



# DOING BUSINESS

with Public Works and Government Services Canada

Winter 2006



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**in Sustainable**  
**Construction**

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for low-emission vehicles in government



Public Works and  
Government Services  
Canada

Travaux publics et  
Services gouvernementaux  
Canada

Canada



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### Check out PWGSC's new Internet site.

We've changed it to make it easier than ever to find the information you need. Visit [www.pwgsc.gc.ca](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca).

As Public Works and Government Services Canada's (PWGSC's) external newsletter, *Doing Business* supports the Department's role as a common service provider by informing colleague departments, Canadians and all other interested parties about interesting and innovative PWGSC services, activities, projects and initiatives. Written, designed and published quarterly by PWGSC's Communications Sector, it is also available on-line at [www.pwgsc.gc.ca/db](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/db).

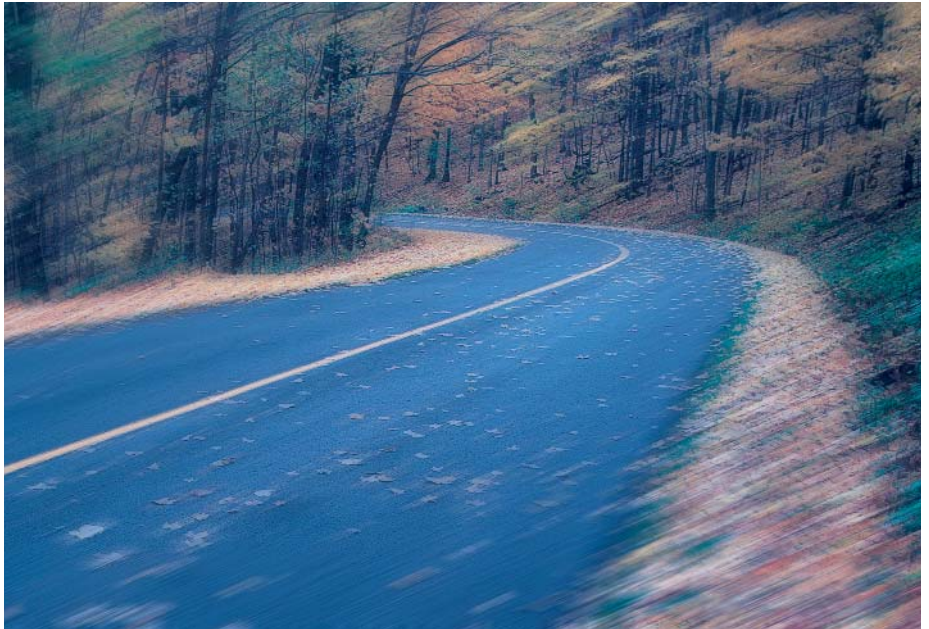
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*Doing Business* welcomes feedback and suggestions for future stories. Please address your comments to: Jigme Nehring-Rongé; Editor, *Doing Business*; Corporate Services, Human Resources and Communications, PWGSC; 16A1, Portage III; 11 Laurier Street; Gatineau, QC; K1A 0S5. Fax: (819) 956-0573. E-mail [questions@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:questions@pwgsc.gc.ca)

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# THE WAY FORWARD

At Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) *The Way Forward* is our strategy to greatly improve the way we do business so government can better focus on its business: serving Canadians.

I'm proud to say that many of our *Way Forward* goals — established just over a year ago — are already being realized. We're delivering our common government services faster, smarter, "greener" and with stricter financial management and clearer lines of accountability. We are already generating better value for Canadians' hard-earned tax dollars.

This issue of *Doing Business* highlights just some examples of *The Way Forward* in action. I invite you to read how we are:

- Saving money and the environment — and setting the pace for industry — by constructing all new Government of Canada buildings to the highest standards in sustainability (Page 4)
- Helping departments and agencies reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles on their behalf — and ultimately helping Canada meet its Kyoto commitments (Page 6)
- Harnessing technology to revolutionize government services (page 8)
- Examining how to increase the performance of our large federal real estate inventory — and get the best value for Canadian taxpayers (page 9) and
- Saving the Government of Canada millions of dollars on air travel while streamlining travel services for federal employees (page 11)

*The Way Forward's* scope is vast. Through our modernization of services and aggressive search for savings, it means a stronger role in government for PWGSC. For example, earlier in 2005 we created a new Office of Greening Government Operations and a new Office of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. Right now, we're developing a Code of Fair Contract Practices that will combine current conflict of interest and anti-corruption policies — including anti-bribe and integrity measures — into one easy-to-understand document. The Code will serve as an integrity pact between the Government of Canada and all with whom it does business.

As our services continue to evolve, we look forward to working closely with colleague departments and agencies in our common goal to deliver the best services for Canadians at the best value for their hard-earned tax dollars.

I. David Marshall  
Deputy Minister of PWGSC



PWGSC

# PWGSC A LEADER

## in sustainable construction

**P**WGSC is the driving force behind new "green" Government of Canada (GoC) buildings being constructed across the country.

These new federal buildings feature both high and low energy-saving technologies — ranging from photovoltaic solar panels to rainwater in toilets — and represent the pinnacle of sustainable design and construction.

"PWGSC is establishing its role as a leader in this field," says Tim McGrath, PWGSC's Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Real

Property Branch. "As of spring 2005, we required all new buildings to meet a very high environmental standard that calls for them to use only half the energy used by similar existing federal buildings."

In developing these new energy-efficient buildings, PWGSC is using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standard. This international standard sets benchmarks for high-performance sustainable buildings that far

These new federal buildings feature both high and low energy-saving technologies — ranging from photovoltaic solar panels to rainwater in toilets



PWGSC



exceed the Model National Energy Code for Buildings. PWGSC is also requiring buildings considered for new long-term leases to meet this standard.

"In addition to saving money and energy, this commitment represents a greener future for the industry in general," says Margaret Kenny, PWGSC's Director General of its Office of Greening Government Operations. "Through leading by example, we help drive the market so green technologies and products become more available, affordable and innovative — enabling others to green their buildings and operations."

Adopting the LEED Gold standard is just the latest in PWGSC's sustainable construction and building maintenance efforts. Between 1990 and 2003 the Department upgraded the energy efficiency of its office inventory and successfully cut greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by more than 20 percent below 1990 levels. Currently it's working to reduce GHGs from the government's central heating and cooling plants in Ottawa by 8 to 10 percent.

These and other sustainability efforts represent PWGSC's commitment to lead by example as it helps the GoC green its operations — and ultimately helps the county meet its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. **DB**

For more information, contact James Dykes at (780) 497-3861 or james.dykes@pwgsc.gc.ca.

New Government of Canada buildings such as these in Yellowknife (above left), Vancouver (right), and Charlottetown (below left) are shining examples of sustainable design and construction.



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## GREEN BUILDING SUCCESS STORIES FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST:

**Vancouver:** 401 Burrard Street represents the new generation of commercial office buildings. It's designed to enhance tenant comfort and productivity while minimizing the building's lifetime economic and environmental costs. This high-performance, energy-efficient building utilizes natural light and incorporates state-of-the-art electrical, mechanical, heating and ventilation systems.

**Yellowknife:** The new Greenstone Building in Yellowknife will be the first North of 60 LEED-Canada-Gold-standard-certified office building. The solar panels built into the south-facing curtain wall are expected to produce 33.5 kilowatts of energy — reducing the building's electrical demand by 5 percent. This will represent the highest proportion of photovoltaic power supplied within a Canadian public building. Waterless urinals and dual-flush toilets are designed to reduce water usage by over 30 percent. Foliage planted into the six-inch layer of topsoil on the rooftop will absorb water that would otherwise drain off-site, while contributing to the natural rejuvenation of outdoor air quality. Operable windows will minimize cooling costs in the summer months and provide occupants with the ability to control their environment.

**Sudbury:** Heat exchangers on the rooftop at the heating plant at 1050 Notre Dame will save money and reduce power consumption by 88 percent by recycling expelled air. The heat exchanging system — which contains only one moving part and uses a bare minimum

of energy to operate — captures the building's waste heat and humidity during winter months and uses it to preheat incoming fresh air. The system, scheduled for completion in February, will operate similarly during summer months, using expelled, air-conditioned air to pre-cool incoming warm air.

**Montreal:** The reconstructed building at 740 Bel-Air Avenue saves energy by utilizing both natural, renewable resources and novel technology such as solar panels, reflective roofs, rainwater, and natural light and ventilation. It uses geothermal and solar energy in its heating and air-conditioning systems, high performance window design and placement, and collects rainwater for use in toilets and ground maintenance.

**Charlottetown:** The Jean Canfield Building, scheduled to open in summer 2007, will be the most environmentally friendly building ever constructed by PWGSC. Its many green features include a reflective roof, use of natural light and shade to moderate temperature, and the recycling of rainwater to reduce water consumption.

**Newfoundland and Labrador:** The new RCMP detachment in Holyrood, Newfoundland (44 km west of St. John's) is the first "green" RCMP detachment in Canada, and was recently featured on the international stage at the 2005 World Sustainable Building Conference in Tokyo. PWGSC developed the concept design and sustainable strategy for the building, which uses 47 percent less energy each year than other detachments in the region.



The RCMP is just one of 23 federal departments and agencies that are benefiting from environmentally responsible vehicles purchased by PWGSC.

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# PAVING THE WAY

## for low-emission vehicles in government

**B**y enabling Government of Canada (GoC) departments and agencies to purchase "greener" vehicles, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) has become a driving force behind reductions in government greenhouse gas emissions — and an impressive team player in Canada's efforts to meet its Kyoto commitments.

Taking a cue from the increasing market availability and selection of low-emission vehicles, PWGSC has been using its procurement expertise to evaluate new models of gasoline-electric hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles for value and environmental impact. With the groundwork out of the way, departments and agencies have found that PWGSC is leading a government shift toward greener fleets.

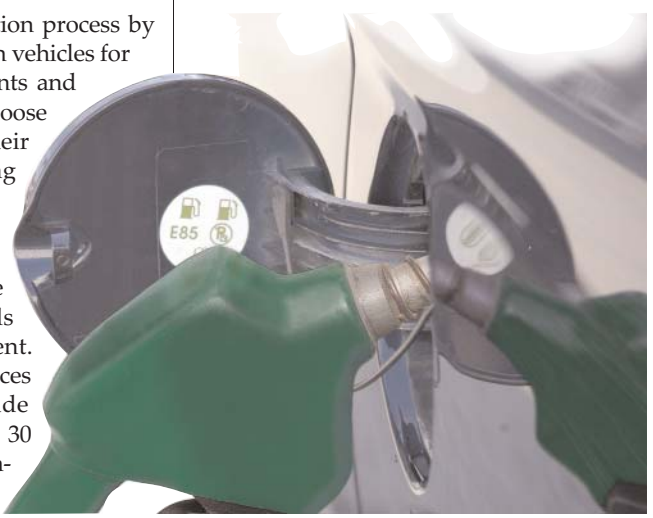
"We can draw from a list of vehicles that have already been evaluated by PWGSC,"

says Donna Warren, of National Fleet Acquisitions for RCMP. "They've taken the lead in greening by offering vehicles that will ultimately help us reach our targets for significantly reducing emissions."

PWGSC simplifies the selection process by creating a list of low-emission vehicles for easy reference, so departments and agencies can more easily choose vehicles that best meet their needs, while also ensuring cost-efficiency.

Last year, the Department purchased 394 alternative fuel vehicles and 151 hybrids on behalf of government. According to Natural Resources Canada, the carbon dioxide emissions of hybrid cars are 30 percent less than those of conventional gas cars.

Vehicles in PWGSC's fleet run on low sulphur diesel and ethanol gas blends — fuels that are safer for the environment than conventional gas.



PWGSC



"The response has been great," says PWGSC's Pierre Dumoulin, Supply Team Leader. "To date, we've purchased environmentally responsible vehicles for 23 departments and agencies. We're really having an impact across the board."

PWGSC's emphasis on greener vehicles is also influencing industry — creating a greater demand for manufacturers to offer low-emission vehicles. "More than this," adds PWGSC's John Kampouris, PWGSC Fleet Officer, "We're setting the example for private sector companies to adopt these vehicles within their fleets as well."

As interest in low-emission vehicles continues to grow across government, so too does PWGSC's ability to bring more savings through economies of scale. "PWGSC is saving taxpayers' money by purchasing directly from manufacturers," says Mr. Dumoulin.

The trend to buy "green" is not limited to cars. "We have over 100 standing offers in place that have provisions for green goods and services," says Margaret Kenny, Director General of PWGSC's Office of Greening Government Operations (OGGO). "In addition to vehicles, departments can easily buy things like energy-efficient office

equipment, recycled paper and recycled toner cartridges."

OGGO currently has an official green procurement policy in the works, which will be implemented by 2006.

"This new policy will govern all procurement, and will make the GoC a worldwide leader in integrating environmental considerations into all aspects of procurement," says Ms. Kenny.

"Given our purchasing volumes, we are in a good position to stimulate markets to produce more environmentally sound products, and to demonstrate real leadership in greening government." **DB**

For more information on purchasing green vehicles, contact Pierre Dumoulin at (819) 956-3953 or [pierre.dumoulin@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:pierre.dumoulin@pwgsc.gc.ca).

To learn more about how PWGSC is greening government, contact Margaret Kenny at (819) 956-1613 or [margaret.kenny@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:margaret.kenny@pwgsc.gc.ca).

**PWGSC practices what it promotes. The Department takes an environmentally responsible approach with its own fleet of business-use cars. Here's how:**

- We've reduced the number of vehicles in our fleet from 604 to 277, and have incorporated 78 alternative fuel vehicles and 19 hybrids.
- We use low sulphur diesel and ethanol gas blends which are safer fuels for the environment.
- We ensure that our vehicles receive regular maintenance and emissions testing to guarantee they remain environmentally responsible.
- We recycle used vehicle liquids.
- We rent low-emission vehicles whenever possible.

**PWGSC has reduced the number of vehicles in its fleet from 604 to 277. Nineteen of these are hybrids and 78 alternative fuel vehicles — like the one photographed here.**

"[PWGSC has] taken the lead in **greening** by offering vehicles that will ultimately help us reach our targets for **significantly reducing emissions.**"

Donna Warren, RCMP





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## PWGSC AT GTEC

### harnessing technology to revolutionize government services

Each year, Information Technology (IT) professionals from Canada and the international community travel to Ottawa for the nation's largest public sector learning and networking technology event — GTEC Week. At this year's conference in October 2005, PWGSC took centre stage once again by showcasing a number of innovative products and services set to streamline and strengthen the management of IT across the Government of Canada (GoC).

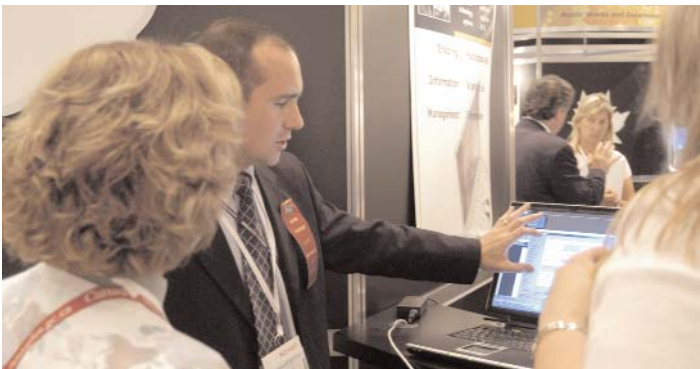
Through a highly interactive display, PWGSC offered visitors a closer look at the Government of Canada Marketplace, the Shared Travel Service Initiative, the Secure Channel and Government On-Line — key elements of its plan to revolutionize government by taking a unified approach to providing services to the GoC.

One of the cornerstones of this plan is PWGSC's IT Shared Services initiative, a main topic of discussion at GTEC. This project is transforming the way IT services will be delivered across the government in order to improve internal operational efficiency, and yield better, faster, more cost-effective results. (See sidebar.)

"By sharing services, we will be more streamlined and cost-efficient," says PWGSC's Ken Cochrane, CEO Information Technology Services Branch (ITSB), and a key speaker at the event. "This means increased service quality and efficiency, which in turn, will generate dividends that can be reallocated to other priorities."

Sharing expertise and best practices, a number of other IT professionals from PWGSC also spoke at the event, leading seminars and

**PWGSC's interactive display gave visitors hands-on insight into a variety of IM/IT tools and services.**



PWGSC

workshops to offer insight into new challenges and opportunities in the fast-paced world of public sector IT.

"GTEC Week is an important forum for PWGSC," says Mr. Cochrane. "We can showcase our own innovation and growth, while also learning from the successes and best practices of our colleagues in the federal government, the private sector, the international community and academia." **DB**

To learn more about the IT Shared Services Initiative, contact Anik Trépanier, A/Director, Business Information and Coordination Services at (819) 956-0619 or [anik.trepanier@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:anik.trepanier@pwgsc.gc.ca).

#### **PWGSC — THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR IT SERVICES**

PWGSC is changing the way IT services are delivered — yielding better, faster, more cost-efficient results for clients and taxpayers.

Through the adoption of a shared services approach, we are transforming into an enterprise-focused, operationally excellent IT service provider for the Government of Canada (GoC). As a result, the GoC will be able to share practices and information, have clearer accountabilities, improve efficiency and provide consistent levels of service to its clients.

ITSB has already made progress through programs such as the Records, Document and Information Management System (RDIMS), the Secure Channel and Government On-Line. It will now focus on new offerings such as Data Centre Consolidation, Distributed Computing, and Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Services.

These initiatives will benefit Canadians in a number of ways, including:

- Consistent on-line service delivery 24/7
- Cost savings through economies of scale and standardization
- Government-wide services that better meet the business and program needs of departments and agencies
- Greater opportunities for departments and agencies to focus on their core business mandates
- Credible, consistent and timely management information of decision-making
- Common and consistent levels of service





Place du Portage in Gatineau, Quebec is one of 326 federally owned buildings included in PWGSC's real estate study.

## OPTIMIZING OUR REAL ESTATE PORTFOLIO

**A** solid game plan is key to managing any portfolio of assets. It's even more important for a portfolio that includes federally owned buildings and concerns Canadian taxpayers' money.

That's why PWGSC is taking a strategic approach to managing the office portion of the Government of Canada's (GoC's) real estate portfolio — and planning for its future.

Accommodating over 210,000 people, PWGSC is the largest administrator of office space in Canada. The study is examining 326 of PWGSC's owned office buildings — valued at \$3 billion. This represents roughly 80 percent of PWGSC's office inventory, excluding special purpose buildings and important strategic and historic properties such as Parliament Hill.

"We're seeking private sector advice on how to manage our aging real estate inventory," says PWGSC Deputy Minister I. David Marshall. "On average, GoC buildings are 43 years old and will require some \$2 billion for the next five years for rust-out issues."

"We're examining a broad range of options on how we can best manage the GoC's real estate holdings to ensure that Canadians are getting the best possible value for their tax dollars," adds Mr Marshall. "Any potential areas for savings we might find

means that money can be reinvested into Canadians' priorities."

PWGSC will award a contract — following a competitive process — for a third-party study that will provide research and guidance into the most cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally sound way to manage federally owned or leased real property.

The results of the study, to be received in 2006, will identify innovative methods of management, finance and ownership to improve overall performance of the GoC's office portfolio. The study will also look for methods to generate savings and contribute to broader public policy objectives such as environmental sustainability and the preservation of Canada's heritage.

"This is about identifying long-term sustainable options for providing work space to public servants more effectively and efficiently. This study will provide an optimal office accommodation strategy for the GoC, which will deliver the best value to the taxpayer," says Tim McGrath, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Real Property Branch.

The Department will carefully examine the study's recommendations and consult with other government departments, private

industry and citizens before making any final investment decisions.

"Whatever decisions are made, PWGSC will respect commitments to environmental excellence, maintain the presence of the federal government in all regions of Canada, protect heritage properties, and work with local governments to support community objectives," says Mr. McGrath.

These strides toward improved real property management represent one aspect of PWGSC's plan to help the GoC save about \$1 billion off its real estate spending over the next five years. **DB**

For more information, contact Brendan McDonald, Director General, Service Transformation Office at (613) 736-3050 or [brendan.mcdonald@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:brendan.mcdonald@pwgsc.gc.ca).

Mr. Douglas Tipple — a recognized business leader appointed from the private sector — is overseeing PWGSC's transformation of its Real Property business line, including the study. As Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister, Real Property Business Transformation, Mr. Tipple provides authoritative advice and recommendations.



## CONSERVING CANADA'S HERITAGE

**H**eritage structures such as the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, the Point Atkinson Lighthouse in Vancouver, and the Vimy Memorial in France serve as important reminders of Canada's vast and varied cultural past — each telling important stories of the birth, growth and sacrifices of a nation.

They are just a few of over 1,300 buildings, structures and sites owned by the Government of Canada (GoC) that have been officially designated — and thus protected — for their heritage character.

PWGSC's Heritage Conservation Directorate proudly plays a key role in that protection. Offering an array of conservation architecture and engineering services, it has positioned itself as the GoC's centre of expertise for heritage conservation.

"We have the largest group of heritage architects and engineers in the country," says PWGSC's Robert Pajot, a Manager in the Heritage Conservation Directorate. "More than 50 professional staff across Canada provide services to our government clients as well as to this Department's own inventory of 171 heritage buildings."

Staff from the Directorate have lent their expertise to important cultural resources such as Parks Canada's national historic sites across the country and the St. Julien War Memorial in Belgium.

"With their respective mandates to preserve Canada's cultural heritage and commemorate the sacrifices of its people, Parks Canada and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) are our two main external clients," says Mr. Pajot. For example, the Directorate recently developed a National Technical Maintenance Manual for Veterans' Grave Sites in Canada to aid VAC in its mandate to care for

approximately 350,000 veterans' graves across the country.

The Directorate's activities are not limited to the public sector. It supports the heritage conservation community at large by being active in organizations such as the Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) — a 28-member-countries-strong cross-disciplinary organization that promotes the best historical conservation technologies. A number of PWGSC employees have held board member and presidential positions with APT.

The Directorate's expertise is so renowned, it has been solicited internationally. "We've provided conservation expertise to the Government of Uruguay for their *Palacio legislativo* and UNESCO's World Heritage Committee for *kizhi pogost* — a World Heritage Site in the Russian Federation," says Mr. Pajot.

Here in Canada, the Heritage Conservation Directorate, which has been preserving buildings and landscapes since 1966, continues to evolve. They're working on a Heritage Stewardship Program that will integrate heritage considerations directly into PWGSC's real property practices — from leasing, acquisition and investment planning through to facility and project management, and disposal. "Our strategic plan will make it easier to comply with heritage conservation policies and legislation," says Mr. Pajot.

"Ultimately, we're aiming to preserve Canada's cultural heritage for generations to come." **DB**

For more information on PWGSC's Heritage Conservation Program, contact Robert Pajot at (819) 953-1960 or [robert.pajot@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:robert.pajot@pwgsc.gc.ca).







PWGSC's Heritage Program works on important Canadian cultural sites at home and abroad — such as the Veterans' Cemetery in Esquimalt, BC (above) and monuments such as the Vimy Memorial at Vimy Ridge, France (below), which marks the site of a great Canadian First World War victory.



photos.com

## SHARED GOVERNMENT TRAVEL SAVES MILLIONS

The skies are friendlier than ever for the Government of Canada (GoC) — it's saving millions of dollars on air travel while its employees are enjoying improved business travel services.

The Shared Travel Service Initiative (STSI) — led by PWGSC and initiated just over a year ago — is already proving its value by streamlining the management of government travel information and saving time and money. New tools and services are being added as the STSI evolves.

"By consolidating government travel under one system, we are in a better position to negotiate with the travel industry for volume discounts and rebates," says PWGSC's Ken Cochrane, Chief Executive Officer, Information Technology Services Branch. "We're reducing administrative overhead, better controlling spending, and enabling managers to make quicker, fact-based decisions based on organized, accessible information on when, how and why travel takes place."

Collectively known as Travel AcXess Voyage, the integrated suite of travel services includes a government travel credit card, a full service travel agency and an On-Line Booking Tool (OBT). An on-line Expense Management Tool will soon be added.

The Initiative's early successes are significant. Over 15 percent of all government travel transactions are now being made using the OBT — which reduces transaction costs by half. The travel agency's fees have been reduced by 5 percent, thanks to volume discounts. And to date, PWGSC has negotiated seven corporate travel agreements for airfares discounts for government business travellers — including one with WestJet, an airline that accounts for 13 percent of government travel. The Department will continue to negotiate for similar volume discounts to lower the government's travel bill and save taxpayers' money.

Departments that use STSI get better travel tools for their employees, better records of travel information for future decision

making and most importantly, travel savings on behalf of the Canadian taxpayer.

"Currently, close to 90 federal departments and agencies are realizing the benefits of shared travel services," says Shawn Brennan, STSI's Director General. "As more departments and agencies come on board, the savings will grow."

The STSI is just one aspect of the government-wide effort to maximize efficiencies and reap savings for Canadians. **DB**

For more information on the Shared Travel Services Initiative visit: <http://gtmo.gc.ca/>.

To obtain a Traveller Identification Number, update a Traveller Profile or book travel on-line, visit: <http://travel-voyage.gc.ca>.

### SNAPSHOT: SHARED TRAVEL...

- Takes advantage of discounts based on larger, consolidated travel volumes
- Supports sustainable development practices by reducing the number of paper-based travel transactions
- Saves departments time and money through lower administrative overhead, maximized rebates and discounts, lower transaction fees associated with on-line booking, and better management of departments' travel budgets through a direct link to their financial systems
- Gives departments improved statistical information to make sound business decisions, providing greater transparency of transaction costs and a simplified process for carrying out rapid audits when required



PWGSC

# HISTORIC PARK COMMUNITY

## gets clean water supply

**T**hanks to PWGSC's project management expertise, a historic Manitoba town now has a first-class water treatment plant — although you wouldn't know it upon first glance.

Aesthetically constructed to mimic the distinctive rustic architectural style that emerged in Canada's National Parks between 1902 and 1930, the new state-of-the-art water treatment plant located in Riding Mountain National Park is cleverly concealed.

The disguise almost worked too well. "Some local residents thought that we had allowed the construction of a large cottage, and complained about it," said Parks Canada's Don Huisman, the client who commissioned the water treatment plant for Wasagaming, Manitoba — a Victorian-style resort community nestled at the southern edge of the Park. But upon learning that it was in fact the source of the new, great-tasting water at the resort, residents were happily appeased.

The heritage nature of the area required the unique approach to construction. "The historic cottage architecture has been protected here for 70 years," said Mr. Huisman. "There are 19 heritage



PWGSC

The water plant's exterior (above) respectfully reflects the architectural heritage of its setting, while its interior (left) houses a state-of-the-art water filtration system that produces great-tasting water with a minimal addition of chemicals.



buildings in this community and it looks very similar to how it looked in the 1930s."

So when PWGSC was asked to construct a water treatment plant to ensure the potability of Wasagaming's water supply, Project Manager Steve Tokar knew there was much more to consider than just the technical aspects. "In constructing the plant, we needed to be respectful of the heritage character of the adjacent buildings as well as the surrounding natural environment," said Mr. Tokar.

Working in the fall of 2004 through the winter to avoid disrupting Wasagaming's summer visitor season, Tokar, his team and Parks Canada staff designed the plant with a log-cabin exterior, minimized the area to be cleared as much as possible, employed directional drilling to minimize disruption to the lake, and practiced erosion control to protect the shore.

Inside, they constructed a state-of-the-art multi-barrier water filtration system that requires a minimal addition of chemicals. Water is filtered using membrane filters and then disinfected with Ultra Violet (UV) light and mild chlorination. Despite one of the coldest winters in Manitoba history, the project team completed the plant on time and within budget.

"By using UV light — which kills disease-causing micro-organisms without adding anything to the water — we were able to minimize the need for chlorine and other chemicals"

Steve Tokar, Project Manager

## WASAGAMING AND RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, MANITOBA

Wasagaming is a picturesque family resort situated just outside of Manitoba's only National Park. Its small population swells to approximately 15,000 at the height of summer.

Recent archaeological evidence suggests that Aboriginal peoples have inhabited the area for over 6,000 years. When it was officially opened as Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP) in 1933, it soon became the site of the largest relief camp in Canada, employing over 1,200 men on various projects between 1934 and 1935 under the *Unemployment Relief Act* during the Great Depression.



Parks Canada

It was during this time that the "Rustic Design" tradition that used indigenous building materials such as logs and stones reached its zenith in Canada's National Parks, with relief workers often employed for construction.

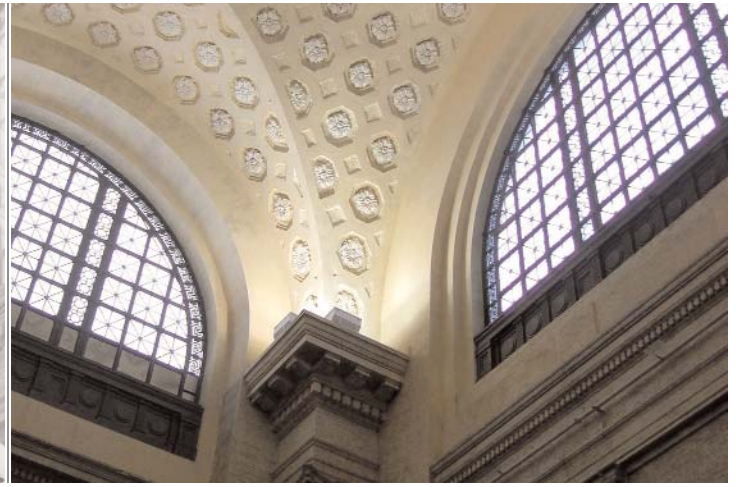
During the Second World War, RMNP became home to German Prisoners of War who were detained there to cut lumber between 1943 and 1945. When the war ended and the prisoners were released, the Park re-established its original goals as a natural resort destination. Resource extraction was curtailed and the development of recreational facilities continued.

"Previously, water was being taken from the nearby lake and chlorinated," said Mr. Tokar.

"By using a UV disinfection system and a membrane filtration system, disease-causing micro-organisms are removed without adding chemicals — thereby reducing environmental impact."

"Now we use only 15 percent of the chlorine we were using before," said Mr. Huisman, who is pleased with the new plant. "The water tastes better — it's much more natural tasting. People love our water." **DB**

For more information on this project, contact Steve Tokar at (204) 983-3169 or [steve.tokar@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:steve.tokar@pwgsc.gc.ca).



## THE GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE CENTRE excellent service, invaluable heritage

**H**istorical negotiations, royal visits, international heads of state, national celebrations and a Pope. In its nearly 100 years of existence in the heart of the nation's capital, the Government Conference Centre has seen it all.

Situated near the effluence of Ottawa's Rideau Canal — across the street from the Chateau Laurier Hotel and a stone's throw away from Parliament Hill's East Block — the Government Conference Centre is a key historic element among the buildings immediately surrounding the National War Memorial.

Today this Classified Heritage Building serves as headquarters for Events and Conference Management (E&CM) — a trademark PWGSC service that provides departments and agencies with meeting space in and around the National Capital Area.

"We are the government's one-stop shop for conference services," says PWGSC's Mike Haerkens, Manager, Events and Conference Management. "On any given day, we have 20 to 30 conferences taking place at our various facilities."

Flexible and fast-acting, E&CM can accommodate anything on short notice. Some examples include hosting three consecutive international conferences — including the World Bank and G20 — that were originally scheduled to take place in New York City around the time of 9/11, and co-operating with the United States Secret Service to secure the building and surrounding area for visiting President George W. Bush.

"Beyond the basics of fitting up rooms with pens and notepads, and audio and video equipment, we will cater to any need a client has," says Mr. Brian Cook, a Logistic and Facilities Manager who has been with E&CM for over 30 years.

### Invaluable heritage

The building, originally a railway station, became the Conference Centre in 1969 under the direction of the late Right Honourable Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau who wanted a site reserved specifically for government-hosted events. In this capacity, it has served as a welcome spot for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, His Royal Highness Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, His Holiness the late Pope John Paul II, and Commonwealth and

international heads of state. As well, it has been a meeting spot for international discussions on topics ranging from land mines and human rights to the world economy. In 1981, it served as the international press centre for the G8 Summit in Canada and was also the site of Prime Minister Trudeau's Federal-Provincial Constitutional conferences which led to the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution in 1982.

For the first 55 years of its existence, the building was the Grand Trunk Railway's Union Station. Inspired by Roman and beaux-arts concepts and designed in 1908 by Montreal architects Ross and MacFarlane, it opened its doors in 1912 — and it's been a hub of bustling activity ever since.

Feeding directly into Ottawa's downtown core and linked by an underground tunnel to the Chateau Laurier, Union Station was the city's first point of entry for railway passengers of all walks of life — including immigrants, war veterans, national political figures and such international dignitaries as Japan's Crown Prince Akihito, Britain's Sir Winston Churchill, and China's Madame Chiang Kai Shek.

When the railway shut down in 1966, the action did not subside. The following year the building entered the Government of Canada's real estate portfolio and became "Centennial Centre" — featuring public exhibitions celebrating Canada's 100th birthday throughout 1967.

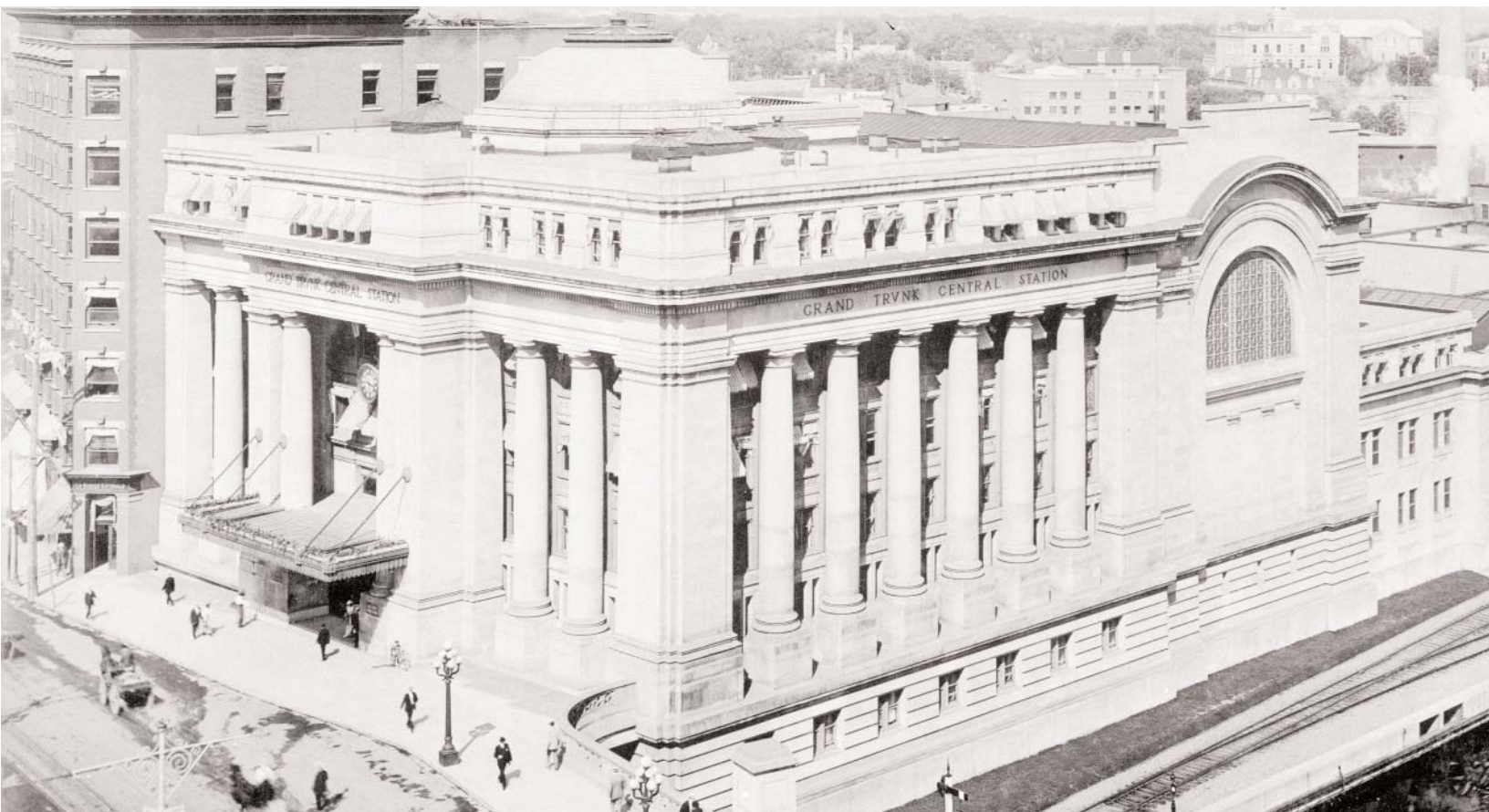
Two years later it would become the Government Conference Centre we know today, serving satisfied clients and visitors who regularly laud the high quality of both the service and the facility.

"Functional renovations to the building have not interfered with the original structure and heritage detailing," says Mr. Cook. "In many ways, the building is like it was when it opened 94 years ago." **DB**

Need to book a conference?

The Government Conference Services site on Publiservice provides information on available facilities as well as an on-line booking tool: <http://publiservice.pwgsc.gc.ca/rps/gcs/>.





The Government Conference Centre — headquarters for PWGSC's Government Conference Services — originally served as a bustling railway station for 55 years. While its function has changed, its historic architectural value has been preserved.







PWGSC and Parks Canada are restoring the Mallorytown Landing shoreline from cement back to its original natural state — and reviving a precious habitat in the process.

PWGSC

## PRESERVING A PRECIOUS HABITAT

### PWGSC and Parks Canada restore Mallorytown Landing

**R**estoring the delicate balance of a natural habitat that was once a thriving environment for fish, reptiles, birds and aquatic vegetation requires careful planning and a solid understanding of the ecological landscape.

"You must also bring a great deal of technical expertise to the project," says PWGSC's Achim Jankowski, a Landscape Architect involved in restoring the natural shoreline of Mallorytown Landing, located in Ontario's St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

Mr. Jankowski and his team are contributing to a Parks Canada initiative that will restore the ecological integrity of the Mallorytown Landing and turn its day-use area into a key centre for educating the public about the environment.

"When finished, the area will become an environmental centre and a regional hub for education, public information and orientation — as well as a model for ecological stewardship," says Park Superintendent Gordon Giffin.

Plans to demolish the rock and concrete shoreline and make it a healthy habitat for plant and animal life is a part of that overall vision.

"The hardened shoreline was first created in the 1970's to prevent soil erosion," explains Mr. Jankowski. "But over the years it has deteriorated. The goal is to re-vegetate the area with native plant species and protect the shoreline from erosion with bioengineering techniques."

PWGSC is contributing its expertise in landscape architectural planning, research, design, and construction. Parks Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Queen's University are also involved.

"PWGSC was a natural fit to the project," says Kevin Robinson, Manager, Resource Conservation for Parks Canada. "Their expertise

and knowledge have really helped the different aspects of the initiative to come together harmoniously."

In addition to demolishing the concrete shoreline and planting new vegetation, the team re-introduced native plant-life to the roadside of the parkway that leads to Mallorytown Landing. As well, the area now offers a smaller parking lot — creating a larger habitat for wildlife.

The area will feature educational panels along the waterfront and a visitors' facility with videos and exhibits about the ecological landscape and its preservation. The facility will also offer workshops to familiarize local property owners with methods for transforming their own shorelines into healthy habitats.

Once restored, the naturalized waterfront will save money by reducing the need for maintenance. And by re-introducing indigenous plants to the area, it will provide more habitat for wildlife.

Part of PWGSC's ongoing commitment to sustainable development, the project will ultimately restore nearly 300 metres of fragile shoreline.

Margaret Kenny, Director General of PWGSC's Office of Greening Government Operations (OGGO) believes partnerships like this are a vital component of the Department's greening efforts.

"By working together, we have a much stronger and wide-ranging impact when it comes to preserving our environment for future generations of Canadians," says Ms. Kenny.

The restoration will be completed in 2007.

DB

For more information contact Gerry Cloutier at (613) 938-5955 or [gerry.cloutier@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:gerry.cloutier@pwgsc.gc.ca).