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Submission to the Law Amendments Committee regarding Bill 100, An Act to Establish a Unified Labour Board

I am writing to clarify the position of the Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS) with respect to Bill 100.

CANS was pleased to be asked to review the proposed changes to the structure of the labour relations tribunals. We support in principle the concept of a unified labour board. We will continue to emphasize the need to find knowledgeable individuals who understand the complex dynamics of construction workplaces and construction labour relations

We were surprised however to find that many other matters are addressed in Bill 100, which have not be subject of public consultation. We expressed our concern at the Bill briefing regarding the composition of the Labour Management Review Committee. We are concerned that the Review Committee mandate within the Bill is extremely restrictive. There are many kinds of workplaces in the province-geographic, sector and occupational differences that are important considerations assessing the impact of proposed changes. A review of such a substantial piece of legislation needs to be inclusive of these many views. There are no provisions in Bill 100 to require the Review Committee to conduct its work in an open and transparent manner with opportunity for public input or to require public release of the recommendations.

The construction sector is substantially organized through an accredited bargaining agent (NSCLRA) under Part 11 of the Trade Union Act. There are unique characteristics of construction labour relations that have no parallel in other sectors. We believe that construction labour relations must be reviewed substantially by construction sector participants with input from the broader community. This would be possible within the Bill 100 constraints of the Review Committee. *not*

The government does not require legislation to establish a labour management review committee whether it is mandated to review the whole of the trade union act, part 1 or 11 or selected matters. The Manitoba Labour Management Review Committee has operated since 1963 and is not enshrined in legislation.

We believe the Law Amendments Committee should recommend Bill 100 be amended to remove all sections not integral to the creation of the new Unified Labour Board.

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