

Sciage de Beton participates in Highway 101 concrete paving project

The Nova Scotia provincial government bit the proverbial bullet and paid premium costs to pave 11 kilometres of the newly twinned section of the dangerous Highway 101 with concrete. The remaining 10 kilometres of the new section was paved with more traditional asphalt.

The new section, between Mount Uniacke and Ellershouse, is open to traffic, although final construction details are still being completed.

Sciage de Beton, based in Montreal, played a crucial role in the completion of the concrete pavement laid for Highway 101 this past summer. The company carried out all the concrete sawing along the 10.9 kilometres of highway.

Concrete roadways are deliberately cut to allow for expansion and flexing of the roadbed. With cracks already in place, stress can be relieved without causing damage to the concrete surface.

"Cracks are meticulously cut where we want them to be," says Donald Poulin, of Sciage de Beton. "This keeps the remainder of the

concrete surface in optimum condition year after year."

Sciage de Beton specializes in concrete sawing, but also does asphalt sawing, as well as joint expansion and joint sealing sawing in road construction. The company also specializes in floor and wall sawing in building construction. The company works in the ICI (industrial, commercial and institutional) construction sector as well as the residential construction sector.

Poulin says the Highway 101 project went smoothly. "Being able to work on a closed section of road without having to worry about traffic whizzing by makes for a good job. It was a beautiful job."

The cracks were cut every five metres along the 10.9 kilometre stretch. That translates to roughly 2,180 cuts made in the highway. With a crew of three men, plus himself, Poulin says it took about a month to complete the work.

"We have to make the cuts within 18 hours of the concrete being poured," he says. "We work once the

concrete has been placed and set."

Poulin says the concrete used in the Highway 101 project was somewhat harder than the company is used to working with, especially in Quebec.

"But we were able to take the concrete hardness into account," he says. "We changed the blades we were using, everything proceeded smoothly."

The Highway 101 project was Sciage de Beton's first experience working in Nova Scotia.

"I love my work and we go all over North America, but we found some great people to work with on that project."

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Sciage de Beton work crews cut cracks in the concrete pavement on the newly twinned section of Highway 101.



Who are the Maritime's transportation ministers?

By Lynne Wells
Contributing Writer

Here's a rundown of current public works and/or transportation ministers in the Maritimes, including a new minister in New Brunswick. These government leaders hold tremendous influence over the construction industry in the region. The minister of Works, Services and Transportation in Newfoundland and Labrador has yet to be announced following the election in that province held in late October.

Paul Robichaud, N.B. Minister of Transportation

Paul Robichaud is a native of Shippagan, New Brunswick. He was born in 1964, and received his education locally, attending Shippagan elementary and high schools and the Shippagan campus of the Université de Moncton.

He has been involved in provincial and federal politics

since 1985, serving as executive assistant to provincial and federal government ministers before first being elected as MLA for the Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou riding in 1999.

Robichaud served as minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture beginning June 21, 1999. He became minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2000. He was appointed minister of Tourism and Parks, and minister responsible for La Francophonie in 2001. He also acted as deputy house leader for the government in the Legislative Assembly.

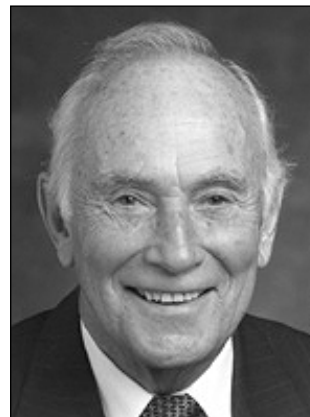
He was re-elected as member for Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou on June 9, 2003 and was sworn in as minister of Transportation on June 27, 2003.



Paul Robichaud

Ron Russell, Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works

Ron Russell is known as the elder statesman of the N.S. Tories. He was born in 1926 in New Zealand, where he served as a pilot in WWII with the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He retired from the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1973 with 25 years of service and went on to manage



Ron Russell

the Halifax International Airport.

His political career spans three decades. He was first elected to the N.S. Legislative Assembly in 1978; re-elected 1981, 1984, 1988, 1993, 1998, 1999 and 2003. He has served as Speaker of the House on three separate occasions.

His cabinet responsibilities cover the spectrum, ranging from minister of: Environment and Labour; Consumer



Gail Shea

Gail A. Shea, Minister of Transportation and Public Works, P.E.I.

A native of Tignish, Gail Shea was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island as the MLA for Tignish-DeBlois on April 17, 2000.

On May 1, 2000, she was appointed minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, where she served until August 22, 2002, when she was appointed minister of Transportation and Public Works. Shea is the first female on Prince Edward Island to hold this portfolio. Shea served on the Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation, and the Strategic Planning Committee on Community and Social Policy. Shea is a member of Treasury Board.

Prior to holding elected office, Shea worked as an assistant to Premier Pat Binns.

New Brunswick opening latest section of twinned Trans-Canada, plans underway to complete remaining 130 kilometres

This year's first portion of new twinned highway in western New Brunswick opened in October. The 7.2 km stretch of Trans-Canada Highway runs from St. Jacques to near the province's border with Quebec. This project was funded under the Canada/New Brunswick Highway Improvement Program Agreement at a cost of \$11.75 million, which was shared equally between the Province of New Brunswick and the Government of

Canada.

Beton Brunswick, as well as other producer and associate members of the Atlantic Provinces Ready Mixed Concrete Association, have participated in the Trans-Canada Highway twinning projects in New Brunswick over the past few years.

A total of 65 kilometres of four-lane road are scheduled to open this fall under a joint federal-provincial agreement. A 33-km stretch between Woodstock and

Pokiok is expected to open for traffic sometime in November.

The untwinned route along the Upper St. John River Valley has been dubbed Suicide Alley because of the large number of fatal crashes there.

"The completion of the four-lane Trans-Canada Highway is a top infrastructure priority of our government," says N.B. Premier Bernard Lord.

"Building strategic infrastructure such as the Trans-

Canada Highway is key to increasing prosperity and becoming more competitive, not only in New Brunswick but in all of Atlantic Canada."

The Highway Improvement Program was signed in 1987 and will end in 2004. It is providing \$637 million for New Brunswick highways, with a total federal contribution of \$358 million. Since 1999, the Province of New Brunswick has invested more than

\$1 billion in highway infrastructure in the province.

When completed, the Trans-Canada Highway will be 516 kilometres long and will take four hours and 42 minutes to drive from the Quebec border to the Nova Scotia border. At present, 318 kilometres of four-lane Trans-Canada Highway are open to traffic. A further 67 kilometres of four-lane highway are under construction, and the federal and provincial governments

recently announced funding to complete twinning of the remaining 130 kilometres of highway.

For every \$1 million spent on highway construction, 10.6 equivalent full-time direct jobs are created. For every job directly created, another job is created, and more than \$500,000 of additional spending is generated in the industries that support construction activity as a result of the jobs that are created.