

## PROPONENT SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Proponent Name: Bluteau DeVenney and Company Inc. Date Completed: March 24, 2010

### About the Sustainability Assessment

The following sustainability assessment must be completed and returned with your proposal.

This assessment has been developed for the purposes of gathering information and evaluating the sustainability of potential vendors. Completion of the assessment is required.

The proponent sustainability assessment is a new initiative for the government of Nova Scotia and is part of the overall implementation of the provincial Sustainable Procurement Policy (available at [www.gov.ns.ca/tenders](http://www.gov.ns.ca/tenders)). We appreciate any feedback on the assessment that you wish to provide. Please email any questions or comments related to the assessment to [standingoffer@gov.ns.ca](mailto:standingoffer@gov.ns.ca)

### Considering Your Responses

Sustainable procurement is gaining prominence in many jurisdictions across Canada and beyond. Completing this assessment and considering your responses may also enable you to better meet the sustainability requirements in other jurisdictions and/or markets. Additional guidance information is included with some assessment questions. This guidance may include further clarification of the statement, references to provincial regulations, and/or sources of additional information.

**Note: The proponent, upon request, shall deliver copies of all written policies, codes, standards, corporate statements and other supporting documents related to sustainability that are established or observed by the proponent in their business practices. Proponents will have (2) two business days to provide this information when requested.**

<b>Environment</b>	
<p>Does your business have a written, publicly available policy or commitment to operating in a sustainable manner? If yes provide a link or an electronic copy.</p> <p><i>For a sample environmental policy see <a href="http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/pollutionprevention/business.asp">www.gov.ns.ca/nse/pollutionprevention/business.asp</a></i></p>	<b>Yes</b>
<p>Do you apply environmental or sustainability criteria when making your own purchasing decisions, recommending purchasing decisions and when selecting project partners and subcontractors?</p>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Economic</b>	
<p>Does your business take steps to support the Nova Scotia economy by seeking to form partnerships with local businesses and by working with local suppliers, contractors and sub-contractors where ever possible?</p> <p><i>The BALLE Nova Scotia website <a href="http://www.ballens.ca">www.ballens.ca</a> is one example of a website listing locally owned sustainable businesses.</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>
<p>Does your business take steps to provide training, mentorship, or apprenticeship opportunities and/or to develop partnerships with local educational and or vocational institutions?</p>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Social Equity</b>	
<p>Does your business have a documented program to ensure workplace health and safety including requirements for job-appropriate safety training and/or certification for all employees, contractors and subcontractors?</p> <p><i>For more information on workplace health and safety see <a href="http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/safety.asp">www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/safety.asp</a></i></p>	<b>Yes</b>
<p>Does your business participate in or contribute to community development programs in the markets that you operate in and/or source from?</p> <p><i>Examples might include donations, grants, employee volunteer hours, public education activities, advice clinics, event sponsorships, mentorship programs etc.</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>

## Working With Sustainability - Staff Experience, Training and Development

Does your business take steps to raise environmental awareness and skills among employees, contractors and subcontractors?

Yes

In the space below, describe what steps you have taken to make your operations and/or your projects more sustainable. Your description should reference the issues listed in the questions above. You may also wish to *address environmental or sustainability assessments, energy or greenhouse gas management plans, waste audits and reduction targets, and toxic chemical reduction targets.*

We have an active recycling program for all paper products and printing materials used in the business. To the greatest extent possible (approximately 80%), our communication and marketing programs are completed electronically.

We actively promote health and wellbeing in our company and in our community. With regards to our company, employees are offered a gym membership and we are flexible in lunchtimes and work hours in order to accommodate different workout schedules. We strongly endorse lifelong learning and are very supportive of continuing education for our staff members.

We believe that charity begins at home and we try to lead by example. Our company created the Bluteau DeVenney Charitable Trust and through the Trust, annual scholarships are provided to Phoenix Youth and Nova Scotia Community College. Our company also sponsors two children from developing countries. At Christmas-time, we sponsor a family from Alice Housing and provide a Christmas meal and Christmas gifts. Our staff members also enjoy giving in various ways whether it be financial or through volunteering their time coaching children's hockey or basketball.

*For additional information on sustainable business practices see [www.eco-efficiency.management.dal.ca](http://www.eco-efficiency.management.dal.ca).*