



ACEC-BC Launches Online QBS Resource

December 7, 2015 Vancouver, B.C. – An exciting new resource to help municipalities and other owners implement effective procurement practices has been launched by the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of BC. The website <http://yes2qbs.com/> provides invaluable information on the benefits of using **Qualification Based Selection** (“QBS”) as the preferred method for procuring design services. In addition to guides and studies that provide detailed explanation of QBS and overviews of the collective experience, there are a number of templates and resource documents that will help owners implement QBS. The website also features a 1 minute introductory video explaining the basic concept of the QBS process.

ACEC-BC and its members share the objective of owners to obtain the most cost-effective designs that result in safe and efficient projects. Hiring the most qualified professional design services provider at a reasonable price is the best way of ensuring that the final constructed project is completed on time and on budget. "Engineering fees are a modest but critical investment in the success of a project. By using QBS, there is a significant return on your investment through better quality and life-cycle savings," says ACEC Canada President and CEO John Gamble. From a quantitative perspective, QBS based projects exhibit better measures than the national average in terms of both lower construction costs and lower schedule growth, which are key indicators of design impact on the constructed facility. This website and resources it provides will be invaluable for those looking for best practices on engaging consulting engineers and other design professionals.

“ACEC-BC is pleased to create a website that brings together QBS-related information in one convenient location. Even though QBS has been used in Ontario, Alberta and just recently legislated in Quebec, the Canadian experience is not well documented”, said Keith Sashaw, President of ACEC-BC. “ACEC-BC wants to fill this void and ensure procurement officials and consulting engineers have the tools, materials and knowledge to pursue QBS with confidence and success.”

Sashaw also explained that the website and video received support from ACEC-Canada (national organization), Consulting Engineers of Alberta, as well as from consulting engineering associations from nine other provinces and two territories and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC. "The Consulting Engineers of Alberta congratulate ACEC-BC in their QBS initiatives," says Ken Pilip, P.Eng., CEO of Consulting Engineers of Alberta. "Those public agencies employing QBS as a preferred procurement method report overall project cost savings of 5 to 10 percent, far fewer cost over-runs and more innovation. We predict that over the next few years, QBS will become the preferred procurement method of all provincial governments, municipalities, and public agencies throughout Canada."

ACEC-BC strives to promote and encourage the public and private sectors to use bidding processes that are fair, open and transparent.

About the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies, British Columbia (ACEC-BC)

ACEC-BC is British Columbia's provincial association of engineering consulting firms. ACEC-BC represents 84 of BC's consulting engineering companies that provide engineering and other technology-based intellectual services to the public and private sectors, and are integral contributors to major projects in British Columbia. ACEC-BC firms employ more than 10,000 people in British Columbia comprised of a workforce of engineers, geoscientists, technicians, technologists and other support staff (www.acec-bc.ca).