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CANADIAN CONSULTING
engineer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John G. Cooke & Associates Ltd. 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. **John G. Cooke & Associates Ltd.** received **Awards of Excellence** for two projects located in Canada’s capital. The first for their *Government Conference Centre Rehabilitation* project, and the second for the *West Block Rehabilitation* project in their joint venture with **Ojdrovic Engineering Inc.**

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.”

Acknowledging the importance of heritage rehabilitation projects within the fabric of Canada.



Government Conference Centre Rehabilitation - Constructed in 1912, once Ottawa’s central railway station, the Government Conference Centre (GCC) was in need of repurposing to serve as the temporary home for the Senate of Canada. Structurally, this involved masonry conservation, seismic upgrading, new floor plates and an addition. **John G. Cooke & Associates Ltd.** employed creative solutions to balance heritage conservation while meeting current building codes and overcoming the challenges that arose due to the compressed schedule and changes in design.

The conservation and rehabilitation of this building adds to the richness and variety of the streetscape. It is an example of how the character and history of a building can enhance the identity of a city and a nation, and how heritage status buildings can be repurposed for current needs. After being closed to the public for over 55 years, this building is once again a part of the community. The significant seismic upgrades and creation of additional interior floor space earned this project high marks from the jury.

“Being recognized with an Award of Excellence is incredibly meaningful, as an acknowledgement of the importance of heritage rehabilitation projects within the fabric of Canada as well as



Photo credit: Andria Cardin - Cardin Photography

within the local community” said Lisa Nicol, P.Eng., CAHP, Partner, John G. Cooke & Associates Ltd.

Expanding the life of a historic landmark and symbol for the people of Canada.



West Block Rehabilitation - The \$863M restoration and redevelopment of the West Block Parliament Building was one of the largest heritage rehabilitation projects in North America. Tasked as the structural engineers of record, the firms of **Ojdrovic + Cooke Engineers in Joint Venture** worked to ensure it would remain a strong symbol for the people of Canada. The project involved rehabilitation, modification and strengthening of the existing heritage masonry and construction of several levels under and above ground within the existing courtyard. Innovative technologies were carefully balanced with conservation principles to address challenges and ensure minimal

intervention to the building. The House of Commons now sits within a structural steel forest under a glazed roof with a view of the restored and seismically strengthened 19th century stone masonry building.

The rehabilitation and construction of this contemporary addition has expanded the life of an existing landmark which will continue to contribute to the living story of Parliament Hill and Canada in the future. The project impressed the jury for its respect for the heritage characteristics of the building while upgrading the facility to modern building codes using the latest technology.



“On behalf of our Joint Venture, it is with great pleasure that we accept this recognition. It's an honour to have this collaborative and complimentary partnership recognized. It took many rewarding years and many invested individuals to expand the life of this historic landmark” said Chris Vopni, P.Eng., CAHP Associate - John G. Cooke & Associates.

About the firms

John G. Cooke & Associates Ltd. With offices in Ottawa and Hamilton, John G. Cooke & Associates is a structural engineering firm with a passion for strengthening and restoring Canada's built heritage. www.jgcooke.com

Ojdrovic Engineering Inc., is an ambitious structural engineering design team with enthusiasm for cutting edge contemporary architecture and heritage structures. www.ojdrovic.com

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/cceward 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/

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Multimedia (photos, project descriptions, videos)

Government Conference Centre Rehabilitation project [page](#) with video & [photo](#)

West Block Rehabilitation project [page](#) with video & [photo](#)

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