

# Letter to the Editor

*The following is a letter to the editor from Justice Minister Ross Landry.*

I am committed to keeping you informed of progress being made on the construction of the new correctional facility in Pictou. This project is important for our community and for corrections. I'll be providing updates regularly through a variety of means. And, I encourage you to ask questions by visiting our website, [www.gov.ns.ca/just/corrections/nens.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/corrections/nens.asp) for information and updates.

Before sharing the update, it's important to note that due to the size and scope of the project, deadlines and dates are subject to change. There are many different players and parts of the process – all of which need to be coordinated carefully, properly, and in a timely manner.

We are almost ready to issue tenders on the first part of the project – preparing the site for construction. It includes clearing and leveling the site, the installation of sewer, storm and water lines, creating driveways and parking lots, and preparing the construction area. I expect these tenders to be issued in August.

The tender for the actual construction of the building is expected to be ready by early September. Seven general contracting companies have been pre-qualified to bid on this tender. If this timeline goes as planned, we'll be breaking ground on our new facility sometime in the fall.

We continue to work with Pictou Landing First Nations to address their concerns and interests in the project. We've met to share information from our site investigations and we've identified key points of interest. Specifically, we've discussed employment opportunities for Mi'kmaq companies and individuals during construction. In fact, the site-clearing portion of the Phase 1 tender will be set aside for competitive bids from Mi'kmaq companies only. We'll continue to work together to explore approaches to other areas of Mi'kmaq involvement, including employment opportunities and cultural programming.

This project will bring numerous benefits to the entire community. The construction will inject approximately \$30-million into Nova Scotia's economy. In addition, I expect 70 new corrections jobs to be created, in addition to the employment created during construction.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. Look for more updates as we proceed with the work to open a new, modern and safe facility by early 2014.

*Ross Landry*  
**Minister of Justice**