



Veterans' support program "H2H" hires Atlantic Rep with help from federal grant

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Helmets to Hardhats Canada is redoubling its commitment to Armed Forces veterans seeking skilled trades training and career opportunities in the Maritime provinces by appointing retired Lieutenant Commander David Giannou as its Atlantic Canada Transition Service Representative, effective May 10. He will be based out of Halifax.

Helmets to Hardhats – H2H for short – is a not-for-profit group that works in partnership with government, industry and trade unions to assist veterans (as well as their spouses and dependents, reservists, and senior cadets) in their transition to civilian careers in industry. Giannou will coordinate efforts between the Atlantic provinces' building trades councils, employer associations, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Giannou's hiring comes as a direct result of a grant from the Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund, an initiative of Veterans Affairs Canada that provides financial support to programs that have a positive and lasting impact on the veteran community.

Veterans Affairs Minister Lawrence MacAulay said the organization was deserving of the funding boost. "Helmets to Hardhats does exceptional work in support of our veterans every day. I know David will help veterans find rewarding new careers in the skilled trades across Atlantic Canada. I'm very proud that we're able to provide them with support to make this possible through the Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund."

H2H Executive Director Joe Maloney welcomed the federal grant. "Canada faces an impending shortage of skilled tradespeople, and these brave men and women have just the skillsets necessary to succeed in the trades," he said. "These folks need rewarding second careers, and industry needs dedicated workers. It's a perfect fit, and a win-win situation for all stakeholders involved. Thanks to Veterans Affairs, we're making this goal a reality."

Giannou is a native Maritimer, born in Glace Bay, NS and raised in Corner Brook, NL. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1982 through its Marine Engineering Technologist Program, and graduated in 1985 with two diplomas. He served for the next 16 years as a marine engineer on RCN ships and submarines, then spent a decade overseeing simulation training. This expertise led to his 2013 appointment to the Naval Engineering School. He recently retired after a distinguished 36-year career in the RCN.

"David brings with him a wealth of experience in training and engineering, and he's a product of the Navy," said Maloney. "I couldn't be more pleased to have him heading up our efforts to forge new careers for Maritimers from our military."

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