



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Associated Engineering honoured during Canadian Consulting Engineering (CCE) Awards Virtual Celebration

(OTTAWA) October 29, 2020 – The work of Canadian consulting engineering firms was celebrated online Thursday night, as twenty projects were recognized for excellence during the 2020 Canadian Consulting Engineering (CCE) Awards virtual celebration. **Associated Engineering's** Edmonton team received **Awards of Excellence** for two projects. The first for their *Dawson City Water Treatment Plant* project in the Yukon, and the second for their *Bioengineering Restores Ecological Loss after Wildfires* project in Fort McMurray, Alberta and surrounding vicinity.

Recognized as the industry's highest honours, the awards are presented to projects by Canadian firms that showcase the most remarkable engineering feats. “Though we may not have been able to celebrate in-person this year, these achievements and the incredible work of our members were recognized on a virtual stage” said ACEC President and CEO John Gamble. “Through their ingenuity and innovation, the work of consulting engineering companies connects communities, grows the economy, protects the public and improves sustainability. The impacts and benefits of their work are long-lasting, often immeasurable, and deserve to be celebrated.”

Sustainable and resilient design gives community reliable, safe drinking water, and local landmark.



Dawson City Water Treatment Plant – Dawson City's 40-year-old drinking water treatment plant struggled to meet current Canadian Drinking Water Quality guidelines. The Yukon Government retained **Associated Engineering** to provide design and construction services for the largest facility of its type in Western Canada. The design team recommended cartridge filtration for treatment, which had never been used for a system of this size in Western Canada. This unique application of cartridge filtration met water quality guidelines and water demands of the community, while employing a technology that is easy to operate. As the cartridges are washable and reusable, they require replacement only twice a year, a benefit considering the city's remote location and limited access to supplies.

The innovative application of this technology provides a robust treatment system and design that can adapt to varying demand to serve the community's population of 1,400 people, which increases to over 5,000 during the summer months. Already a local landmark, the facility's architecture reflects the town's unique character and history. The jury was impressed with the simple yet efficient filtration solution developed by the project team using locally sourced material and trades.

“We are honoured to be recognized for the sustainable and resilient design of the new



Dawson City Water Treatment Plant which will provide reliable and safe drinking water for many years to come and is a landmark in the community,” said Steven Bartsch, P.Eng.

Preventing erosion, stabilizing slopes, restoring watersheds and wildlife habitat with bioengineering.



Bioengineering Restores Ecological Loss after Wildfires – The 2016 Horse River Wildfire devastated Fort McMurray and surrounding areas within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB). Recognizing the increased risk of flooding and landslides and the additional damage it could cause to property and the environment, the RMWB retained **Associated Engineering** to prioritize wildfire-damaged erosion sites and develop restoration solutions. Through assessment and evaluation, the integrated team of

engineers and environmental scientists identified fourteen sites, predominantly ravines and steep slopes, as having the highest potential risk. Recognizing that traditional engineering solutions requiring heavy equipment would only further damage the sensitive environment, bioengineering was recommended as the primary erosion repair strategy, augmented by more conventional engineering solutions. Almost 70,000 m² of land were restored, making this one of the largest bioengineering projects in the region.



This project demonstrates the success of combining natural and engineered solutions to address erosion, drainage and slope stability issues. Revegetated areas have already begun to build ecological resiliency and restore watersheds and wildlife habitat.

The project’s sensitive approach to restoring the landscape while making it resilient showcased to the jury how solutions can be cost effective and environmentally respectful.

“We are honoured to be recognized for demonstrating on a broad scale that bioengineering can be employed to prevent erosion, stabilize slopes, and restore watersheds and wildlife habitat in one of the largest projects of its kind in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo,” said Jason Vanderzwaag, P.Eng.

About the firm

Associated Engineering is an employee-owned, uniquely Canadian consulting firm with a 70-year history of providing uncompromising, client-focused service. With more than 1,000 staff in 21 offices across Canada, we provide expertise in planning, engineering, environmental science, and landscape architecture. Our commitment to client satisfaction, technical excellence, and innovation has resulted in national and international recognition, including twice winning the Schreyer Award. www.ae.ca

Learn about all CCE Award winning projects

In November, follow ACEC's national and international award winning #20DaysOfExcellence in Engineering campaign on social media. Visit www.acec.ca/cceawards to view videos of the winning projects and to learn more about the impact of consulting engineering on our quality of life.

About CCE 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 2020 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards, please visit www.acec.ca.

Canadian Consulting Engineer is a privately-owned magazine for professional engineers working as consultants in the construction field. It is published by Annex Business Media. This year's award-winning projects are described in full in the October/November 2020 issue of *Canadian Consulting Engineer* at www.canadianconsultingengineer.com/digital-edition/

-30-

Multimedia (photos, project descriptions, videos)

Dawson City Water Treatment Plant project [page](#) with video & [photo](#)

Bioengineering Restores Ecological Loss after Wildfires project [page](#) with video & [photo](#)

For more information, please contact:

Christina Locmelis, Communications Manager
Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-Canada
clocmelis@acec.ca
613-862-3258

Peter Saunders, Editor
Canadian Consulting Engineer
psaunders@ccemag.com
416-510-5119

Lianna Mah
Associated Engineering
mahl@ae.ca
604-293-1411