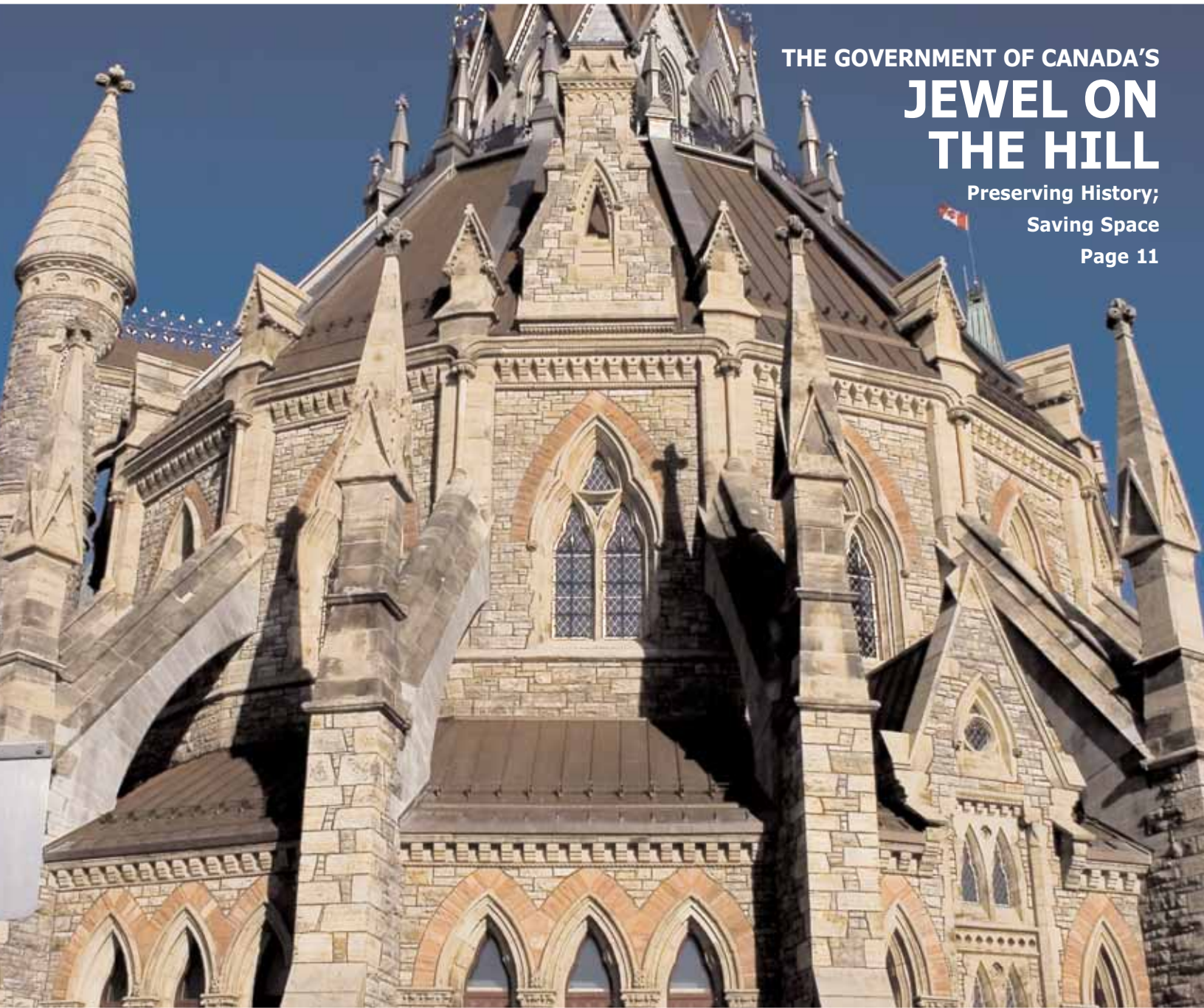




# DOING BUSINESS

with Public Works and Government Services Canada

Summer 2006



## THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S JEWEL ON THE HILL

Preserving History;  
Saving Space  
Page 11



Public Works and  
Government Services  
Canada

Travaux publics et  
Services gouvernementaux  
Canada

Canada



# DOING BUSINESS



**RAPID PROCUREMENT TO PROTECT CANADIAN SOLDIERS**  
PAGE 10

National Defence - Combat Camera: AR2005-A01-385



8

National Defence



5

PWGSC

## A Fine Balance: ISS Helps to Safeguard National Security, Spur Economy

PWGSC is protecting Canada's most sensitive assets and ensuring proper security measures in government contracting.

## Engineering a Success

PWGSC is working with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and First Nations in an effort to transfer ownership of federally held water licences and rehabilitated dams to First Nations in British Columbia. .... 3

## OSME Expands Across Canada

The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises is establishing Regional Offices across the country. .... 4

## Looking for Help in Greening your Operations?

The Office of Greening Government Operations has created a guide for departments and agencies to ensure their operations are environmentally responsible. .... 4

**Using GPS Technology to Map the Mighty Fraser**  
Speed and accuracy are the hallmarks of a new Global Positioning System service that PWGSC, the Greater Vancouver Regional District and its member municipalities have recently developed.

**Setting the Bar for Certification: Making Business Better**  
Businesses that adhere to strict International Organization for Standardization standards simply do better business. .... 6

## Update: Canada School of Public Service

The Canada School of Public Service has called upon PWGSC to provide a multitude of services to support the addition of 250 employees to the growing school and the public servants who will be using the facilities for training. .... 7

## The Jewel on the Hill

As the official custodian of the Parliament Buildings, PWGSC undertook the large-scale project to preserve and enhance the Library of Parliament for generations to come. .... 11

# ENGINEERING A SUCCESS

PWGSC AND INAC TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF WATER LICENCES AND DAMS TO B.C. FIRST NATIONS GROUPS

**P**WGSC's Pacific Region and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) are working with First Nations in British Columbia in a co-operative project to transfer ownership of almost 750 federally held water licences and over 40 rehabilitated dams to participating First Nations.

"This is one of those real true success stories," says Vince Hart, Manager of Environment and Natural Resources with INAC and negotiator for the Water Licence Transfer and Dam Rehabilitation Program. "We worked together under a low cost model to negotiate and implement over 40 agreements with First Nations in B.C. over four years. That's of real significance and a great success."

"PWGSC's role has been critical," explains Adrian Joseph, District Engineer with PWGSC's Dedicated Unit with INAC. The Department is handling the consulting, contracting, technical and cost aspects of the dam constructions on behalf of INAC. The project began in 2002 and is the first of its kind in Canada.

"Those First Nations groups that have been interested are getting a significant benefit by owning their own facilities," says Mr. Joseph. "They will get maintenance funding to look after the dams and their facilities will be brought up to 2006 design standards. That's pretty important. We've also prioritized the high-risk structures and they've been dealt with first."

PWGSC's Pacific Region first brought the condition of the federally held dams to the attention of INAC in 2000, through a report that detailed the status of all known irrigation dams in the province. The project grew from



PWGSC

Restored dams, set in picturesque B.C., will be transferred to First Nations Groups as part of a collaborative project with INAC, PWGSC's Pacific Region and First Nations.

that report and has expanded.

"We are bringing the dams up to current design standards based on hydrological, earthquake and other studies," says Mr. Joseph. "So far we have rehabilitated close to two-dozen dams, some of which date back farther than the 1920s."

Those involved say PWGSC's work has been exceptional.

"All of the completed dam projects I've seen are really well done," says Will Jolley, Head of Dam Safety for the B.C. Ministry of Environment. "They selected good engineering people to do the work and there has been a big improvement in the overall safety of the dams."

The B.C. Ministry of Environment is assisting with managing the safety and environmental issues of the rehabilitation of the dams and is working to help train First Nations groups.

INAC will hand the licences and ownership of the rehabilitated dams directly to First Nations groups. Half of the water licences and 80 percent of

the rehabilitated dams have been transferred for care and control to First Nations groups so far. Historically, the federal government built the dams and also managed the water licences.

The restoration of the dams to current design standards is a significant engineering feat, one that has been well received by the professional community. Mr. Joseph's work on PWGSC's behalf was featured at the Canadian Dam Association conference in Ottawa, 2004 and Calgary, 2005. His work will again be featured at the upcoming Canadian Dam Association conference in Quebec City, October 2006.

"To see facilities upgraded and brought up to proper design standards is satisfying," says Mr. Joseph. "The transfer of ownership to First Nations - which is in keeping with various treaty negotiations - is also rewarding."

**DB**

For more information on the dam rehabilitation project, contact Adrian Joseph at (604) 666-4761 or [adrian.joseph@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:adrian.joseph@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).

If you would like to regularly receive a copy of *Doing Business*, please complete the postage-paid response card or make a subscription request via the Internet at [www.pwgsc.gc.ca/db/text/subscribe-e.html](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/db/text/subscribe-e.html).

*Doing Business* welcomes feedback and suggestions for future stories. Please address your comments to: Joe Boulé, Editor, *Doing Business*; Communications Sector, 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)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Public Works and Government Services (2006) ISSN 1201-7450





## OSME EXPANDS ACROSS CANADA

As part of the *Federal Accountability Act* and Action Plan, PWGSC is expanding the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME), offering Regional Offices in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver and an additional Office in Ottawa.

These Offices will address the concerns of small and medium suppliers and represent a major commitment to SMEs. With an OSME presence across the country, the government can ensure that smaller vendors in all regions of Canada receive due consideration in bidding for government contracts.

Providing information, counselling and training services, the new Regional Offices will collaborate with SMEs to improve procurement policies and best practices.

"The Regional Offices will allow PWGSC to talk to suppliers and better understand the consequences of our business transformation," says Marshall Moffat, OSME Director General. "Most importantly though, we can play an active role by training smaller suppliers on contracting processes, by providing them with in-depth information and by working with them to ensure they are ready to compete for federal procurement contracts."

PWGSC's outreach to the SME community is not new. In Fall 2005, PWGSC conducted cross-country consultations with small businesses to identify concerns, gain insight on possible and perceived impacts of changes to procurement and also to foster recommendations.

The consultations revealed that SMEs cited access to government business competitions as a key concern. In response, PWGSC has launched the Professional Services Online (PSO) database Web site, replacing the former

Informatics Professional Services (IPS) supply arrangement. The PSO will allow SMEs wishing to provide professional services direct access to government business opportunities. **DB**

For more on the results of PWGSC's Fall 2005 cross-country SME consultations, visit: [www.pwgsc.gc.ca/acquisitions/text/sme](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/acquisitions/text/sme)

SMEs with questions about procurement can visit Business Access Canada for more information: [www.contractsCanada.gc.ca](http://www.contractsCanada.gc.ca)

To read about the *Federal Accountability Act* and Action Plan and changes to procurement, visit: [www.accountability.gc.ca](http://www.accountability.gc.ca)

For more information on the Professional Services Online database visit: [www.pwgsc.gc.ca/acquisitions/text/ps/online-e.html](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/acquisitions/text/ps/online-e.html)



## LOOKING FOR HELP IN GREENING YOUR OPERATIONS?

PWGSC's Office of Greening Government Operations (OGGO) has created a guide for departments and agencies developing strategies to ensure their operations are environmentally responsible.

*Greening Government Operations: Guidance for Organizations Developing Sustainable Development Strategies (2007-2009)* is a useful guide that will provide insight on:

- Setting sustainable development targets;
- Identifying performance measures; and
- Determining where greening efforts should be focused.

The Sustainable Development Strategies of 35 departments and agencies are tabled in Parliament every three years, outlining the government's greening agenda. As well, all departments and agencies are required to report their performance annually through the Sustainable Development Performance Report section of the Departmental Performance Report. **DB**

For your copy of the *Greening Government Operations* guide, visit: [www.pwgsc.gc.ca/greening/](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/greening/)



# USING GPS TECHNOLOGY TO MAP THE MIGHTY FRASER

## IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION ALONG AN ECONOMIC ARTERY

Speed and accuracy are the hallmarks of a new Global Positioning System (GPS) service that PWGSC, the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) and its member municipalities have recently developed. It's based on partnerships between four levels of government and the private sector to ensure data collection along the Fraser River is timely and accurate.

The state-of-the-art technology is called the GVRD Real-Time Kinematic GPS Service and it enables users to access live broadcast data from one of five continuously operating GPS reference stations. One of the first comprehensive satellite-based systems of its kind in Canada, the new system will improve the speed and accuracy of data collection for applications ranging from construction and legal land surveying to GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping, asset management and engineering.

For the Pacific Region, the new GPS technology enables PWGSC's Marine Services section to improve the accuracy and speed it collects hydrographic survey data about the Fraser River on behalf of its client, the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), Waterways Development.

"The hydrographic data that we collect from our survey vessel enables us to chart the river bottom, determine water depths, and measure the currents – all vital information for monitoring the deep sea shipping channel of the Fraser River and assisting deep sea ships navigating through it," says Gouin Barford, PWGSC's Discipline Head for Marine Engineering in Pacific Region.

The GPS reference stations are located throughout the Lower Mainland region

surrounding Vancouver and achieve in real-time, three-dimensional positioning, accurate to within a few centimetres. This means that users equipped with a GPS instrument can plot their geographic co-ordinates within an inch or more of accuracy, as long as they are within a 20-km radius of one of the reference stations.

"The new system reduces field time and processing time, as well as improves the accuracy of the data," explains Mick Mills, Manager of the Hydrographic Survey Unit that surveys the Fraser River.

For example, during spring freshet – when the rush of fresh water from the Fraser River flowing into the ocean increases – the river becomes shallower due to the rapid build-up of sediment deposited on the river bottom. As a result, the river can become a potential hazard to navigation. With the new GPS system, the hydrographic crew can survey a 2-km stretch of channel one day and provide the information electronically to the Canadian Coast Guard the next day.

"This enables us to have paper plots in the hands of the river pilots within

48 hours of completion of the survey," Mr. Mills notes.

In addition, the Real-Time Global Positioning System service provides benefits such as reducing expenditures on survey controls (which are points that surveyors use as a reference), and extending hydrographic surveys into areas where survey control was previously hard to establish.

"As well as improving accuracy and turn-around time, we have been able to improve our overall coverage and increase the number of monitoring surveys without increasing our budget," explains Wayne Dutchak, Superintendent of CCG Waterways Development.

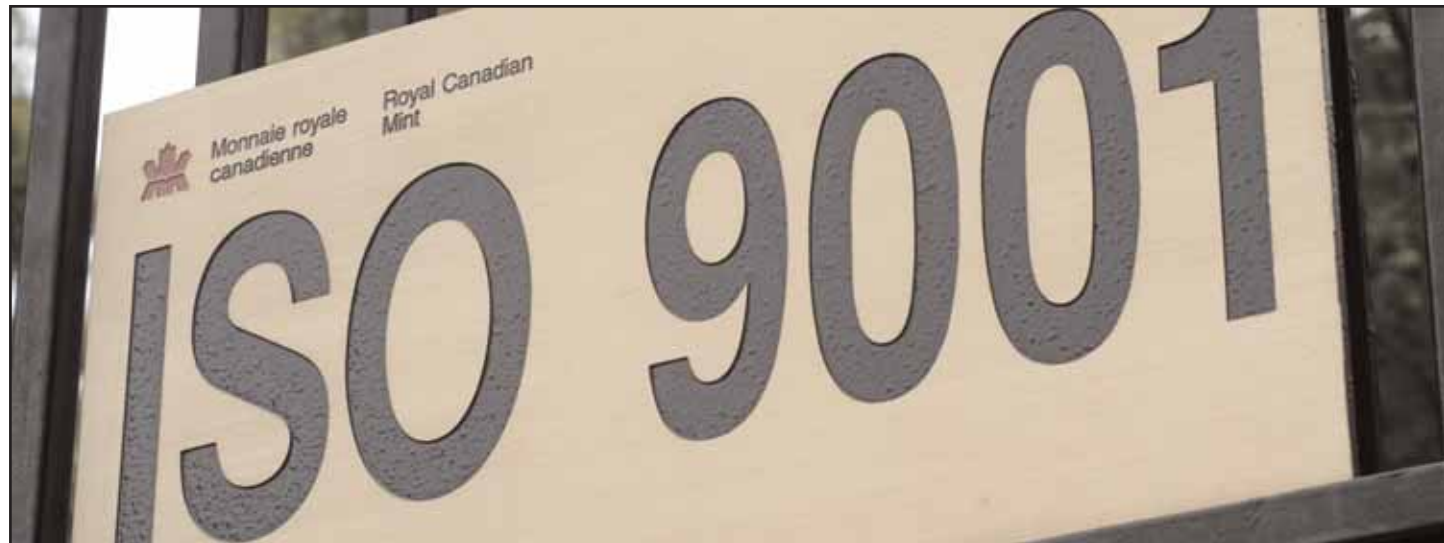
Prior to the development of this technology, municipalities throughout the Lower Mainland had to obtain geographical co-ordinates from over 13,000 survey monuments, which required regular maintenance and upkeep.

This new geo-reference service will gradually phase out many of these old survey monuments, reducing the municipal costs to maintain them and ushering in a new era of economical, real-time, data collection. **DB**



The PWGSC survey vessel "MV Profiler" using the GVRD Real-Time Kinematic GPS Service to monitor the Fraser River deep sea shipping channel.





## SETTING THE BAR FOR CERTIFICATION: MAKING BUSINESS BETTER

**W**hether it's in the public or private sector, businesses with a streamlined management system that adheres to recognized International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards simply do better business. That's why Canadian organizations are increasingly using the expertise and experience of PWGSC's Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) to certify those standards. In today's multinational market, registration to the ISO 9001:2000 via CGSB for certification is seen as a definite asset.

"Organizations that implant an ISO 9001 quality management system (QMS) find that their operations are more streamlined and efficient," says Penny Silberhorn, Manager, Conformity Assessment Division, Acquisitions Branch. "Extraneous processes are eliminated, freeing staff for more relevant work, and managers are enabled to bring control and consistency to the operation. This in turn decreases costs by making processes faster and cheaper."

CGSB is a common service agency that operates as an independent third-party certification body in the fields of quality, the environment, occupational health and safety and also food safety management systems. In providing guidance toward the ISO 9001 registration process for Canadian business and other government departments, CGSB is helping organizations improve their short-term operations, while introducing a holistic management framework

that will benefit any organization pursuing excellence.

For government departments, an ISO registration shows a commitment to accountability, efficiency and consistency across government. It demonstrates to Canadians that checks and balances are working, ensuring that improvements continue to be made. Also, because CGSB is a government agency, it offers a valuable service rooted in an understanding of how other government departments operate.

"ISO 9001 puts more **DISCIPLINE** into the **BUSINESS** processes and thereby improves **ACCOUNTABILITY**"

Churchill Firth, Quality Manager,  
Real Property Branch, Atlantic Region

"ISO 9001 puts more discipline into the business processes and thereby improves accountability," says Churchill Firth, Quality Manager for Real Property Branch, Atlantic Region. Mr. Firth's directorate first registered in September 2001. "We are quite happy with the results – we now have documented processes, whereas before they were somewhat in disarray. We also have better records management and an increased level of continual improvement and accountability."

CORCAN, a key rehabilitation program of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), provides employment training and employability skills to offenders in federal correctional institutions through manufacturing products. Registered to ISO 9001 since 2000, CORCAN-Prairie Region sells mainly to other government departments. Increased insistence by government departments for ISO 9001 registration spurred CORCAN-Prairie to register with CGSB.

The resulting benefits have been numerous.

"We improved control of the way we work," says John French, Chief Engineer of CORCAN-Prairie Region. "We used to take corrective action in a reactive sense. We now take a broader view of issues that arise. Instead of fixing a problem in one instance, we look at the root of the problem and try to improve the system so it doesn't happen again – each problem being an opportunity for continuous improvement to providing customer satisfaction."

Mr. French cites an improved contracting process and a system that helps define customer expectations clearly as two major benefits of ISO 9001 registration.

Private sector companies benefit from the competitive edge in the global marketplace gained by registering to ISO 9001:2000, says Ms. Silberhorn. For certain industries or clients, it is of extra benefit to have their QMS certified from a government agency such as CGSB.

### ISO 14001 – The Environmental Standard

CGSB can assist organizations improving more than just quality management systems. ISO 14001 has become the most widely recognized environmental management system standard in the world for organizations looking to demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Registrations through CGSB to ISO 14001 has been growing by leaps and bounds in recent years: CGSB has recently registered PWGSC's Pacific Region Esquimalt Graving Dock – the largest commercial solid-bottom drydock on the west coast of North America – to ISO 14001. **DB**

For more information on the Canadian General Standards Board and how businesses can benefit from its certification and qualification expertise, visit: [www.cgsb.gc.ca](http://www.cgsb.gc.ca)

### What is ISO?

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a non-governmental body that sets standards of specifications and criteria toward a myriad of products and services in business and industry. Organizations with ISO designation adhere to a number of internationally recognized management and production standards with applicable regulations to ensure quality and customer satisfaction. The designation amounts to a common ground that bridges suppliers and consumers, enabling faster, more efficient trade and access to the over 150 world markets that use ISO.

## UPDATE: CANADA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE HELPING A GROWING SCHOOL IN NEED OF LARGER FACILITIES

PWGSC has taken the helm of an intricate project involving The Canada School of Public Service (CSPS).

As a result of new learning initiatives and the addition of mandatory courses, CSPS has called upon PWGSC to provide a multitude of services to support the addition of 250 employees to the growing school and the public service employees who will be using the facilities for training.

Though the project is ongoing, to date, PWGSC has put in place short- and long-term accommodations for the additional CSPS employees. "We were able to negotiate with Canada Revenue Agency, the former occupant of the building, the Place Cartier building in Gatineau, Quebec, to leave the office furniture, security system and cabling behind," explains Susanne Canadien, Project Leader on behalf of PWGSC.

"This created immediate savings of nearly a million dollars."

To tackle the intricate project, Ms. Canadien called upon experts from across the Department. "Our team is made up of one point-person from every business line," says Ms. Canadien. "Each group played an instrumental role in allowing us to deliver on time and on budget."

PWGSC negotiated with other government departments the use of additional training rooms needed by the school at no cost. The savings amount to \$40,000 for a 3-month period for hotel facilities being used by CSPS staff to deliver the courses.

Providing turnkey services that include IT support, PWGSC will be able to continue uninterrupted, seamless service to the school. **DB**

Susanne Canadien, Project Leader on behalf of PWGSC, is responsible for co-ordinating a host of fully integrated services for the Canada School of Public Service.





# A FINE BALANCE: ISS HELPS TO SAFEGUARD NATIONAL SECURITY, SPUR ECONOMY

Being charged with protecting Canada's most sensitive assets and ensuring proper security measures in government contracting isn't PWGSC's most well-known operation to the public. When the topic arises with Industrial Security Sector (ISS) Director General Gerry Deneault, it becomes apparent that it warrants a higher profile.

"We have a strong, robust, Industrial Security Program in PWGSC and that's something we can be very proud of as a Department," says Mr. Deneault. "In addition to contributing to the safety and security of Canadians, this Program opens up market opportunities in Canada and internationally and helps the entire Canadian industrial machinery."

As part of the Industrial Security Program, Mr. Deneault's Sector has a mandate to ensure that the proper safeguards are in place for protected and classified information related to

Government of Canada contracts awarded to the private sector. The end result means lucrative dividends for all the stakeholders that are involved. The strength of its security safeguards means that ISS — celebrating its 65th anniversary this year — facilitates the ability of Canadian industry to bid for classified contracts in foreign countries, while maintaining the confidence of NATO nations and Canada's other allies in how it deals with classified information.

"We are the largest procurement organization in the Government of Canada. There's a logic to having this

Program here," says Mr. Deneault, who is quick to add that the ISS protects billions of dollars in annual trade with the US that would otherwise disappear.

ISS is in the business of protecting information that could be a threat to national security if it were to fall into the wrong hands. When PWGSC launches a call for bids on a contract that contains sensitive information (such as a contract to develop targeting systems for the military), ISS steps in to ensure that every party making a bid has the proper security clearances before it is awarded. To date, 9,500 businesses ranging from individual contractors to multinational corporations are registered with ISS.

"It's a very big number per capita," says Albert Bissonnette, Director of the Canadian and International Industrial Security Directorate, a branch that falls under the ISS umbrella. "A comparable program running in New Zealand, which has an eighth of the population, has 132 companies registered."

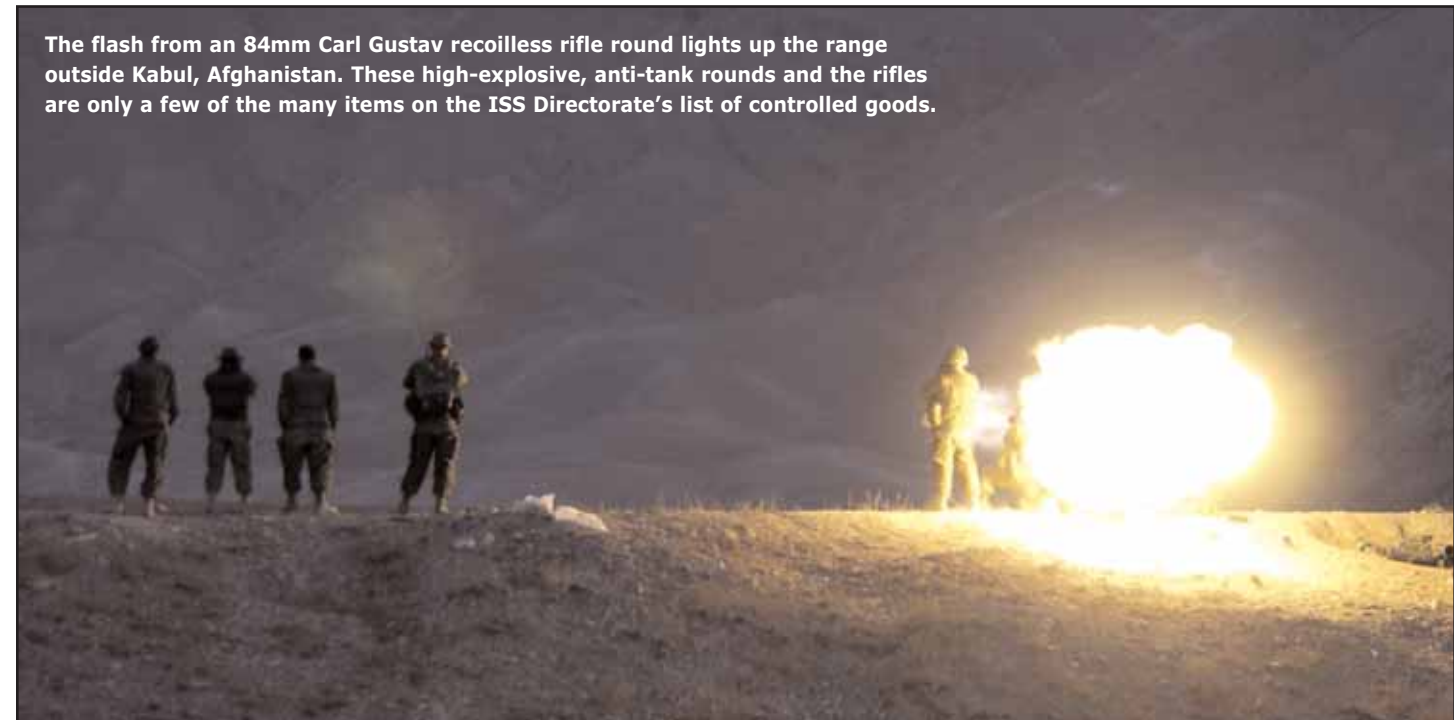
ISS handles over 90,000 personnel security clearances a year, adding to an existing database of 340,000 individuals that have already been screened. The Sector further conducts 2,000 on-site company inspections a year to ensure all sensitive material is appropriately protected when it is in the private sector.

"In addition to contributing to the safety and security of Canadians, this Program ... helps the entire Canadian industrial machinery"

Gerry Deneault, Director General,  
Industrial Security Sector



photos.com



The flash from an 84mm Carl Gustav recoilless rifle round lights up the range outside Kabul, Afghanistan. These high-explosive, anti-tank rounds and the rifles are only a few of the many items on the ISS Directorate's list of controlled goods.

National Defence - Combat Camera: ISD2003-6035

## Keeping a watchful eye on Controlled Goods

ISS is also responsible for the security of controlled goods in Canada. Among its broad-reaching list are items ranging from anti-tank weapons, certain chemical and biological agents, to aircraft. The Sector ensures that every organization in a position to examine, possess or transfer these items is registered with PWGSC and executes on-going inspections to keep things secure.

"These items are protected because they could result in a danger to the safety of Canadians, our US neighbours and other allies if they fell into the wrong hands. This is a heavy public security responsibility which PWGSC takes very seriously," says Mr. Deneault.

There are big things on the horizon for ISS as it continues to expand its role in contributing to the national security and the economic prosperity of Canada. "We are more client-service focused than we were in the past and, as a result, our credibility continues to improve," says Mr. Deneault. He adds that anticipated streamlining of security clear-

ances with other government departments and agencies will further make the work of ISS faster. Other changes include a database that the private sector will be able to access to check its own security clearances. Increased sharing of information with the private sector and getting the message out about ISS are also big priorities on its radar.

"A lot of the smaller companies don't realize that if they don't have the security clearance, they can't bid on some contracts, not only nationally but internationally," explains Mr. Deneault.

"We've got to make sure that industry understands that you don't need to have a contract in order to get a security clearance from PWGSC, provided you have the proper sponsors. The Department will pre-screen you so that you may be in a competitive position to bid on sensitive contracts."

In an era where national security is at the forefront of every country's agenda, ISS is proving that when it's done correctly, it can also be a boon for Canadian business and industry. **DB**

## Quick facts on the Controlled Goods program:

The Controlled Goods Directorate (CGD) helps strengthen Canada's defence trade controls through registration, prevention, deterrence and detection by regulating the access, possession and transfer in Canada of controlled goods and/or controlled technology. To date, the Directorate:

- has over 2,250 registered companies;
- performs over 1,000 site inspections per year;
- clears over 1,000 visitors to registered companies per year;
- participates in: Export Controls Seminars, CANSEC, TechNet North, Canadian Defence Security and Aerospace Exhibition Atlantic, AIAC AGM and Conference and GC Security Week.



## RAPID PROCUREMENT TO PROTECT CANADIAN SOLDIERS

Canadian Forces soldiers working to stabilize and rebuild the region of Kandahar, Afghanistan, recently received some help from PWGSC in the form of new Armoured Patrol Vehicles (APV's).

The vehicles are critical to the security of soldiers conducting patrols in the dangerous region of Kandahar and have the ability to withstand blasts that would normally disable a tank. Responding to an urgent request from the Department of National Defence (DND), PWGSC purchased 50 new APV's in record time, helping improve the safety of Canada's troops in the process.

A very aggressive schedule was put in place to ensure the new APV's were delivered directly to Afghanistan as quickly as possible. "These vehicles can be the difference between life and death, so it was extremely important that they reach our troops quickly," says PWGSC's Mike Leroux, Manager of the Armoured Vehicles Life Extension Division.

It took PWGSC eight weeks to facilitate the competition and award the \$60.3 million project to the private sector. As a result of the urgent need for the equipment, the vehicles were delivered 75 percent sooner than it would regularly take, while saving \$7.2 million, over two years, along the way.

"Our experienced project team conducted a competitive bid solicitation and evaluation process and awarded the contract in record timing," says Mr. Leroux. "The team was dedicated and focused on delivering their services in the timeliest manner possible, while ensuring a fair, open and transparent process, so that Canadian Forces personnel can do their job in relative safety."

Confronted by a multitude of threats, including terrorism, explosive devices and riots, Canadian soldiers deployed in Afghanistan are facing complex and demanding situations in a diverse landscape. The new APV's provide a high level of protection for troops conducting patrols and reconnaissance missions ranging from mountainous terrain to busy urban centres.

The APV has earned a reputation as the multi-purpose vehicle of choice, providing enhanced mine blast resistance as well as protection against explosive devices and ballistic threats. It incorporates a remote weapon station equipped with day- and night-vision targeting systems, allowing operators to fire from within the vehicle while remaining protected. **DB**



National Defence - Combat Camera: IS2003-2548a

PWGSC has been supporting Canadian Forces since the time of the Second World War. To read more about the work the Department has done, please visit: [www.pwgsc.gc.ca/db/](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/db/)

For more information on this project, please contact Mike Leroux, Manager of the Armoured Vehicles Life Extension Division at (819) 956-0213 or by e-mail at [mike.leroux@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:mike.leroux@pwgsc.gc.ca).

The RG-31 Armoured Patrol Vehicle.



## THE JEWEL ON THE HILL

The Library of Parliament construction has been completed after four years of extensive conservation, rehabilitation and upgrade work. As the official custodian of the Parliament Buildings, PWGSC undertook a large-scale project to preserve and enhance this architectural wonder for generations to come.

Over time, the aging effects of weather and air pollution have contributed to the building's deterioration. Space requirements have changed as the need to store publications in a proper environment and access to electronic resources have increased. The overall services offered by the Library have also diversified. As a result, PWGSC's expertise was called upon to co-ordinate repairs ranging from masonry conservation and roof replacement, to creating more functional workspaces for Library staff.

"From the PWGSC and Library of Parliament team, to the architects and engineers, to the stonemasons, to the woodworkers — and including everyone in between — the quality of your work and dedication speaks for itself," said PWGSC Minister Michael M Fortier at the ceremony transferring the building to Parliament.

"PWGSC's project team was comprised of dedicated and committed members who were proud of the work they were doing to restore this important historical building," explains Mary Soper, Project Director for the Library's renovations. "We focused on improving the building for the long-term, ensuring it continues to serve as a modern, functioning Library of Parliament for years to come."

To bring the Library up to current safety standards and make certain it can fully accommodate the needs of the future, major improvements had to be made structurally, as well as to the floor layouts and electrical systems.

The addition of three new basements to house the Library's collection and new mechanical systems for ventilation and temperature control was completed so material will remain protected. Security and communications systems were also revamped.

PWGSC also had the opportunity to improve other aspects of the Library. "We took advantage of the unique opportunity to clean the Library's collections, digitize material to reduce space demand and upgrade the building to today's codes and standards for

fire and safety," says Ms. Soper. "We renewed every aspect of the building so that it will function well for many years." **DB**

### Preserving a part of history

As the sole portion of the original Centre Block to be saved from a devastating fire in 1916, the Library's restoration demanded the utmost care in protecting its unique features. "PWGSC and the Library of Parliament worked closely with Canadian Heritage and other departments and federal organizations to ensure the conservation of the building's historic architectural details and its collections," says Mary Soper, Project Director for the Library's renovations.

The project was guided by the principles of "minimum intervention," which respects the integrity of historical buildings. "The project team showed great respect for the building's historical value, and also added our own value — to preserve a part of history for future generations," says Ms. Soper.

For more information about the Library of Parliament project, visit [www.parliamenthill.gc.ca](http://www.parliamenthill.gc.ca)



Library and Archives Canada: C080781



Library and Archives Canada: PA-130624



Overhead shot of the Library's restored parquet floor. **NEXT PAGE:** Exterior photo of the Library of Parliament. **Image top left:** Original construction in 1872. **Image bottom left:** Rebuilding Parliament; the Library was the only building that survived the fire in 1916.



