

October 30, 2013 04:00 ET

# Transportation minister tells Nova Scotia Highway Workers' Union he's 'made up his mind' on in-house paving

**HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA--(Marketwired - Oct. 30, 2013) -** The union representing Nova Scotia highway workers met with Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister Geoff MacLellan today and was told the government is not interested in the economics of the initiative - they're pulling the plug on it.

Nova Scotia Highway Workers' Union (CUPE Local 1867) President Steve Joy says, "We told the minister that after the first full year of in-house paving, the figures should show that this program is saving the taxpayers money and providing a much needed service.

"He told us he was not interested in seeing those numbers. He says his party campaigned on this issue and they don't believe the province should be in the paving business. In other words, their decision is purely ideological. They don't care about the dollars and cents," says Joy.

CUPE Regional Director Jacquie Bramwell, who also attended the meeting, said she took the opportunity to remind the minister, "This work represented a tiny portion of the paving work being done in our province and had the effect of making those private companies be more competitive in their bids. This in-house work has had a dramatic impact on the price of asphalt in this province. It's gone way down.

"Now they are going sell this expensive equipment, likely at a huge loss, less than two years after it was purchased by the department. This makes no sense whatsoever," says Bramwell.

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