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BUILD BETTER. LIVE BETTER.

BuildRightNS.ca

February 4, 2021

Via Email

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant
Office of the Municipal Clerk
Halifax
Email: rosssis@halifax.ca

Dear Mr. Ross-Siegel:

Re: Presentation to Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

Build Right Nova Scotia represents 11,000 unionized tradespeople (including 2,700 apprentices) and 350 contractors in the Industrial/Commercial/Institutional construction sector, building offices, schools, hospitals, libraries, apartments and other infrastructure across our province.

We applaud and support HRM's Fair Wage/Living Wage and Social Value Framework as an important tool to address the systemic issues we face in our society.

Following an exchange with Co-Chairs, Councillor Blackburn and Councillor Austin, we request the opportunity to present our perspectives to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee on this important issue.

The three specific areas as related to the Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICI) construction industry we wish to highlight:

- There are many different organizations and associations representing different sectors of the construction industry. Build Right is the voice of the unionized in the ICI sector.

- Lowest bid is not always the best value. We believe The Social Value Framework is an important component in the bid evaluation for HRM procurement.
- We believe that HRM should also consider following the Province of Nova Scotia's lead in requiring metrics and measurements on Apprenticeship, Diversity and Inclusion as a component of bid requirements for infrastructure investment.

Brad Smith will be presenting (with a short slide deck) and two additional attendees, Bob Shepherd and Jack Wall will be on hand for any specific questions that may arise.

The Social Value Framework will not resolve all the systemic issues and economic challenges faced by our community. But it is an important step and demonstrates leadership and political will to help address these issues. We look forward to the opportunity to provide our perspectives, and to support your efforts in making HRM a more equitable community to work and live.

Regards,

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Original Signed

Original Signed

Brad Smith
Executive Director
Mainland Building Trades

Robert Shepherd
President
NSCLRA

Jack Wall
President
Cape Breton Building Trades

Build Right Nova Scotia is a partnership of expert unionized tradespeople and contractors working together to bring the best in construction quality to Nova Scotia. We are 350 contractors and 11,000 unionized tradespeople (including 2,700 apprentices), who work together to construct this province right, one building at a time, making sure they are strong and safe.