



Engineering

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

BOASTING 45,000 EMPLOYEES ACROSS 100 COUNTRIES, AECOM IS IMPROVING THE WORLD'S COLLECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

WITH A STRONG MULTI-disciplinary presence and more than 45,000 employees working in over 100 countries around the globe, AECOM can most accurately be called a full-service engineering firm. “Our strengths are vast – our service offerings span a broad spectrum from transportation to water to environmental to design,” says Rob Johnston, executive vice-president for AECOM’s Canada West region.

In fact, AECOM’s resumé in B.C. alone proves the Fortune 500 company to be both ambitious and prolific. Just some of the high-profile projects that highlight AECOM’s expertise include the Central Valley Greenway – a network of bike and pedestrian paths from Science World to New Westminster; the design bid for the South Fraser Perimeter Road; the Highway

10 widening project (part of the provincial government’s border infrastructure program); the Alex Fraser Bridge joint-replacement project; and the City of Penticton’s water treatment plant and advanced treatment wastewater plant.

“Our vision is to enhance and sustain the world’s built, natural and social environments. We are improving the world’s infrastructure one project at a time – airports, energy-efficient buildings, highways and bridges, water and wastewater treatment plants,” says Johnston. “AECOM is currently working on eight of the 18 largest civil infrastructure projects in the world.”

Such global reach brings world-class expertise to the table, strengthening and diversifying the company’s portfolio. With access to talent and experience from around the world come new strategies and solutions



“We foster a team approach — what differentiates us is our collaborative way of working globally and delivering locally.”

— Rob Johnston, executive VP, AECOM’s Canada West region

– and the knowledge that AECOM will likely have someone with the necessary technical expertise for the project, no matter how complicated or challenging it may be.

In Canada, AECOM is the result of the acquisition of several high-profile firms – Earth Tech, Gartner Lee, KMK, Tecslut, TSH and UMA – all of which are now known as AECOM. “The integration of these companies has taken us to another level in the marketplace,” says Bob Learnmouth, vice-president and leader of the transportation business line in Canada West. “Now we can truly offer our clients a full spectrum of services – from environmental assessments to design and engineering, through to construction management and oversight.”

The firm – one of the largest players in Canada with more than 4,000 employees – has recently realigned itself, unifying and rebranding all of its operations around the world under one name. This consolidation serves to provide clients with more seamless access to services, and staff with greater opportunities to collaborate and share expertise.

“We have put a strong focus on being one AECOM – 45,000 talented employees working in more than 100 countries, seamlessly connected,” says Johnston. “As an integrated organization we foster a team approach. What differentiates us is our collaborative way of working globally and delivering locally.”

That expertise has already been brought to bear on local projects, such as a recent mining rehabilitation project where the team brought in uranium mining specialists from the United States. In addition, the B.C. office recently collaborated with staff in Seattle for several high-profile master planning and urban design projects.

Recognizing that its greatest strength is the talent and dedication of its employees, AECOM considers its staff to be its most important asset. The company provides tuition reimbursement to employees, and has an annual higher-education scholarship program for their children. Staff are also encouraged to participate in training courses to advance their own expertise. Investing in employee education is a win-win situation, says Learnmouth. “It’s good for our people and it’s good for the company.”

Employee interests were also a driving force behind AECOM’s brand-new Burnaby office space, designed with a focus on sustainability. The space, which is expected to obtain LEED Gold certification, boasts floor-to-ceiling windows with ample natural light, a state-of-the-art tele-presence room to cut down on staff travel, and motion-sensitive



ENGINEERED EXCELLENCE: The Cloverdale campus of Kwantlen College (above); (below) the revamped Highway 10 in Surrey and (previous page) Alex Fraser Bridge.



lights to keep energy use down. Vermicomposters on the sundeck allow coffee grounds and other wastes to be composted, and the office’s location was chosen close to a SkyTrain station to encourage employees to commute by public transit.

The June move into the new building amalgamated what were two separate offices, bringing all 180 employees in Burnaby under one roof. “We are thrilled to all be located in one office, which will greatly enhance our ability to work together and harness our talents,” says Albert Li, vice-president and district manager for the B.C./Yukon district.

One of the greatest draws for talented professionals is the opportunity that working for AECOM can provide. “Winning major projects is not just exciting for AECOM, but for our staff members as well,” says Li. “We want to give them the best opportunities to use their technical skills on the best projects in British Columbia.”

Johnston agrees, noting that what first attracted him to the company was the opportunity to work with the best and the brightest from around the world on landmark projects that would challenge and excite him. “To be a successful consultant you really need to have chased and won a variety of projects, success-



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fully delivered on challenging projects, demonstrated your financial- and project-management acumen, nurtured and grown client relationships, and mentored teams to help them perform at their best.” And AECOM is uniquely positioned to provide employees with opportunities to achieve those career milestones within one company.

As well, a global mobility program offers the chance to work with people from around the world, and a company dedication to training and promoting from within provides a clear path for employees to meet their career goals.

“Opportunities keep people happy, and if we can give them opportunities, we have satisfied staff,” says Learmouth. “That’s the goal at AECOM – we want to make our people happy in the workplace.”

Indeed, opportunities abound at AECOM’s B.C. outpost. Projects currently underway include a variety of small- and micro-hydro projects, a hydroelectric project for the Capital Regional District, environmental and social impact analysis for an area mine development, several water and wastewater treatment programs, and municipal road rehabilitation and improvements on Vancouver Island.

“AECOM has a vision and an appetite for exciting work, and we’re looking forward to the future,” says Learmouth with palpable enthusiasm. “I think the future for British Columbia is very bright. We’ve got so much potential here and so many good people that I think it’s going to be a very exciting time to be working here.” ■

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This promotional feature was prepared by BC Business magazine’s Special Advertising Features Dept. Writer: Tiffany Sloan. For information contact BC Business VP of corporate features John Cochran at 604-299-7311. Email: jcochrane@canadawide.com

LAKE CITY CENTRE WELCOMES AECOM

The owners, agents and managers of Lake City Centre are pleased to have accommodated the consolidation of AECOM's Burnaby office premises at its newly constructed state of the art building immediately adjacent to the University/Production SkyTrain Station. We all look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with a high quality tenant such as AECOM.



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