

The Firefly

Summer Issue



August 2025



A-BM JV

On behalf of the A-BM leadership team, we are proud to recognize and celebrate an incredible achievement—8 million safe work hours. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment, vigilance, and teamwork demonstrated by every individual on-site. Reaching this level of safety performance doesn't happen by chance; it reflects the daily choices each of you makes to prioritize safety, look out for one another, and uphold the highest standards in everything we do.

We would especially like to thank the Ontario Building Trades for their exceptional partnership, professionalism, and dedication to safety. Your skilled tradespeople have been instrumental in creating and maintaining a strong safety culture, and this achievement would not have been possible without your ongoing support and collaboration.

As we near the end of the Building Construction phase of the NextStar project, it is important to finish strong by continually maintaining the safety culture we have established. Additionally, the A-BM team wants to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone involved with the NextStar program for consistently upholding exceptionally high-performance standards. From planning and execution to quality control and safety, your dedication to excellence has been evident in every phase of the work. Achieving this level of performance requires more than just technical skill—it demands discipline, accountability, teamwork, and a shared commitment to doing the job right, every time. Your efforts have not only driven progress but have set a benchmark for what can be accomplished through collaboration and pride in workmanship. Thank you for your outstanding contributions and for setting the bar high across all aspects of this program.

Sean Thibeault
Vice President
Alberici Constructors



Ontario Tripartite Labour Resource Council:

Mapping Ontario's
Building Trades Future

Congratulations to the hundreds of Building Trades members and Contractors on site at the Nextstar Energy Project. You've hit significant milestones on a job that's the first of its kind in the province of Ontario. It's a project the industry has and will continue to learn from at a pivotal time in our province. Because Ontario is seeing unprecedented infrastructure growth, from nuclear to transit to electrical vehicle battery manufacturing plants like this one. Recognizing this, Building Trades Unions, contractors and owners have come together to establish the Ontario Tripartite Labour Resource council to work closely together to figure out industry solutions including the launch of our Skilled Trades Demand Supply Forecasting Tool.

Essentially, what this tool has been designed to do is act as an early warning system for demand peaks, ensuring a reliable supply of skilled trades. It demonstrates that unionized skilled trades are available and ready for all projects and assists our local unions to determine when there is a need for travel cards, increased apprentice intakes, or the need for specialized training. The Tool allows the industry to better match apprenticeship intakes with the skilled trades that are in demand based on the upcoming work picture. Lessons learned from our pilot projects will inform broader participation throughout Ontario's organized construction sector. Together, the building trades and contractors, owners and clients are shaping a brighter future for skilled trades workers in Ontario.

Kate Walsh
Executive Director of Communications
Ontario Building Trades

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NSE Thanks Workers for 8 Million Safe Work Hours

A Milestone of Dedication and Teamwork

We're incredibly proud to celebrate a recent milestone with our partners: **8 million** work hours completed safely and successfully. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment, professionalism, and teamwork of every individual who has contributed to this project.

Each hour represents not just time, but the care, focus, and collaboration that defines the 9,000+ Canadian trades workers who have contributed to this project. From the early planning stages to the daily execution of complex tasks, our workforce has demonstrated what it means to lead with integrity and skill.

NextStar extends its heartfelt thanks to every worker, supervisor, and support team member who made this possible. Your dedication to safety, quality, and excellence continues to set the standard for our industry.



Scan for video celebrating 8M work hours



Labour Day Festival and Parade in Windsor

When: Monday, September 01, 2025

Time: 10:00am - 3:00pm

Where: Lanspeary Park (Festival), Kildare Rd/Ottawa St Parade Route
1250 Langlois Ave, Windsor, ON N8X 4L6 CA

Host Contact Info: office@wdlc.ca

Enjoy free food, live music, a parade, and family activities. Join the Labour Day 50/50 Jackpot for a chance to win and support the community. Everyone welcome!

Effective Joint Health and Safety Committee

Held July 29th 2025

As ABM leaves the project and the Joint Health and Safety Committee, Nextstar and worker members of the JHSC took the course through the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) to prepare for any challenges that the committee may face.



Pictured from left to right are: Ken Poisson, IHSA instructor, Karen Elliot-Stewart NSE Construction Safety Manager and management's designated JHSC Co-chair, Eric Kim NSE Supervisor, Mike Ryall United Association (UA), Ryan Dixon Sheet Metal Air Rail and Transit (SMART) Chase Binns Labourers International Union of North America (LIUNA), Jeremy Pongratz International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Not pictured are Matt Soulliere Nextstar's designated competent site supervisor and Jay Peterson, Building Trades designate and Labour JHSC Co-chair.

Internal Responsibility System



The Internal Responsibility System (IRS) is what the 'Green Book' is based on. The Act and the regulations are there to support the IRS. In other words, if all parties on site follow their roles and responsibilities as defined by the Green Book, the IRS would be used properly.

The Ministry of Labour (MOL) expects us to solve problems on our own and that they are there for workers when the IRS breaks down. Over the course of the 2+ years on this project, there have been more visits by the MOL than seen on all other jobs combined throughout my career. I think it is safe to say that there have been several reasonable cases to get the Ministry involved, but also many issues that could have been dealt with in house, or on-site. A call to MOL before the item can be addressed internally is considered a failure of the IRS by MOL.

When they come to site, they are confirming failure and of course, they notice other violations and infractions. So, if something isn't right, please report to your supervisor, or any green hat safety person or any member of the JHSC before calling the MOL.

The IRS has been implemented at NSE and needs to be utilized first. If we are unable to resolve the issue, we will call the MOL together.

So do reach out to your Company Safety rep, an NSE Safety rep, your Worker Trade Committee/JHSC rep, or your designated Union Stewards if you see something on-site. Calls to the MOL should be a last resort. Most would agree that it's always better when everyone can work together smoothly without the need for MOL intervention.

Mike Ryall
Steamfitter, ICTI
JHSC Member





Brother Lonny Howe
November 25, 1973 - May 11, 2025

Windsor, ON - This project, and the construction community mourns the loss of Brother Lonny Howe.

Lonny was a force. He was a strong steward who wanted things right. He fought for proper LOTO. He fought to have trades doing trade work and he worked hard so that everyone on his crew and at site had safe days. Lonny was a proud member of the IBEW 773 and while on site served on the Workers Trade Committee, as well as the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

Lonny was known for never leaving anyone behind. He has helped numerous people on site and even more in the community. He regularly demonstrated empathy for others and kindness for animals.

Lonny was like no other, unsurprisingly firm on issues and at the same time having a heart made of solid gold!

The Building Trades Council has created an annual Steward's award in his honour. Each year unions will put names forward to the Building Trades, nominating stewards who have made a contribution to their membership or project in a significant way.

The annual Essex-Kent Building Trades Lonny Howe Steward Award will be awarded to the most deserving steward who has made a significant contribution, as chosen by the Council annually. The plaque will hang in that member's hall for that year and move to the new recipients' hall yearly.

Our deepest sympathies go to all the family, friends and co-workers. Lonny has left a large presence and a giant hole.

We are all better for knowing him. He is missed.

WHO ARE YOU WORKING SAFELY FOR?

While we generally think about health and safety as protecting ourselves and those around us from hazards, we may not always think of our loved ones, who are at home or at school and how they may have to receive that call one day that something terrible has happened at work.

It is our families that inevitably pick up the pieces of injury and tragedy. Incidents at work can cripple more than the worker. A single incident can be devastating both financially and emotionally.

I can tell you personally, what the death of my Millwright grandfather on the job in 1956 did to my family. How my father, a boy at the time, grew up fatherless, angry, confused and eventually alcoholic. We have no relationship today. It is over 70 years since that fateful day.

At a past job, part of my duties was to attend funerals of workers killed on sites. There were several every year. I would see their families devastated in the moment, still I couldn't help but to think about how they would do over time. How long would they cry? How well will they cope? The remembrance every year on that date, all the milestones of their children, their sports, educational achievements, marriage,

families and careers never shared. Would those children adjust or would their pain manifest in other ways like mental health stress and addiction? Would they live in poverty, no longer enjoying the lifestyle that trade earnings once provided?

No one here at this site should be forcing anyone to do anything unsafe or unhealthy. Please take the time, be a professional, and ensure that you've thought your work through, and that as a crew, you've communicated hazards and taken the right steps. Verify your lock-out: you have the right to ensure systems are properly and entirely locked out. If you are unsure, ask before beginning any tasks.

Your JHSC is working hard in three main areas, namely, LOTO, chemicals and accountability.

We as workers are responsible for our safe actions. The constructor and our employers are responsible for ensuring the right policies and procedures are in place for the work that needs to be done and that workers are following the correct and applicable protocols through competent supervision in compliance with the Act and Regs.

As construction workers, we have a lot to be proud of here. On behalf of the Building Trades and the all the local unions, we'd like to thank and congratulate all workers for having a safe hand in this truly remarkable NextStar Energy Project. We wish you, and those who You Work Safely For, all the best for years to come!

Jay Peterson
Sheet Metal Worker
Building Trades
Co-chair/JHSC



Green Hat Advisory: An Introduction

The Green Team, Focused on Safety



Over the last few months, a weekly meeting has been held to establish a mentoring and knowledge-sharing program focused on safety. The Green Hat Advisory Group was founded by unions and safety leadership to ensure that all safety advisors, managers, and union members on site have access to information and an open forum to learn and ask questions. The group initially focused on personal and site responsibility, communication, and Lockout/Tagout processes.

It was observed that some new safety advisors arriving on site felt overwhelmed by the Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. The Green Hat Advisory Group was created to bridge that gap and assist our members.

The group concentrated on recurrent occupational health and safety elements. One key area of discussion was related to the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and Regulations of Ontario, as well as resources such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) website, as well as videos to enhance exposure, knowledge and awareness.

It was encouraging to witness the group's growth, and see the sharing of ideas, and the ability to communicate and assist each other. The group membership has varied exposure and experience, but a comfort with each other to share within the group.

The following topics were discussed:

- Role and responsibilities
- Ontario Act and Regulations
- Lockout/Tagout
- Confine Space
- Incident Investigation & Documentation
- Air quality
- Heat Stress and Lighting Protocols
- Occupational Health and Safety committees
- Discussion related to WHMIS and Safety Data Sheets

The discussion related to ethics and the role of a safety coordinator included the following aspects:

Respect for People:

Valuing the well-being and safety of all individuals, including employees, customers, and the public.

Integrity:

Being honest, ethical, and accountable in all safety-related decisions and actions.

Continuous Improvement:

Constantly seeking ways to enhance safety practices and reduce risks.

Accountability:

Taking responsibility for safety-related actions and outcomes, both individually and collectively.

Collaboration:

Working together effectively to identify and address safety concerns.

Open Communication:

Creating an environment where safety concerns can be raised and addressed openly and honestly.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Recognizing that diverse perspectives can lead to more effective safety solutions and practices.

As my time on the project comes to an end, one area of success that I will take with me is the development and implementation of the Green Hat Advisory Group and the contributions of all the members who attended, thereby making the site a safer and more inclusive project.

Until next time, be safe and be kind.

Joe MaCauly

Safety Manager

Black and McDonald

Chair/Green Hat Advisory



Photo above: Green Hat Chair Joe MaCauly speaking with Gerry of CK Canada about an issue while on a safety walk.



Photo above: Andrew McCrindle from Mid South showing their excellent Lock Out Tag Out system to the Green Hat Group.

If you would like to participate, please reach out to Jay by email:
jpeterson.batteryplant@gmail.com