efficient and will become the method of choice for most applications on construction projects where possible.

Currently there is a high demand for skilled people in this area of expertise; I have many friends working in the Western provinces, living away from their families, working long hours and living in work camps. Please do not get me wrong, like these people I am very appreciative for the opportunity as at least there is a place where we can earn a living and support our families. Some leave their family here and commute via airplane back and forth. This leads to many strains and stresses on the family unit. The more devastating scenario I witnessed, and the one that worries me the most, is when young people sell of their belongings and take their family and permanently move out of our province. This causes many short term and long term issues for everyone here. In 2013, members of the NB Building & Construction Trades Council had over 1500 hundred members working out of province.

In the present and into the future there will be a need to have a sound economic base in our province to ensure there is funding available for public services such as hospitals, schools and transportation infrastructure. These types of initiatives are required.

In closing, we have an opportunity to capitalize on the many strengths New Brunswick has to offer. The Bay of Fundy offers ice free ports; we have available many of the persons with the expertise to engineer, construct and support the construction of these modules; we have companies established in Lorneville currently with fabrication facilities that hold a reputation as word class businesses; there is room to expand to bring in more businesses in the Lorneville industrial park; and the demand for fabrication is up across Canada and the world. The benefit to New Brunswick can be exponential.



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I believe it is the time to take the necessary steps to “**Stop Exporting our Artists and Start Exporting their Artwork**” so that we can all benefit as New Brunswickers.

Very best,

Gary Ritchie
President,
New Brunswick Building & Construction Trades Council

