

# Halifax to get natural gas by December

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Natural gas is finally coming to peninsular Halifax.

Heritage Gas Ltd. announced Tuesday that work will begin to lay a pipeline beneath Halifax harbour to carry gas from Dartmouth to Halifax.

Company president Ray Ritcey said the \$30-million gas distribution project will be finished in December.

Already 80 per cent of downtown Halifax businesses and Capital district health authority facilities have signed on to switch to gas, Ritcey said.

The company has been installing gas lines on the Halifax side of the harbour since the beginning of August. Drilling will begin next month on the main pipeline to connect customers in Halifax.

"Many of them already know of the product and certainly what they've seen over the last few years in Dartmouth, they're, I believe, reasonably excited about the prospect of being able to change their existing source to natural gas," Ritcey said.

The province is spending \$3.5 million to help Capital Health convert its systems to natural gas.

Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald said the project will be good for the economy, the environment and the Halifax community.

"We need to reach that 35 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases. This will help us get there," he said.

Asked why it took so long to get gas lines into Halifax, MacDonald said it's a large project that needed careful planning.

"When you're dealing with such a huge infrastructure cost, you need to make sure, first of all, that it makes financial sense," he said.

"Obviously, Heritage Gas has taken a look at those numbers and it makes financial sense."

MacDonald said this project will lay the foundation for getting the gas distribution system to other areas, such as Truro.

Heritage Gas supplies natural gas to Amherst and Dartmouth.