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## **Vancouver Consulting Engineers Claim Top Awards at National Gala**

**Projects carried out in Canada and internationally recognized for their excellence and contribution to community**

(OTTAWA) **October 25, 2016** – From designing leading-edge buildings and transportation infrastructure to finding innovative ways to generate power, consulting engineering firms from the Vancouver area put their expertise to work on a variety of projects that sometimes go unnoticed. But this was not the case in Ottawa Tuesday evening, as projects by **Allnorth-KGS Group-CAP Engineering, COWI North America and Kiewit, Fast + Epp, Knight Piésold Ltd. and Stantec** won five of the twenty Awards of Excellence, and two out of five Special Achievement Awards. These awards represent the highest recognition for achievement in the consulting engineering industry at the 2016 Canadian Consulting Engineering (CCE) Awards gala.

“These Awards showcase the outstanding talent and expertise of consulting engineers across Canada,” said ACEC President and CEO John Gamble. “By recognizing these projects with national awards, we highlight the important contributions of engineering firms to Canadians and the huge impact they have both here at home and around the world.”

Well-deserved awards were bestowed to these firms for their projects’ technical excellence and social, economic and environmental contribution to the community in which they were carried out.



**Fast + Epp** won the prestigious **Schreyer Award** and an **Award of Excellence** for its work on the Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre (GHAC) in Surrey. The Schreyer Award is presented to a project that best demonstrates technical excellence and innovation, and that has the highest technical merit. The Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre was constructed to meet the needs of a diverse population. With Surrey’s density rapidly increasing, the GHAC not only provides recreational and community space to promote wellness, learning, healthy living and sports excellence, but its innovative design also maximizes security and accessibility.

### **A design that truly proves the sky’s the limit**

Compared to a more typical ‘box with a flat roof’ to accommodate tall diving towers, GHAC’s roof shape saves money on energy costs in the long run. The GHAC features an undulating roof structure with hanging timber ‘cables’, suspended between large concrete buttresses. While hanging systems have historically used steel cables, Fast + Epp’s engineering team chose wood as a cost-effective, structurally-efficient and aesthetically-pleasing alternative. The structure’s clever balance of form and function fulfills the City of Surrey’s desire for an iconic building that will be a catalyst for civic growth.



**COWI North America working with Kiewit** won the **Outreach Award** and an **Award of Excellence** for their work on **The Rio Abajo Footbridge Project in Nicaragua**. The Outreach Award is presented for a company's role in donating their time and/or services for the benefit of a community or group either in Canada or on the international stage.

### Connecting the Rio Abajo community safely to essential services and goods

The isolated community of Rio Abajo in Nicaragua required an 81-m footbridge over a fast-moving river to provide year-round access to schools, clinics and markets in a nearby town. The COWI Bridge and Kiewit team reviewed the footbridge design, provided funding, and sent a team to construct the bridge with local volunteers. The team successfully completed the project on an accelerated construction schedule, despite challenges due to the rural environment and language barrier. “Constructing the Rio Abajo Footbridge was the combined effort of our project team and the local residents. Together we built a permanent bridge crossing that provides locals with a safe connection to essential amenities. It was an immensely rewarding experience that allowed us to give back in a way that connects with our passion for bridges. We are honoured it has received these awards,” said Don Bergman, Senior Project Director & VP of Major Projects.



**Allnorth-KGS Group-CAP Engineering** won an **Award of Excellence** for its work on the Whitehorse Diesel to Liquefied Natural Gas Conversion Project. “It is a tremendous honour to receive the prestigious Award of Excellence in the 2016 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards. This award would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the entire team. We are grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this ground-breaking project,” said Darby Kreitz, P.Eng., Allnorth Chief Executive Officer.

### Improving reliability, reducing power costs and environmental impacts

The Yukon’s hydro-based electrical system is isolated from the North American grid. In addition, delivering a continuous source of electricity is challenged by spikes in demand due to weather, transmission, and hydro generation failures. Yukon Energy Corporation’s ageing diesel backup generators are an increasing reliability risk. Yukon Energy Corporation - Engineering Group constructed an innovative 8.8 MW liquefied natural gas (LNG) fueled power generating station, improving **reliability**, and **reducing power costs** and **environmental impacts**. This was accomplished with **First Nations** support as well as a \$21 million investment from the Kwanlin Dun Band.



For designing and commissioning the Capilano Break Head Tank and Energy Recovery Facility Project, **Knight Piésold Ltd.** won an **Award of Excellence**. Metro Vancouver’s Seymour-Capilano Filtration Project in North Vancouver is one of the largest water transfer and treatment and energy recovery projects in North America. “It is an honour to be recognized for our work on the Capilano Break Head Tank and Energy Recovery Facility, in partnership with Metro Vancouver. This project will help reduce Metro Vancouver’s electrical power requirements, by generating clean renewable hydropower on their bulk water supply infrastructure,” said Sam Mottram, Managing Principal, Power Services, Knight Piésold Ltd.

### How it works?

Raw water from the Capilano Reservoir is pumped up to the Seymour Filtration Plant through a seven-kilometer tunnel to join water from the Seymour Reservoir for treatment. The Capilano volume is then returned under gravity through a second tunnel to the underground Capilano Break Head Tank and Energy Recovery Facility (BHT & ERF) where the excess head is reduced through either pressure reducing valves or an energy recovery turbine before discharge into the Capilano distribution system. The ERF partially offsets energy that is consumed by the pumps.



**Stantec** won an **Award of Excellence** for the leading role the firm’s team played in designing the Low Level Road Project in North Vancouver. The project not only supports economic growth through expanded port terminals, and improves life quality through enhanced mobility, active transportation connections, and noise mitigation, but it also offers a sustainable solution for the community. In fact, it is the first transportation project in North America to achieve ISI Envision Platinum certification.

“Stantec is honoured to be recognized for our work on the Low Level Road project. This was more than just an expansion of a road and rail corridor, this project has a direct impact on the community of North Vancouver,” says Neal Cormack, regional leader, British Columbia, Stantec. “This award really recognizes the significant economic benefits to the surrounding community through increased rail and port capacity, increased employment, numerous safety and mobility features, and enhanced multi-modal connectivity.” The Port of Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver’s Low Level Road Project is a road/rail re-alignment and overpass project designed by Stantec to address growing neighbourhood safety, traffic, and railway concerns.

In November, follow the [#20DaysOfExcellence](#) in engineering campaign on Twitter and at [www.acec.ca/20daysofexcellence](http://www.acec.ca/20daysofexcellence) to watch videos of other award-winning projects like these and to learn more about the impact of consulting engineering on our quality of life.

The award-winning projects are described in full in the October-November 2016 issue of *Canadian Consulting Engineer* at <http://www.canadianconsultingengineer.com/digital-edition/>.

### **About award-winning firms**

**Fast + Epp** is a 50-person structural engineering firm with offices in Vancouver, New York, and Seattle, that has contributed to projects throughout North America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. The firm has been recognized with over 90 national and international awards for proficiency in all building types as well as combining materials to form architecturally expressive structures. [www.fastep.com](http://www.fastep.com)

**COWI North America** is a leading bridge, tunnel and marine engineering consulting group built on over 80 years of international experience. [www.cowi-na.com](http://www.cowi-na.com)

**Allnorth** has been providing consulting services since 1995 to clients in the Mining, Oil & Gas, Pulp & Paper, Chemical, Infrastructure and Power sectors. They are a multidisciplinary engineering and technical services company with a team that has grown to be in excess of 400 employees. [www.allnorth.com](http://www.allnorth.com)

**Knight Piésold** specializes in the identification, concept development, environmental assessment, permitting, detailed design, and commissioning of hydroelectric and other renewable energy projects around the world. Founded in 1921, Knight Piésold is a global consulting firm providing engineering, environmental, geoscience, and management and testing services for the mining, power, water resources, infrastructure, and oil and gas industries. [www.knightpiesold.com](http://www.knightpiesold.com)

**Stantec** employs approximately 22,000 employees working in over 400 locations across six continents. Stantec offers engineering, architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, surveying, environmental sciences, project management, and project economics, from initial project concept and planning through design, construction, and commissioning. They value community, creativity, and client relationships. [www.stantec.com](http://www.stantec.com)

### **About Awards co-sponsors**

**ACEC** represents companies in Canada that provide professional engineering services to both public and private sector clients. These services include the planning, design and execution of all types of engineering projects, as well as providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering and engineering-related fields. For more information about ACEC and the 2016 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards, please visit [www.acec.ca](http://www.acec.ca).

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**Multimedia (includes project description, video, photo):**

[Fast + Epp project photo](#)  
[Project page on acec.ca](#)

[COWI North America and Kiewit project photo](#)  
[Project page on acec.ca](#)

[Allnorth-KGS Group-CAP Engineering project photo](#)  
[Project page on acec.ca](#)

[Knight Piésold Ltd. project photo](#)  
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[Stantec project photo](#)  
[Project page on acec.ca](#)

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