



# NEW BRUNSWICK BUILDER

Official publication of the Construction Association of New Brunswick (CANB)

2024



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New UNB Engineering Commons nears completion



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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John-Ryan Morrison



Thinking back about all that has been accomplished over the last year, I am beyond proud of the role I have played in moving the association to new heights on behalf of our board of directors and members.

These major initiatives that the Construction Association of New Brunswick (CANB) has undertaken and led in 2023 will help forever change the landscape of the construction industry in New Brunswick (NB). These include:

- Lead advocate for the establishment of the Department of Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour and the Labour Force Adjustment Committee to address the critical labour shortages in the construction industry.
- Lead proponent for the joint federal and provincially funded 100-Day Challenge, designed to find innovative immigration pathways into the NB construction industry.
- Lead advocate for the establishment of the Department of Early Education and Childhood Development's Skilled Trades Centre of Excellence to promote the skilled

trades and the construction industry in the New Brunswick K-12 school system.

- Lead advocate for the Provincial Government's Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication Act receiving royal assent.

It has taken an immense amount of work to simultaneously lead these major projects for our one-person provincial office, but it has also been rewarding knowing the difference it will make for an entire industry.

The direction for our advocacy efforts came from another significant 2023 project when we undertook developing CANB's first strategic plan. Through multiple planning sessions, membership engagement activities, and strong board work, the CANB released a three-year strategic plan, including new vision and mission statements. This important governance exercise will ensure the association has a path forward as the 'voice' of the construction industry.

I continue to represent the association nationally and in the past year I have attended the Canadian Construction Association's (CCA) Hill Day, the

CCA's Annual Conference, and the CCA's COO Symposium. I enjoy the opportunities to learn from other associations, as well as being active in these meetings offering my experience and successes with interested colleagues. One thing that I take away from every national conference I attend is how much good work is being done in the province by our association and government partners. We are truly national leaders in a lot of these files and our efforts on behalf of the entire industry should be lauded.


Summarizing everything our office does for our members in one page is difficult, there is a lot of other work being done with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, Bid Depository, CINet 2.0, and joint industry engagement to improve the entire construction industry.

I want to thank all board members, especially the members of the executive committee, for their work and guidance in helping our provincial office become such a strong voice for our members. ↗

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CANB



## Andrew Myers

If there was a single word that described the Construction Association of New Brunswick's (CANB) 2023, it would be "collaboration". The association has had a significant year as the voice of the construction industry in New Brunswick with several major projects and milestones being achieved through collaboration with industry associations and several provincial government departments, as well as most recently with the federal government.

Every job site in the province is suffering from a labour force crisis and it is affecting our members in their ability to bid on work, keep timelines, and grow. With 2,000 current vacancies and 10,000 expected vacancies in the next 10 years, all data points to immigration as the only solution to solve this problem.

Early in 2023, the CANB's executive director, along with the presidents of CANB Moncton NE and the New Brunswick Business Council, decided to work collaboratively to take on this problem on behalf of the construction industry. They recruited the executive directors of the Canadian Home Builders of Association of New Brunswick (NB), the NB Building Trades Union, and the NB Multicultural Council to discuss a unified and innovative approach to develop pathways for immigrants into the provincial construction industry. Throughout the summer and fall, this collaboration extended to a project partnership working with the Department of Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour, Working NB, Immigration NB, and ACOA in forming a Labour Force Adjustment (LFA) committee with the CANB as the proponent. The

focus of the LFA is the identification of barriers and solutions for international recruitment, employer/workplace readiness, and credential recognition, which includes teaching skills and training to newcomers already in the province.

The next major milestone achieved in 2023 was the completion of the CANB's first strategic plan. Built collaboratively through strategic planning sessions, board discussions, and membership polls, its vision statement has become to "grow the New Brunswick economy through a proactive, innovative, and resilient construction industry" which will be done through its new mission statement of "leading the construction industry in New Brunswick through advocacy, collaboration, and innovation". This important step forward will serve as a platform to grow the association over the next three years.

With the rising cost of construction, high inflation, and multiple supply chain threats, the financial risk being placed on our members is at an all-time high. Our association achieved a major advocacy win this year when on June 16, the Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication Act received royal assent. Our executive director was singled out and

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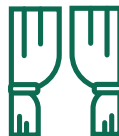
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recognized in the legislature by all three political parties for his relentless work on behalf of industry to make it become a reality. Unfortunately, since that day, our association still awaits consultation with the province to review the draft regulations to ensure our industry is protected. Our association is steadfast that no department, Crown corporation, private company, or industry is exempt from the act. We believe that no one should be exempt because we believe in business fairness and growing New Brunswick together.

Another win for our associations and its members happened in November when, after a year of advocacy and collaboration, the Department of Early Education and Childhood Development launched the Centre of Excellence for Skilled Trades and

Manufacturing. The CANB is proud to be a founding and funding partner of this exciting initiative aimed at introducing construction and skilled trades earlier into the school system across the province. We have enjoyed working closely with the dedicated staff at EECD to get this off this ground and we look forward to this working partnership.

Also in November, a selection of CANB staff and board members from across the province attended the Canadian Construction Association's (CCA) annual Hill Day, the flagship event of their national advocacy efforts. With over 90 industry reps from Newfoundland to Victoria and everywhere in between, we met in Ottawa to collaborate and seek political support for three key

recommendations affecting our industry nationwide. We were able to collectively meet with 75 unique members of parliament to discuss the need for a comprehensive long-term infrastructure plan; addressing workforce shortages; and modernizing procurement processes. These were all very timely topics given that all three topics have also been problem areas that the CANB has discussed with the Province in efforts to improve the entire industry here in New Brunswick.

Through collaboration with industry, key government departments, and staff, our association has strengthened its position as the voice of the construction industry, and we are looking forward to continuing this hard work in 2024. ↗

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# BUILDING ON OUR COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY

## The CCA advancing need for foundational infrastructure and workforce capacity

*By Mary Van Buren, president,  
Canadian Construction Association*



Canadian  
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Representing 18,000+ member firms, the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) is proud of our mission to inspire a progressive, innovative, and sustainable construction industry.

The key to our collective success is working with valued partner associations like the Construction Association of New Brunswick. Together, we are driving impactful change on key issues, benefitting not just our industry, but New Brunswickers and all Canadians.

2023 marked a pivotal moment for the CCA and the Canadian construction industry – a year where we demonstrated our unwavering commitment to building a stronger Canada through partnership, planning, and consultation.

### **A strong foundation for a stronger Canada**

With many Canadians distressed about the housing crisis, high cost of living, and economic uncertainty impacting their daily lives, the CCA launched an industry call to action urging the federal government to partner with the construction industry on building a strong foundation for a stronger Canada. Hundreds of letters were sent to local MPs reminding them of the urgency to partner with the Canadian construction industry on a comprehensive infrastructure plan, workforce development, and procurement modernization.

This campaign was bolstered by our annual Hill Day event on November 7, where close to 100 industry experts met with parliamentarians to discuss the construction sector's essential role in creating and maintaining the infrastructure Canadians use daily. This includes the foundational infrastructure at the heart of new homes and communities. Over 70 meetings were held throughout the day, followed

by a reception that evening where the CCA, our members, and partner association leaders were joined by several parliamentarians, including the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages, Randy Boissonnault, to discuss the industry's critical needs.

Looking to 2024, the CCA will be increasing our advocacy efforts to ensure that infrastructure is not an afterthought, rather the foundation of a stronger Canada. Collaborating with our partner associations from across Canada will continue to be a cornerstone of how we operate, maximizing our collective expertise, reach, and connections to benefit the industry.

### **Advancing a Canadian Trade Infrastructure Plan**

A core focus of our 2023 advocacy efforts involved the launch of the Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan (CTIP). Working with several industry partners, we are gaining traction in our pursuit of more investment in trade-enabling infrastructure across the country. Canada's declining reputation as a global trade partner was a top concern at a meeting of premiers and territorial leaders last July, where the Council of the Federation unanimously endorsed CTIP's proposals and requested a First Minister's meeting with the federal government to discuss the need for a strategic trade corridor infrastructure program. New Brunswick is an important trade gateway and stands to benefit from this strategy.

### **Workforce remains an urgent priority**

We have laid a strong foundation with the federal government to rebuild Canada's construction workforce through immigration programs and investing in the promotion of skilled trades. The Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship initiated a new

process under the Express Entry program to welcome skilled newcomers with work experience in occupations considered a priority in Canada. Ten occupations in construction – including carpenters, plumbers, welders, and electricians – are now included in the list of nearly 83 jobs.

The urgent need for skilled trade workers received nationwide attention through our partnership on the Canadian Apprenticeship Service (CAS). Within the first six months of the CAS program, millions in funds have been dispersed to eligible employers and 47 per cent of the apprentices self-identified as being from an equity-deserving group.

### Fair procurement

We've moved the needle on improvements to procurement and project delivery by expanding our outreach to public

owners and promoting the use of CCDC documents. The CCA obtained a commitment from government leaders at its semi-annual Meech Lake meeting to establish a working group on procurement and project delivery methods.

CCA's Best Practices Services is delivering new resources – some of which are being developed through the work of our National Advisory Councils. We recently produced a two-part webinar series to guide our members on the implementation of the Federal Prompt Payment for Construction Work Act. You can also watch one of our past Read Your Construction Contract webinars or enroll in an upcoming CCDC Seminar in April or May to help guide you on the use and application of some of the new or soon-to-be released CCDC documents. We are also making contract management simpler and more transparent with our soon-to-be-launched contract management platform, SignaSur.

## Stay in touch!

You can count on the CCA to be a collaborative partner to the Construction Association of New Brunswick, providing helpful tools, sharing best practices across the country, and being your voice with the federal government.

Stay in the loop by subscribing to the CCA's newsletter at [bit.ly/ccasubscribe](https://bit.ly/ccasubscribe), by following @ConstructionCAN on Twitter, or by looking up the Canadian Construction Association on LinkedIn. ↗

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*By Chanel Roberts, Manager, Education and Gold Seal Certification Program,  
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**CARRIE WATSON**  
Osco Construction

*Past President*  
**ROB CARVELL**  
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*Vice-President*  
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*The following individuals have agreed to serve as voting board of directors of the Construction Association of New Brunswick:*

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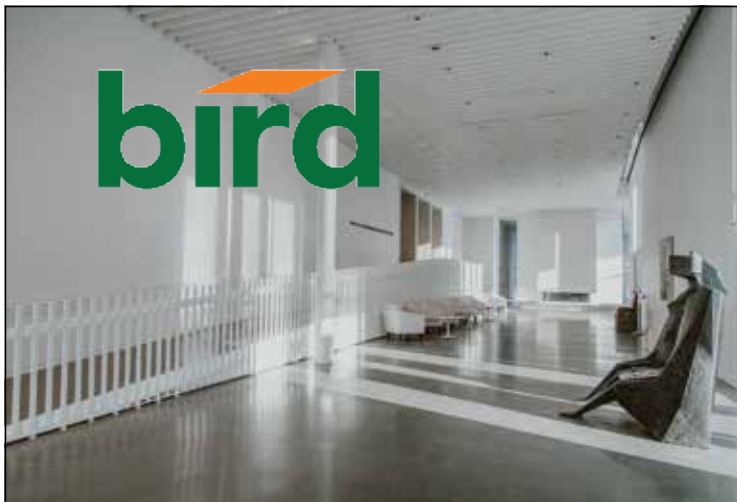
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- **Networking** – The CANB hosts numerous social functions throughout the year, such as dinner meetings, curling, and golf events. These events provide members with endless networking opportunities.
- **Education** – The CANB sponsors a number of informative education programs through seminars or dinner meetings. Topics covered include construction law, construction document reading, estimating, and job planning.

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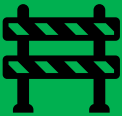





# NB CONSTRUCTION STAT PACK

<p><b>7%</b></p> <p>NB Construction Industries' contribution to the provincial GDP</p>	<p><b>\$2.4 B</b></p> <p>Value of current construction projects in NB</p>	<p><b>\$1.7 B</b></p> <p>Value of proposed construction projects in NB</p>	<p><b># 1</b></p> <p>Construction's rank as an employer in NB's goods sector</p>
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 <p><b>16%</b></p> <p>Increase in labour force costs since Jan 2020</p>	 <p><b>32%</b></p> <p>Increase in cost of construction materials since Jan 2020</p>	<p><b>\$6.2 B</b></p> <p>Real investment in NB's ICI sector since Jan 2020</p>
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<b>2925</b>	Number of Construction firms in NB (1,563 with active apprentices)	
<b>29,500</b>	Number of New Brunswickers working in construction (14,245 in trades)	
<b>\$69,936</b>	Avg. yearly wage of NB construction employee's (\$1.1 B cumulative yearly wage)	
<b>9,200</b>	Number of construction job openings in NB due to retirements and expansion by 2032	
<b>3,800</b>	Number of construction jobs in NB that will be unfilled due to labour shortage by 2032	
<b>3.5%</b>	Percentage of the construction wage force in NB that are indigenous or immigrant.	

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# GROWTH AND RETIREMENTS COULD CREATE A HIRING GAP OF MORE THAN 9,000 WORKERS IN NEW BRUNSWICK BY 2033



A short-term pause, and mostly gradual increases thereafter, should ease labour market pressures in New Brunswick to 2033 – but replacing retiring workers could be a challenge

*By Klayton Gonçalves, Senior Economist and Head of Business Intelligence, BuildForce Canada*

Construction activity in New Brunswick has been on an upward trend since 2020, driven by rising residential-sector demand and strong annual performances in the non-residential sector. That period of growth, however, is expected to pause in the short term before demands rebound in 2026 and carry through to 2033.

The challenge for the sector will be replacing the more than 20 per cent of its current labour force, or 6,100 workers, who are expected to retire over the next 10 years.

Released in March, BuildForce Canada's 2024–2033 Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward report for the province finds New Brunswick entering a period of muted activity in the near term. Rising interest rates have curbed residential investment, and investment in new single-detached housing units in particular, since 2022. They are expected to do so again in 2024.

Demand for new residential construction is expected to rebound in 2025 and through to 2029 as these rates stabilize. Renovation activity, meanwhile is expected to grow across the forecast period – a trend that will likely be driven by an aging provincial population that prepares to age in place as opposed to moving homes.

Activity in the province's non-residential construction sector has been on an upward trend since 2020, driven initially by projects and programs designed to spur the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. As many of these works culminate or conclude after 2023, non-residential sector investment levels are expected to plateau across the short term. Growth increases substantially, and sharply, in 2026 and to the end of the forecast period as work begins at NB Power's multi-billion-dollar Mactaquac Dam refurbishment project.

Most of New Brunswick's non-

residential sector investment growth will be driven by this project.

Although positive, and driven across all building types, the outlook for growth in the industrial, commercial, and institutional buildings sector is far more muted by comparison.

The combination of these trends is expected to increase employment in the province's residential sector by approximately eight per cent (with growth exclusive to renovation and maintenance activity) and in the non-residential sector by nearly 10 per cent (with growth more concentrated in engineering-construction employment).

The good news for the province is that growth across both sectors will be gradual enough to not create significant strains on the labour markets for the key trades and occupations tracked by BuildForce Canada. Most will experience balanced conditions across our forecast period.

New Brunswick's challenge will lie with replacing the 6,100 workers, or 21 per cent of its current labour force, that is expected to retire by 2033. When combined with the increase created by rising demands, the province could face a recruiting gap of as many as 9,200 workers by 2033. Although as many as 6,000 of these positions are expected to be filled by new entrant workers under the age of 30 from the local population, a gap of some 3,200 workers could emerge.

Closing this gap will require new approaches to recruiting and retaining workers from among not only conventional sources such as provincial apprenticeship programs, but also traditionally under-represented groups, such as women (who comprised just three per cent of on-site workers in New Brunswick), Indigenous people (who accounted for under four per cent of on-site workers in the province), and newcomers to Canada, who are growing as a percentage of the province's total workforce, but who account for just five per cent of the province's construction labour force.

Closing New Brunswick's construction hiring gap over the next 10 years is not an insurmountable challenge. The industry has clear opportunities to address its labour force needs by increasing the participation rate of women, Indigenous people, and newcomers. It must, however, act now to ensure it is well positioned for success in later years. ↗



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# CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK TEAMS UP WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO FILL THE CONSTRUCTION LABOUR DEFICIT

The 100-Day Challenge meant to fast-track a course toward solutions

By Ernest Granson



*A 100-Day challenge, delivered by the Pond Deshpande Centre (PDC), is bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, including federal and provincial government, industry experts, academia, and community, to develop innovative solutions that leverage immigration and address the critical labour gaps within New Brunswick's construction sector. Photo Supplied by PDC Facilitators.*

The housing shortage and immigration – those two terms seem to go hand-in-hand across Canada these days. Every province in the country is experiencing population growth, some more rapidly than others and much of it because of interprovincial and international

immigration. New Brunswick (NB) is no exception. According to the New Brunswick Real Estate Association, the province netted an increase of 4,210 people in the fourth quarter of 2023, an increase of 6.4 per cent over the same quarter of 2022. International immigration was

responsible for a 34 per cent increase in population, or 3,908 new residents in the same time frame. This is the quickest expansion of population in the province in the past 40 years.

While population growth is ordinarily seen as a positive trend, at this time, it poses a conundrum. For New



Brunswick, there aren't enough homes to house all those people moving in from across Canada and other parts of the world and there aren't enough construction workers to keep up with the need. All sorts of consequences, such as rapidly increasing homelessness, can result from this situation. It was this urgency that led the Government of New Brunswick to create a Labour Force Adjustment Committee (LFAC) to find ways to close the labour shortage gap.

The province contributed \$250,000 towards moving the process ahead while the federal government added \$190,612 through Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's (ACOA) Regional Economic Growth through Innovation (REGI) program.

Composed of multiple stakeholder groups, the LFAC commenced a fast-track approach to arrive at pragmatic solutions by initiating a 100-Day Challenge beginning at the end of January 2024. The committee wrapped up its 100 days of brainstorming earlier this spring.

The Construction Association of New Brunswick (CANB) is the main proponent of the initiative and led the recruitment and establishment of the LAFC. CANB executive director, John-Ryan Morrison, says the participants are quite pleased with the progress made by the challenge and credits the fact that so many essential organizations and associations were involved.

"It's really the first time that all these industry associations and government agencies have come together to address such an important issue," says Morrison. "There's industry support from government officials, settlement



*Divided into three teams tackling, recruitment, workplace readiness, and credentials/skills recognition, 100-Day Challenge participants work alongside PDC facilitators to set ambitious goals to achieve by the end of 100 days. Pictured here is the recruitment team, guided by PDC facilitators, developing their 100-day plan. Recruitment Team pictured: Courtney Ivey (all in, PDC), Kristen Shaw (OSCO), Bronwyn Dunphy (Arsenault Bros), Andrew Nelson (Homestead Bay Contracting), Michelle Gordon (Maple Leaf Homes), Jennifer Rietzel (Rietzel Landscaping), Sristi Panta (NBMC), and Peter Wilson (Dowd Roofing). Missing: Vanessa, Paesani (PDC), Ryan Downe (Colpitts Development Ltd.), and Eric Thibodeau (GNB). Photo supplied by PDC facilitators.*



*The credentials/skills recognition team, with support from PDC facilitators, explore removing barriers for internationally trained trades workers. Pictured here: Vanessa Currie (PDC, all in), Rebecca McSheffery (PDC), Jamie Slipp (NB Roofing Contractors Association), Rob Campbell (NBCC), Alain Gauvin (CCNB), Rick Smith (NB Building Trades Union), and Rob Reid (GNB). Missing from photo: Marion Rey (NBMC) and Tom Taylor (E.T. Mechanical) Photo supplied by PDC facilitators.*



*Katie Davie, executive director, Pond-Deshpande Centre.*



*Bronwyn Dunphy, people and culture manager, Arsenault Bros. Construction.*

services, groups involved with promoting skilled trades and groups responsible for bringing in potential workers. It's definitely the most collaborative effort that I've seen."

As Morrison explains, some 35 to 40 committee members were divided into three teams to deal with specific obstacles for their members in recruiting immigrants to New Brunswick.

"For those issues, we have been very strategic in building the teams with members of industry, representation from the NB multicultural council, industry support associations, and key government departments," says Morrison.

Given the number of groups of participants, it was important to designate a mediator or broker to provide direction. That responsibility fell to the Pond-Deshpande Centre (PDC), based at the University of New Brunswick. The PDC was founded 12 years ago by Gerry Pond and Desh Deshpande with the goal of bringing social mindedness to the business

sector and other sectors. Acting as a neutral party, the PDC enables multi-stakeholder groups to work together towards a common goal, which in this case is integrating immigration into the construction sectors, according to Katie Davey, PDC executive director.

"In 2017, PDC launched its social innovation lab, NouLAB, which, in turn, created the Economic Immigration Lab (EIL) at a time when the province was concerned about a declining population," says Davey. "Funded by the province and the ACOA, the EIL worked in parallel to the work being carried out by the Atlantic Immigration Pilot and the Atlantic Growth Strategy. We were brought in as a convener of multi-stakeholder groups, working on the project for three years. This provides context as to why PDC would be the right fit for this current project."

Davey goes on to explain that around seven per cent of the overall New Brunswick labour force is composed of newcomers, whereas in construction, it's closer to 3.5 per cent, which shows a very clear gap.

The impetus of this committee was to determine how to fill that gap when, not only are demands increasing on the construction sector based on population growth, but at the same time, the industry is faced with increased retirements and recruitment issues. Because they could identify this very clear problem, they decided to utilize a kind of rapid prototype method, which they call the 100-Day Challenge, rather than using a longer-range project.

"It meant we didn't have to spend as much time gaining consensus on the problem and, instead, it allowed us to focus on the solutions," she says.

And as Morrison mentioned earlier, Davey says members were recruited to take part in three teams to focus on three different issues: recruitment, workplace readiness, and credential recognition. The LFAC was critical in supporting that recruitment, particularly from the industry side because, while PDC brings the methodology, it doesn't necessarily have that deep relationship with the construction industry. So, taking part in the committee discussions were participants from industry, both large and small, homebuilders and industrial builders, and a cross section of government groups, such as settlement agencies.

"Bringing this diverse group to the table has led to the realization that industry and government have not been meaningfully talking to each other, which means that they don't really know what each other is doing or needs," Davey says.

For Bronwyn Dunphy with Arsenault Bros. Construction, a large company focused on people and growth, that

lack of communication has led to a gap in sharing within the construction industry. Dunphy, who is people and culture manager at Arsenault, says the construction industry is made up of companies with a wide range of sizes.

“There are companies ranging from five employees to companies that have hundreds of employees. Unfortunately, not every company possesses the resources to actively seek out and hire newcomers,” says Dunphy. “Unlike organizations with dedicated recruitment departments, many rely on project managers to handle hiring tasks. So, there are newcomers already in Canada but many employers simply don’t know where they are there. How can we marry those two together? How can we find the job bank of newcomers that are potential employees?”

Another critical issue with which construction companies are grappling are recruiting seasonal workers.

“There are a significant number of construction companies that are seasonal, and they are really challenged to find temporary workers because workers must be presented with a permanent offer,” says Dunphy. “So, we’re looking to see if a successful system like the seasonal agricultural worker stream can also be applied to the seasonal construction businesses. It’s these kinds of discussions that we’ve been having in our meetings.”

Morrison also feels that it’s essential to change the mindset of a generation that has been convinced being a tradesperson wasn’t desirable as a life career.

“Some 20 years ago, we experienced the removal of skilled trades from classrooms. Currently, with the

culture shift of the acceptance of remote work, high school grads may see the construction industry as involving long hours and hard, physical work. But the advantages are many: graduation within two to four years, depending upon the program; minimal to no student debt; an extremely stable industry; and a potential route for entrepreneurship

by opening your own business.”

With the culmination of the 100-Day Challenge, a “what’s next” workshop is likely to take place in a town hall setting to share some of the prototypes that have evolved out of the challenge and then, hopefully, implementation by industry and government. ↗



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# NEW CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE PROVIDES WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES

Students in the education system's anglophone sector can now gain further experience in their pursuit of a career in trades and manufacturing



By Lisa Kopochinski



The Centre of Excellence's first virtual learning activity was titled Sugar Shack – A Masonry Experience and was targeted toward Grades 3 to 5. Another session was done for Grades 6 to 8. More than 2,000 students from 75 different classrooms across the province took part in the first learning activity.

Students in the education system's anglophone sector can now gain experience and pursue a career pathway in trades and manufacturing with the support of the recently launched Centre of Excellence for Skilled Trades and Manufacturing.

With its goal to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities, the virtual centre first saw the light last November and is becoming well known for providing equitable opportunities to students across the province. The centre also provides professional development for teachers.

This is the fifth of six centres launched by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) as part of the Future New Brunswick initiative, which aims to provide experiential learning opportunities to students prior to graduation.

As of the end of April, there have been 22,620 student interactions with the centres, including 2,827 student interactions with the Centre of Excellence for Skilled Trades and Manufacturing since its launch.

Funded by the Construction Association of New Brunswick (CANB),

the Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium, and the Atlantic Canadian Opportunities Agency, the centre and its partners provide teachers with access to online and hands-on resources for the classroom. It also supports the development of curriculum, and virtual and experiential learning activities and experiences.

Nathan Langille is the lead for the centre. He says that the goal is to provide K-12 teachers and students with curriculum-connected learning activities that support teacher practice

**“We wanted to increase knowledge and interest in our construction industry during those formative years.”**

**– John-Ryan Morrison**

and give students a chance to experience and be exposed to careers in skilled trades and manufacturing while developing practical skills.

Langille adds that the centre is also working towards connecting teachers to industry events and learning opportunities, as well as bringing partners to present at professional learning sessions.

### Working together

Calling this a great example of what can be achieved when industry and the provincial government work together, CANB executive director, John-Ryan Morrison, says that the main advantage is that teachers across the province now have one website where they can go to find learning activities, career profiles, speaker series and experiential learning opportunities to increase students'



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**“These activities support teacher practice and give students a chance to experience and be exposed to careers in skilled trades and manufacturing while developing practical skills.”**

**– Nathan Langille**

knowledge of the skilled trades and construction industry here in the province.

As a founding partner of the centre, the CANB has been in conversation with the EECD for well over a year to establish a single source, department-managed website where teachers across the province can find resources to help increase interest in the skilled trades and construction industry earlier in young students’ education paths.

“Our association has worked close with EECD staff on content, promotion, connecting with industry, as well as a three-year funding commitment to help the centre hire a full-time lead,” says Morrison.

In addition to the CANB, other partners involved with the

centre include the Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium; the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; McCain Foods; New Brunswick Community College; Malley Industries; Skills Canada NB; Atlantic Masonry Institute; New Brunswick Roofing Contractors Association; MAP Strategic Workforce Services; and Opportunities NB.

### Wide range of support

The centre offers a wide range of support and opportunities to students that include:

- Interactive learning activities and events;
- The ability for K-12 students to participate in industry networking events;

- Support for the New Brunswick Teen Apprenticeship Program;
- Access to training centres and presentations from guest speakers;
- Co-ordination of engagement days (site visits), micro-internships (one day placements), and co-op placements;
- Assistance in providing curriculum with the development of micro-credentials.

Morrison adds that students as young as 10 and 11 years old start thinking about their post-secondary aspirations, “so, we wanted to increase knowledge and interest in our construction industry during those formative years.”

The centre’s first virtual learning activity was titled Sugar Shack – A Masonry Experience and was targeted toward Grades 3 to 5. Another session was done for Grades 6 to 8. More than 2,000 students from 75 different classrooms across the province took part in the first learning activity.

“The first question of this exercise was to ask the students, ‘What is masonry?’ and when you have eight-year-olds responding, ‘building with bricks’ or ‘construction,’ you know the work you did to get the Centre of Excellence established was well worth it,” says Morrison.

Perhaps, Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Bill Hogan summed things up best when he told local media last fall that “this Centre will increase awareness of available career pathways in New Brunswick and grow our province’s human resource capital to meet the needs of the labour market. We want young New Brunswick talent to stay in our province.” ↗

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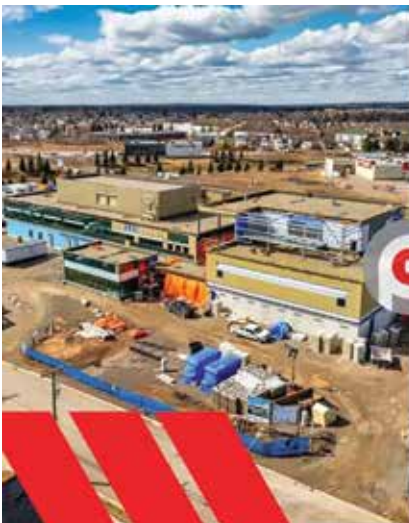
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# Construction Association of New Brunswick Strategic Plan

SEPTEMBER 2023 TO AUGUST 2026

## Vision Statement:

Grow the New Brunswick economy through a proactive, innovative and resilient construction industry.

## Mission Statement:

The Construction Association of New Brunswick (“CANB”) will lead the construction industry in New Brunswick through advocacy, collaboration, and innovation.



## Governance

- Engage the Board of Directors in reviewing governance structures, including fiduciary duties of Directors, bylaws, committee charters, and conduct a comparative review with other jurisdictions.
- Review Strategic Plan and budget in terms of building capacity to fulfill Strategic Plan
- Create a written implementation plan for any governance changes reported to the Board quarterly

### GOVERNANCE OUTCOMES

Clarity of roles and responsibilities to drive the construction industry in New Brunswick into its future growth where members and local associations are strong strategic partners working together to advance industry

**Collaborati**





# Advocacy

- Based on member research, develop, and implement an annual advocacy plan outlining the issues to be addressed, the persons involved and the desired outcomes.
- Create quarterly reports for the Board on outcomes.

**ADVOCACY OUTCOMES**  
Clearly defined and measurable results of advocacy.



# Relationships

- Identify key stakeholders.
- Create a customized stakeholder plan to engage each stakeholder, updated for the Board every second quarter.
- Organize at least two events annually that engage stakeholders and members and fulfil the requirements of Mission Statement.

**COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS OUTCOMES**  
A positive, professional industry culture that supports its members, its communities, and its province by working together for common purposes.



# Build the Workforce

- Identify current construction industry/policies directed to schools, to women, to immigrants or other populations and offer impactful support.
- Determine gaps in opportunities for various populations in the construction industry and plan the best approach to assist such populations to enter the industry.

**BUILD WORKFORCE STRATEGIES OUTCOMES**  
The construction industry in New Brunswick has access to the labour force it needs, there is growth in revenue, and associations can bring increased resources to its members and associations.



*The new 18,400-square-foot Engineering Commons is a three-storey timber and glass structure that will expand and create new learning and teaching space. Rendering courtesy of the University of New Brunswick.*

# NEW UNB ENGINEERING COMMONS NEARS COMPLETION

**This three-storey structure will create new learning and teaching space to promote social interaction and increase capacity**

*By Lisa Kopochinski*

With substantial completion slated for late June and opening this fall, the new \$22.9 million Engineering Commons at the University of New Brunswick will be a “living laboratory” for students.

The new 18,400-square-foot space is a three-storey timber and glass structure that will expand the lobby of Head Hall and create new learning and teaching space to attract social interaction, and increase meeting and seminar capacity.

“Designed to encourage and enable collaboration and interaction among

students and faculty, the Commons’ ‘collision spaces’ will support the interdisciplinary teamwork that characterizes engineering practice today,” says Dr. Paul Mazerolle, president and vice-chancellor of the University of New Brunswick.

Located on the third floor, the design studio is a flexible multi-purpose space that will be primarily for undergraduate use and will house first-year design courses.

“Students in UNB’s seven engineering

programs share a common first-year curriculum, but need to learn to work together as they mature in their disciplinary knowledge,” explains Mazerolle. “Increased interaction in the commons will foster this ability and afford many opportunities for multi-disciplinary projects.”

He adds that UNB engineering students spend much of their four years working in teams on design problems of varying levels of size and complexity.



*The natural colour and finish of wood interacts well with the natural daylight from the curtain wall and skylight, to create a warm and inviting space to study and to collaborate. Rendering courtesy of Murdock & Boyd Architects.*

“The design studio will allow students to configure workspace to meet their teams’ needs and workstyles. This state-of-the-art studio will have all the tools needed to support student groups through the problem analysis and design process. It will be furnished with moveable tables and

chairs, soft furniture, easels, glass or white boards, projectors, huddle pods, video conferencing, lockers to store prototypes, as well as computers running all the software tools needed to create and refine their designs.”

The exposed services, such as

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**“This state-of-the-art studio will have all the tools needed to support student groups through the problem analysis and design process.”**

**– Dr. Paul Mazerolle**

the University of New Brunswick is building on its long and distinguished history as a leader with the construction of the engineering commons. This innovative space is designed to revolutionize engineering education and meet the needs of 21st century professionals.

The university is working with construction manager EllisDon and Murdock & Boyd Architects on this

impressive project, which includes updating the existing space, nearly 20,000 square feet of new space, and a new three-storey atrium.

“The project commenced in late 2016, with a series of stakeholder meetings, including students, faculty, and staff providing input as to what their vision was for more and improved collaborative work and social spaces for the engineering programs,” explains

Greg Murdock, president of Murdock & Boyd Architects. “This programming phase took a number of iterations, over a few years of consultation, resulting in the decision to create a student-focused engineering commons space.”

Jason Allain, the construction manager for the EllisDon New Brunswick operations, told *UNB News* that the Commons will be constructed with several innovative energy-efficient features that include LED lighting control systems sensors for sinks, and low-volume fixtures like toilets.

The atrium will provide most of the collaborative study and workspaces along with a relocated café, space for exhibiting student work, larger crush space for the Dineen Auditorium lobby, and a new grand front door entrance to the entire Head Hall Engineering Complex. The existing adjacent spaces to the atrium will see some upgrades in terms of architectural finishes, HVAC, lighting, and sprinkler protection.

When asked what stands out about this project, Murdock doesn't miss a beat.

“Architecturally—from the exterior—this addition clearly identifies the new front door entrance to this large five-storey, mostly brick masonry façade, post-secondary engineering school. The new entrance on the east-facing wall will be clad in glazed curtain wall to allow the atrium to be filled with natural sun-controlled, daylight.

A new roof-mounted skylight will add further daylighting to the atrium, but also into many of the existing adjacent spaces off of the atrium space. Most of the engineering systems will be exposed in the addition “allowing students to see and understand the science and art, as to how to incorporate the heating, ventilation, plumbing, electrical, and fire protection



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systems into this architectural structural solution, a living laboratory.”

## Mass timber design

While common in many parts of Canada, Mazerolle says that the mass timber design of this project is especially unique for Atlantic Canada.

“Built in 2011, the Richard J. CURRIE CENTER on the Fredericton campus incorporates mass timber in the design, but not to the extent of the Engineering Commons,” says Mazerolle. “The design is sustainable while also recognizing the importance and history of natural resources in the province.”

Murdock says it is truly unique in that it is the first use of an all-mass timber structural system in one project in New Brunswick.

“The entire design team considered various options for the structure. However, when considering the existing structural grid, it was optimal for spans of a mass timber structural system, which is comprised of the three main elements: glulam columns, glulam beams, and cross-laminated timber floor panels.”

Additionally, the natural colour and finish of wood interacts well with the natural daylight from the curtain wall and skylight, which creates a warm and inviting space to study and to collaborate.

Murdock adds that the biggest challenge of this project is the mass timber, as this was their first experience with using a complete mass timber structural solution. He adds they learned a number of valuable techniques as how to design and construct a mass timber addition to an existing multi-level building on a sloping site.

Other energy-efficient features of this impressive project include earth tube technology, which Mazerolle says will pre-heat or pre-cool fresh air used in the ventilation system by moving it through underground pipes to take advantage of the surrounding soil's temperature.

“A heat recovery chiller/heat pump will also be installed to heat and cool the renovated spaces by taking advantage of heat recovery and energy exchange from other parts of the building.”

## Student Success Centre

At the heart of the Commons is the 1,500-square-foot Student Success Centre.

Dr. Josh Leon, dean of UNB's Faculty of Engineering, told *UNB News* that this new space will allow for the expansion of services—including tutoring for core courses, peer mentoring, an early

**“The entire design team considered various options for the structure.”**  
— *Greg Murdock*

intervention program, counselling services, study skills courses, academic and career advising.

He says the faculty prioritizes teaching group dynamics to respond to the needs of the workplace. Additional space will allow the university to meet short-term goals, which also includes increasing student numbers.

“Engineering has changed a lot over the years. We need spaces for students to meet and get together. There is a huge demand for engineers in Atlantic Canada and across the country. This new space will not only speak to our history, but it also speaks to our future.” ↗



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ASEC exterior. Image courtesy of Diamond Schmitt and EXP.

# FROM HISTORIC ROOTS TO FUTURE INNOVATION

## Inside the Atlantic Science Enterprise Centre's journey toward collaborative research and sustainable design

By Ernest Granson

For decades, the Gulf Fisheries Centre has perched in downtown Moncton on Université Avenue as an austere formal building, virtually devoid of decoration (according to Historic Places Canada), typical of educational institutions, hospitals, and government buildings constructed in the mid-20th century. Originally built in 1948 as College Notre-Dame d'Acadie, a college and boarding school for Acadian girls, it was founded and run by the Sisters of Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur, closing in 1965. The building was completely

retrofitted in 1982 by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and has operated as the Gulf Fisheries Centre since then.

In several years, the building will barely be recognizable, save for the façade. While the existing structure will eventually be demolished, the west façade will be taken down, stone by stone, and then reconstructed to become part of a state-of-the-art science hub known as the Atlantic Science Enterprise Centre (ASEC). Once completed, four federal organizations

– Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the National Research Council Canada – will operate out of the centre. The Canadian Space Agency will participate in ASEC working remotely.

“Since the 1982 retrofit, the Gulf Fisheries Centre has outgrown its intended use and isn't well suited to the operations of the science-based departments and agencies it currently and will eventually support,” explains

Jody Isenor, acting/senior director of the ASEC project, Public Services and Procurement Canada, which handled the design services and construction management contracts. "Many of the current building systems and designs are beyond their useful life expectancy, and furthermore, the current building footprint is not adequate and sufficient in size to support the important work conducted there."

Operating under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the ASEC is part of Laboratories Canada's long-term strategy, announced in 2018, to support federal scientists and encourage innovation and collaboration across multi-disciplinary fields in world-class facilities. The centre will focus on understanding, protecting, and sustaining Atlantic freshwater and coastal ecosystems. Four other science hubs are planned under the long-term strategy: Regulatory and Security Science hub in Ottawa and Sidney, B.C.; The TerraCanada Science and Innovation Hub in Ottawa, Mississauga, Hamilton, and Quebec City; The Transportation Safety and Technology Science hub in Ottawa; and The Cultural Heritage Science hub in Gatineau.

While this project, when completed, will be a science and research-based facility, its design doesn't fall into the category of a stuffy, tube-filled Bunsen-burner science lab. Like many other science and office facilities currently being developed, it has been designed to promote not only research innovation but also collaboration among the varied users, according to Sarah Low, senior associate and project architect with Diamond Schmitt Architects. Diamond Schmitt Architects, in



ASEC interior lobby. Image courtesy of Diamond Schmitt and EXP.



A new roof-mounted skylight will add further daylighting to the atrium, but also into many of the existing adjacent spaces off of the atrium space. Image courtesy of Diamond Schmitt and EXP.



*The shoring of the building will be complete sometime in the summer of 2024, after which Phase 1 will begin, which includes the construction of the Science Annex. Completion time for Phase 1 is expected to be about four years.*

association with EXP Architects, were selected to deliver design services for the project.

“One of the key objectives of this project is to promote collaboration between the departments so that they're working together to solve the research challenges,” Low says. “So, the office portion of the building, which also serves as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Regional Headquarters is all unassigned seating.”

Low says that these large, open work areas with different types of workspaces are based on the federal government's own approach to offices called the Government of Canada Work Places (GCWP). There are no divisions for the departments, allowing everyone to intermingle. Similarly, for the lab spaces, the approach is to create “science neighbourhoods” that are based on the activities that will be taking place within the labs rather

than the different departments. This gives representation from all the various different departments to each of the lab neighbourhoods. It is really about bringing the groups together to work cooperatively.

Low adds that while this may be a new approach for those staff members currently working out of the existing Gulf Fisheries Centre, there are examples of government buildings already using the GCWP concept.

The decision to go in that direction was made after dedicated meetings with users in the various departments and looking at “a day in the life of a scientist,” says Peggy Theodore, principle and project director with Diamond Schmitt.

“We would ask, ‘How are you working in this space?’. It's an important planning tool that we brought to the table because there are disparate user

groups that would all like to come with their equipment. So, we asked, ‘Is there an opportunity to share?’ Having support spaces that are shared means the lab spaces are more efficient and it avoids duplication of equipment and systems,” says Theodore. “It's a direction many other labs around the world have been taking.”

Along with creating a collaborative environment, sustainability is a major goal of the ASEC facility, as it aims for LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification, along with the federally mandated Greening Government Strategy (GGS), which includes net-zero carbon. To reach these goals, the two main elements that had to be considered when designing the building were the material used to construct the building, and the type of energy used for daily operation. Low points out that about 30 per



cent of the building will have a mass timber structure. Most spaces that are not labs, such as the open offices and gathering areas, will be constructed from this mass timber. That has been key to reaching the target of 30 per cent reduction from the baseline of embodied carbon.

Other carbon-reduced materials are also being considered such as low-carbon thermal insulation and concrete. Low says sourcing the concrete has been an interesting experience because, ironically, one of the ingredients for much of the low-carbon concrete currently being used is a byproduct of coal manufacturing plants. Because coal production has decreased significantly in Canada, so has the amount of fly ash available for low-carbon concrete and so there's a search for potential alternatives.

The second element of carbon reduction will be implemented through the heating-ventilation-air conditioning (HVAC) system, primarily by tapping into a geothermal field located beside the building site. That task has been assigned to Pomerleau Inc. as the construction manager.

Paul Stewart, Pomerleau's senior project manager for the ASEC project, explains that the heat for the facility will be supplied by pumping a glycol water solution through a system of about 200 geothermal wells. In a geothermal system, to keep the building warm in the winter and cool in the summer, a heat exchanger, which is essentially a system of pipes called a loop that is buried in shallow ground, uses the fluid solution to transfer the heat.

Those wells will be drilled during Phase 2 of construction. Right now, Stewart says that the enabling works are underway in what will be a two-phase long-term project (between eight to 10 years).

"We've just started the drilling and the shoring installation for the mass excavation, so the majority of the building is yet to come," says Stewart. "Up to date, most of our involvement has been with design review, constructability, and analysis review. We have a team of experts across disciplines - on the mechanical side, the electrical side, the structural side, architectural side, etc. So, when

we receive designs, we have those experts to look through the designs and then provide feedback on the best methodology to construct. We relay that back to the broader design team."

As far as this component of the project, the mass excavation requires digging down approximately eight metres from existing grade for the footprint of Phase 1. Drilling is also taking place for the installation of about 100 Soldier Piles (steel H piles) around the perimeter of the site.

"Excavating and shoring is quite an undertaking given the constraint of the site," says Stewart. "We have to dig down almost to bedrock in some areas and as we're excavating, we're installing wood lagging between the piles to provide soil retention. You don't typically see a lot of projects that go to that depth here in Moncton."

The shoring of the building will be complete sometime in the summer of 2024, after which Phase 1 will begin, which includes the construction of the Science Annex. Completion time for Phase 1 is expected to be about four years. Once it's almost complete, the staff now housed in the existing



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building will be relocated into the newly constructed building. Phase 2 will then get underway, which includes demolition of the existing building and construction of a new structure that sits in that footprint. The two new buildings will then be directly connected to each other.

The existing structure is the original college and boarding school built from local sandstone from New Brunswick. The walls will be taken down by qualified heritage stonemasons, stone by stone, with each stone marked. A new wall will then be reconstructed from the stones to exactly match the original stone pattern. Stewart says Pomerleau will screen the deconstruction/reconstruction contractors to make sure they are certified and have the expertise to bid on this very specialized package. That wall will form the west façade of

the new building and will become the facility's main entrance. It will have added insulation and will be part of a high-performance envelope of the whole building.

Stewart expects that 58 subcontracts will be awarded to work on Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 will be tendered separately with about another 58 contracts awarded, although he says construction of Phase 2 will be about twice the size of the first phase.

Around 150 workers will be on the job site at peak for Phase 1, possibly up to 200.

Because this project is funded by a Government of Canada department, the tendering process is rigorous. Not only does the building have to fit federally mandated carbon goals, but the overall project must also meet a minimum of Indigenous participation requirements. Pomerleau has

committed approximately \$60 million towards Indigenous procurement. For Pomerleau, it means they have to assess if there is a capacity in the Indigenous-owned business market to bid on a package for a project like ASEC.

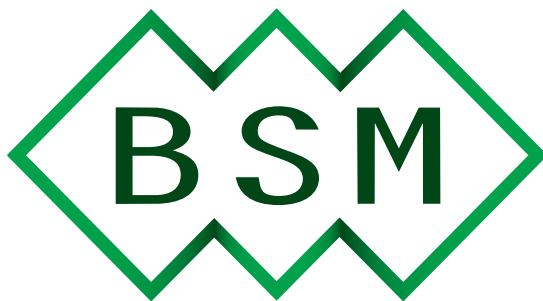
But the Indigenous involvement goes further than the construction aspect, as Theodore points out.

"There has been a lot of engagement with the Indigenous communities and with the Sisters. We've met with them many times to show them the design and how we are commemorating their work before us, and how that memory will continue on in the new building," she says.

The team has incorporated visual Indigenous representations of Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Passamaquoddy cultures, and have planned for an Indigenous gathering space in the public area for the building. Representation will be found throughout the new facility and in its landscape, offering an inclusive environment where Indigenous ceremonies, storytelling, meetings, and cultural training can take place. Another outstanding feature will be the skeleton of a North Atlantic right whale, currently in storage at Dalhousie University. It will be carefully transported to the ASEC and hung from the Atrium ceiling.

Theodore adds that the design of the building anticipates the extensive community outreach, which is part of the ASEC mandate.

"A welcoming and inclusive Galleria and Atrium invite the public in, providing opportunities for the community to learn about the important research and conservation that is being done for public benefit." ↗



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*Diamond Schmitt Architects is leading the design of the new contemporary home of the New Brunswick Museum. Rendering by PLAY-TIME; courtesy of Diamond Schmitt Architects.*

# NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM UNDERGOING NEW DESIGN AND EXPANSION

When completed, the museum will offer visitors a comprehensive exploration of the province's origins and cultures

By Lisa Kopochinski

A new design for the revitalized New Brunswick Museum in Saint John was recently unveiled with \$108 million in both federal and provincial government funding secured for its construction. The museum will contribute nearly \$24 million through a capital campaign.

As Canada's oldest continuing museum, the 180-year-old New Brunswick Museum is dedicated to preserving and showcasing the rich history and natural heritage of the province.

In a statement, New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs said the site of the museum once served as a portage

area for Indigenous people and European settlers and will become an icon for the province.

"It's just part of the heritage we share—Black history, the Acadians, the Loyalists, [and] the First Nations. It's all going to be a component of this museum, and there just isn't another



The design is anchored by the great room which serves as a crossroads for the museum. Rendering by PLAY-TIME; courtesy of Diamond Schmitt Architects.

location that suits it like this one.”

William Forrestall, vice chair on the board of directors of the New Brunswick Museum, says a consistent challenge over the past four decades has been finding an appropriate solution to its treasured but aging facilities.

“There have been dozens of attempts to address these facilities issues over this time, with none reaching the point where capital funding was secured for construction to begin,” says Forrestall. “That is what makes this project unique. For the first time, the museum has secured this core funding.”

He says that changes to the New Brunswick Museum Act “has empowered a talented board made of up of New Brunswick citizens to take the lead role in moving this project forward quickly, while ensuring the core needs of the museum and public are met with the planned facility.”

With construction slated to begin shortly, this project includes the retention and renovation of a 90-year-old wing of the museum, with construction of a new museum building on Douglas Avenue, as well as the creation of new public spaces and exhibits.

It also involves partially rebuilding

and expanding a wing of the museum, while maintaining its historical limestone facade. The new museum building will prioritize archives and conservation capabilities, major exhibition galleries, community, and education spaces under one roof. There will also be additional project costs related to exhibitions and furnishings.

While Douglas Avenue—which is the historical home of the museum—is a wonderful location, it is also a very constrained and limiting area given the historical significance of the site and residential nature of the building surroundings.

Forrestall says the new facility includes the primary space on Douglas Avenue, where the public and researchers can see exhibits, research, and curatorial activities.

“The maintenance of our newly renovated Lancaster Avenue Collections and Research Center will facilitate fabrication of new exhibits, but also permit the processing and curation of oversized or specialty items from the Provincial Collections,” says Forrestall.

### Construction management

EllisDon has been awarded the construction management services contract for this revitalization project.

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“Their extensive experience in complex cultural projects—such as the National Gallery of Canada and Art Gallery of Ontario—combined with their commitment to community building, makes them the ideal partner for the museum to ensure the fulfillment of this world-class cultural facility for New Brunswick,” says Forrestand.

In a statement released by EllisDon, Shaun Stiles, senior vice-president and area manager for Atlantic Canada, said, “EllisDon is honoured to be chosen as the construction management services partner for the New Brunswick Museum’s Revitalization Project. We believe that fostering a deep connection between the community and the built environment is at the heart of every successful project. This project is not just about bricks and mortar. It’s about building a legacy that will stand as a testament to the shared values and aspirations of this vibrant province.”

## Design integration

Diamond Schmitt Architects is responsible for the program, design, and construction detail of the complete project. The firm is also working with EXP as local associates.

The design has been completed and the drawings are at the complete development stage incorporating all building systems design, structural, mechanical, electrical, and other museum infrastructure elements.

Calling the project more than a renovation, Don Schmitt, principal at Diamond Schmitt, says the new museum is approximately 130,000 square feet and is being built on an expanded site of the existing heritage museum building, adding five new wings to the north.

“The east cove of the original 1934



*This impressive project will prioritize archives and conservation capabilities, major exhibition galleries, community, and education spaces under one roof. Renderings by Diamond Schmitt Architects.*

museum on the site is retained and restored. This wing comprises about 15 per cent of the overall project and will house the museum’s new auditorium, reading room for the library and archive collection, education spaces, and offices,” says Schmitt. “The entire second floor of the new museum will house more than 30,000 square feet of exhibition space and a large gallery dedicated to temporary exhibits, which originate either within the museum or partner institutions.”

The ground floor will accommodate a large entry lobby and event space, a free introduction to the

New Brunswick Gallery, education spaces, café, retail, boutique, and public support facilities. It will also accommodate back-of-house loading and security functions.

“There is a new rooftop terrace that leverages the museum’s location and offers views in all directions. It creates additional space for community gatherings and contemplation,” adds Schmitt.

And if this isn’t enough, the design of Douglas Avenue includes a new, accessible main entrance, a multi-storey public great room, nine exhibition galleries, flexible spaces

# Museum highlights rich heritage

When completed, the 180-year-old New Brunswick Museum's new facilities will have the capacity and functionality to support the museum's mission of preserving, researching, interpreting, and exhibiting the natural and cultural heritage of the Province of New Brunswick.

**"This project demonstrates the museum's commitment to preserving New Brunswick's rich heritage and ensures that the tapestry of our natural and human history is preserved and accessible for generations to come," says William Forrestall, vice chair on the board of directors of the New Brunswick Museum. "It will offer visitors a comprehensive exploration of New Brunswick's origins and cultures."**

designed for educational programs, community events and public gatherings, and a rooftop terrace.

The facade of the historic wing will front a library and archival reading room, a 115-seat auditorium, and administrative spaces, while the ground and lower levels include climate-controlled expanded curation, conservation, and research spaces.

"While the new construction and revitalized facilities will primarily enable the New Brunswick Museum to serve the public, consideration has also been made for how the province's museum can better partner with and support the various community museums across the province in their own operations, exhibitions, and curatorial responsibilities," says Forrestall.

Staff are presently in the process

of moving the museum's extensive collections from its historical facilities into a new collections and research facility located on Lancaster Avenue. The newly renovated facility consists of approximately 65,000 square feet spread over two levels. This site allows staff to continue with the research and curatorial activities while also preparing and assembling exhibits for the new museum when it is completed in 2026/2027.

## Project challenges

As for the challenges so far, there are several that the Diamond Schmitt team has dealt with so far.

The first challenge is they are working with retention and integration of the 1934 museum wing. The restoration of the heritage wing poses challenges with regards to the foundation and structural state of the existing building.

Careful study of the structure and foundation, as well as overall condition of the heritage building, has resulted in a successful resolution, says Schmitt.

Secondly, the Diamond Schmitt team is working carefully on the building to remain within the construction budget available.

"This is a challenge, but we are meeting the targets," says Schmitt.

Lastly, the site fronts the urban heritage precinct on Douglas Avenue with a design scale that breaks down the massing of the museum to fit seamlessly in this context. On the west, the museum is designed to fit the narrow top flats of the escarpment, which slopes steeply to the Saint John River and Marble Cove.

Perhaps Forrestall sums thing up best when he says "the Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Museum have worked diligently with project architects Diamond Schmitt and construction management firm EllisDon to develop a plan which we believe respects these constraints all while delivering a future home for the New Brunswick Museum which honours the heritage of the existing building and provides world-class facilities for New Brunswickers to visit and appreciate for generations to come." ↗



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*The new elementary school on Fredericton's north side will be a 7,752-square-metre, two-storey school that is designed to accommodate approximately 500 anglophone students from kindergarten to Grade 5.*

## New elementary school on Fredericton's north side

As we move closer to the grand opening of the new elementary school on Fredericton's north side, the excitement is palpable. Scheduled to open its doors for the 2024 school year, this innovative educational facility is a testament to the efforts of a dedicated team led by the Marco Group.

Situated in Fredericton, New Brunswick, this 7,752-square-metre, two-storey school is designed to accommodate approximately 500 anglophone students from kindergarten to Grade 5. With its open-concept plan and vibrant, inclusive design, the state-of-the-art facility is set to redefine elementary education in the region.

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The new school in Fredericton's north side represents a new era of elementary education.

**Each classroom door is associated with a specific colour, making it easy for students to identify their learning space. Inside the classrooms, the walls are painted the same colour, and even the accents on the floor follow suit, further reinforcing the sense of belonging and unity within each group.**

As schools in the area reach capacity, the new school offers a much-needed solution to accommodate the growing student population.

Alongside Marco Group, the project team includes RSEI Consultants Ltd. as the electrical consultant, MCW Consultants Ltd. as the mechanical consultant, GEMTEC as the structural consultant, and Stantec, who is

handling civil and architectural aspects.

One of the most exciting features of the new school is its open concept spaces. Gone are the traditional closed-off classrooms; instead, classrooms seamlessly flow into one another, allowing for joint learning experiences. Each classroom is equipped with operable doors,

enabling teachers to create larger collaborative spaces when needed. This new standard of learning encourages students to work together, learn from one another and think creatively.

What immediately catches the eye upon entering the school are the vibrant rainbow colours that adorn the hallways and classroom doors. These colours were carefully chosen not only for their aesthetic appeal, but also for their symbolic significance. Each classroom door is associated with a specific colour, making it easy for students to identify their learning space. Inside the classrooms, the walls are painted the same colour, and even the accents on the floor follow

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suit, further reinforcing the sense of belonging and unity within each group.

The use of these vibrant colours extends beyond the classrooms. In the corridors, murals painted in the four designated colours not only add to the school's aesthetic appeal, but also symbolize the unity of all the children within the school. These colours serve as a constant reminder of the collaborative spirit that defines the school.

In a move that underscores its commitment to inclusivity, the school will feature gender-neutral washrooms. By providing gender-neutral facilities, the school ensures that every student feels safe, respected, and included.

In addition to its colourful and inclusive design, the school also incorporates elements of nature into its architecture. The ceilings in the library feature images of birds, bringing a touch of the outside world into the school environment. This not only adds to the aesthetic appeal of the school but also helps create a more calming and natural atmosphere for students and staff alike.

"As the team behind the successful construction of Hanwell K-8 School, we at Marco are excited to once again be contributing to the educational landscape of New Brunswick," says Allan MacIntosh, president of Marco. "The new school in Fredericton's north side represents another milestone in our commitment to building innovative and sustainable learning environments for the students of this province."

The project has seen significant progress in recent months. Inside the school, finishing touches are being

applied, including polished concrete floors and paint. The exterior siding, in sage green and grey colours, is nearing completion, giving the school a modern and visually appealing facade.

The new school in Fredericton's north side represents a new era of elementary education. With

its open concept spaces, vibrant colours, and inclusive design, the school is setting a new standard for collaborative learning environments. By prioritizing collaboration and inclusivity, this facility is preparing its students for success in an increasingly interconnected and diverse world. ↗

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