Manitoba Consulting Engineer
Official publication of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Manitoba
VOLUME 17 · MMXXVI



2026 KEYSTONE AWARD WINNER

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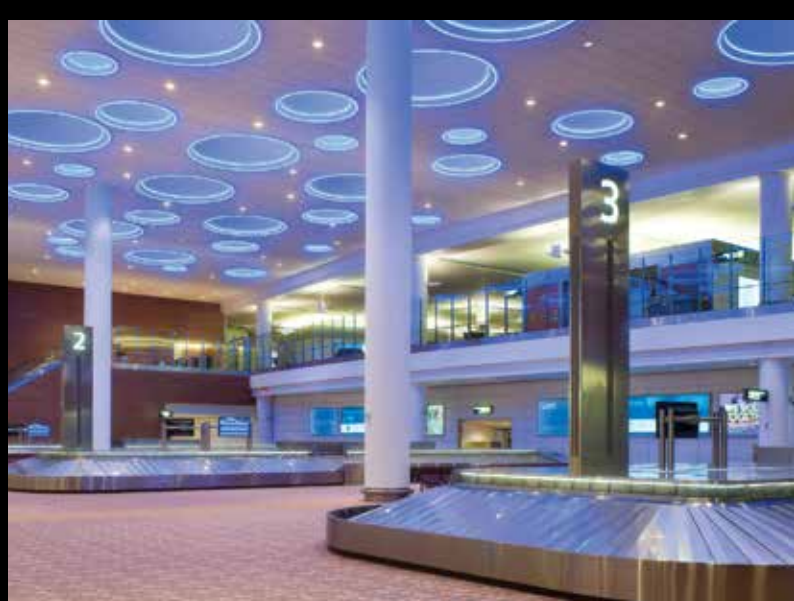
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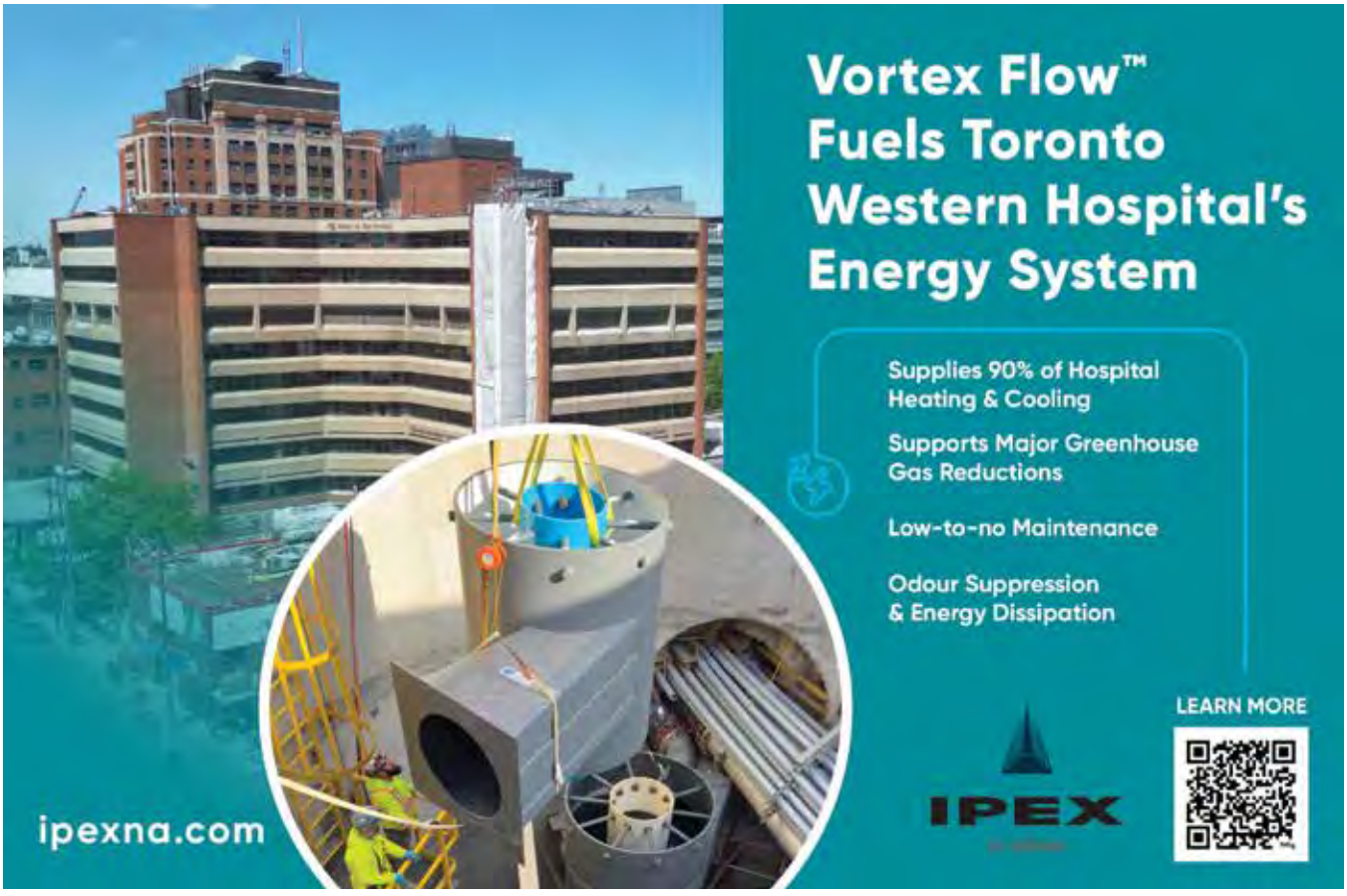
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Proud to Serve on Behalf of Our Members

I am honoured to serve as President of ACEC-MB for the 2026-2027 term. I first want to thank our Past President Indra Kalinovich for her dedication to the Association over the last number of years, and in particular the last two years as President. I want to thank the Board of Directors for their ongoing hard work to strengthen and build our organization, and I would like to welcome our new members as they begin their terms on the Board. I also want to thank our Executive Director Kerri Hiebert for keeping us organized and on track.

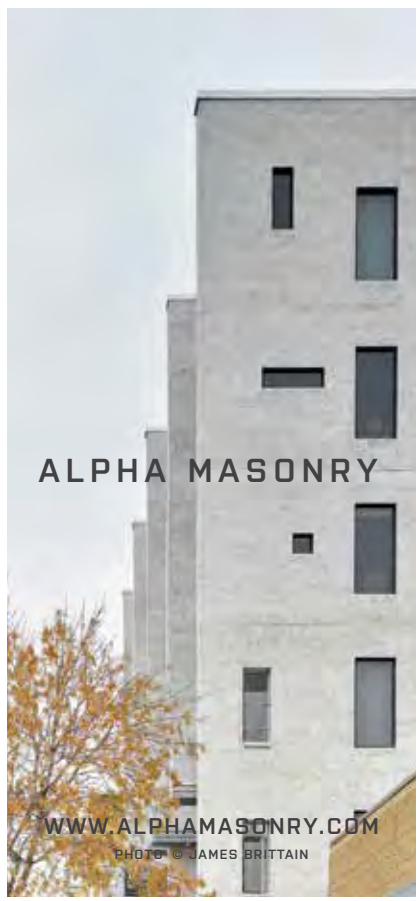
ACEC-MB currently represents 34 firms with over 1900 members. As the voice of Manitoba's consulting engineering industry, we represent the interests of our members across both the public and private sectors. The consulting engineering industry plays an important role in building safe and resilient communities, and we provide professional services and expertise to our clients as we design and build Manitoba's local and regional public and private infrastructure.

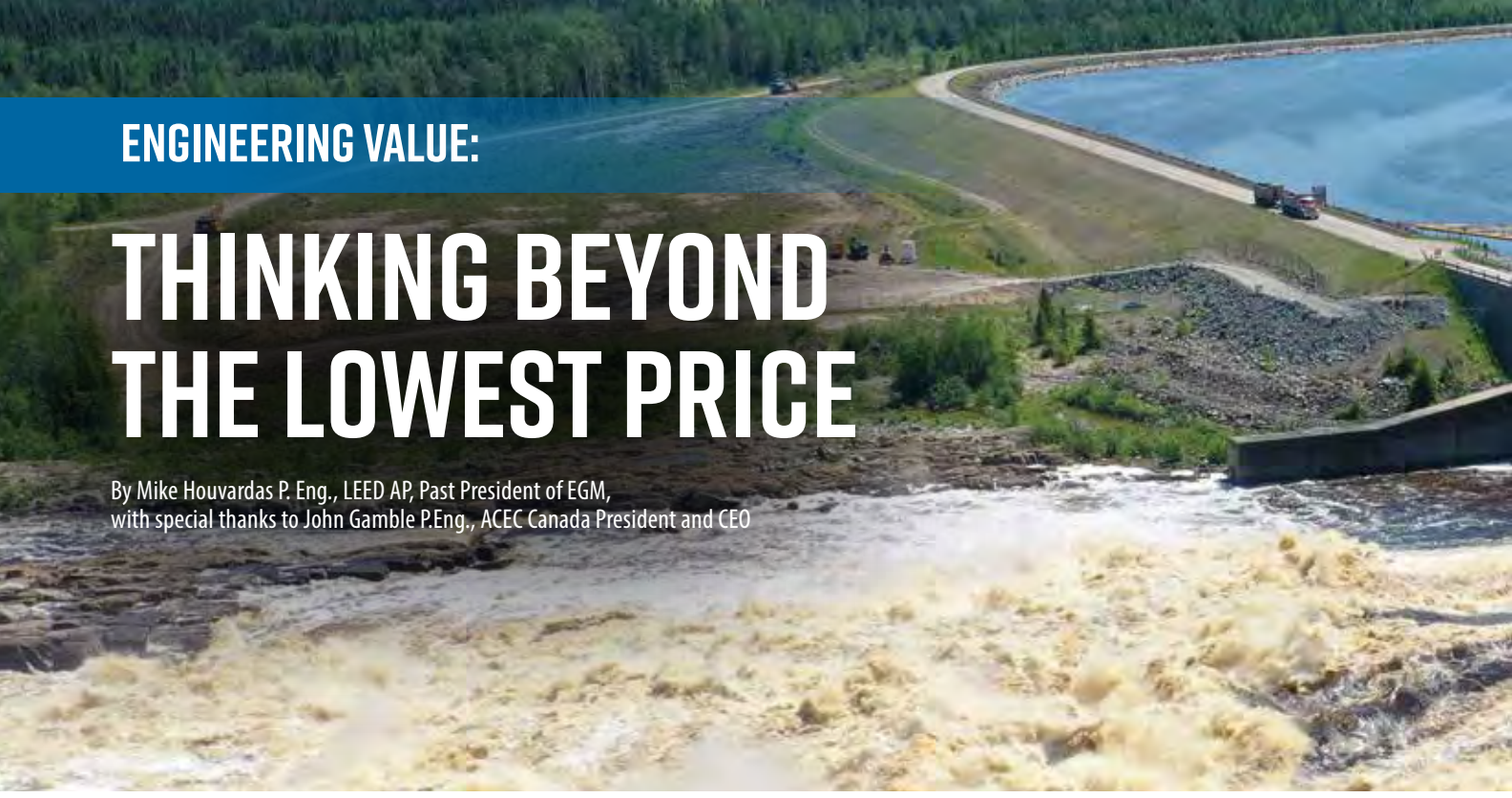
As I begin my term, I look forward to continuing the strong work and building on the various achievements of the Association over the past few years. We will collaborate with other professional associations and organizations to strengthen and align our industry relationships, including meeting with Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, CTTAM, and the Winnipeg Construction Association. Our goal is to establish and maintain strong partnerships that will allow us to work together on shared issues and common priorities that impact our respective industries.

We will engage with the various levels of government to advocate on behalf of our members for better terms and conditions including professional liability, improved procurement processes and consultant selection, and industry fairness. Over the past year we met with representatives from all three levels of government and provided a coordinated voice to champion for the consulting engineering industry. A significant recent focus of the Association was negotiating with the Province on the terms of the Master Services Agreement and meeting with the City of Winnipeg to discuss potential changes to insurance requirements. We have established regular meetings with both the Province of Manitoba and City of Winnipeg so we can continue to advocate for our members on these issues and other concerns going forward. In addition, a bylaw change was approved at our AGM in June that will allow the Board to appoint one or more Ex Officio Directors to provide subject matter expertise in areas aligned with the strategic priorities of the organization. The Board will be working over the next year to prepare the terms of reference for our first Ex Officio Director position to assist our Government Relations Committee and help strengthen ACEC-MB's advocacy, government engagement, and policy influence.

We will use our committees to advance strategic initiatives and industry engagement. We currently have 10 committees that represent our membership to advance the business of consulting engineering in Manitoba. We will continue to deliver member value through our different events and networking opportunities, including the annual golf tournament, Future Leaders, and Technical Women in Consulting Engineering (TWICE) programming, various industry receptions, mentorship initiatives, and the Annual Awards Gala that recognizes the outstanding work happening throughout the consulting engineering industry. I want to extend my gratitude to all our volunteers for their time and dedication across our different committees as well as at our numerous activities and events. If you are interested in volunteering your time with the Association, then helping at an event or joining one of our committees is a great place to start. Please reach out to our Executive Director if you would like to volunteer.

I am honoured and excited to step into the role of President of ACEC-MB. I look forward to working alongside the Board and our members over the next year to champion and support the interests of consulting engineering firms across Manitoba.





ENGINEERING VALUE:

THINKING BEYOND THE LOWEST PRICE

By Mike Houvardas P. Eng., LEED AP, Past President of EGM,
with special thanks to John Gamble P.Eng., ACEC Canada President and CEO

Years ago, I read a quote that really resonated with me. Known as *The Common Law of Business Balance*, it is a commentary on price and value generally attributed to John Ruskin, a 19th century English writer, lecturer, art historian, art critic, draughtsman and philanthropist.

The classic quote is, "There is hardly anything in the world that someone cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper, and those who consider price alone are that person's lawful prey. It is unwise to pay too much, but it's worse to pay too little. When you pay too much, you lose a little money – that is all. When you pay too little, you sometimes lose everything, because the thing you bought was incapable of doing the thing it was bought to do. The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot – it can't be done. If you deal with the lowest bidder, it is well to add something for the risk you run, and if you do that you will have enough to pay for something better."

The quote captures the folly of automatically choosing the lowest price and applies to professional services as much as to goods or materials. From the service provider's perspective, it is also a reminder of what can reasonably be delivered within financial constraints.

Before becoming active at Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (EGM), I served on the board of ACEC Manitoba. ACEC, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies, focuses on advocacy for engineering and the business of engineering. Consulting has been the lens through which I've viewed engineering throughout my entire career. While EGM is our provincial engineering regulator, in many ways, the priorities are aligned. Advocacy at EGM must be in the context of the public interest, and this is where the circles in the Venn diagram overlap. I believe that the public cannot be properly served if the engineer is not properly remunerated.

A wise accountant once told me that if you work for nothing, you will have all the business you'll ever want. How many of us have jumped at the next proposal, worried that if we didn't, it would be our last? And how many have felt regret after landing said project? Regret or worry should not be the first emotion following a project award.

More than once in my career, I've been told, "ABC Engineering's price for the project is $X, if you can do it for $Y (where $Y < $X), you can have the project". At first this might seem like an opportunity. In reality, it is destructive. The price is being 'shopped,' and any reduction will likely come out of profit.

Profit is often treated as a dirty word, but it is essential to a private business. It ensures survival, funds growth and innovation, rewards entrepreneurial risk, supports profit-sharing and contributes to the economy through jobs and taxes. Profit cannot simply be what is left over after costs are subtracted; it must be built in.

ABC likely took the time to price the proposal properly and I've been asked to discount it. It's also safe to say that if ABC's price has been shopped, so will mine. It's a race to the bottom. Both firms are being treated interchangeably as low-cost providers, and ultimately the industry suffers.

We're all familiar with the life-cycle cost pyramid showing that design fees account for only 1-2% of a building's life cycle cost. Yet decisions made during planning and design influence virtually everything that follows: construction cost, operating efficiency, maintenance, resilience, environmental performance, and the life of the asset. This applies to all engineering projects, not just buildings. A relatively small investment in professional expertise can influence decades of capital and operating expenditures. Skimping on design fees is therefore the least effective method of reducing project costs.

Engineering services should not be treated like supplying widgets, yet many service agreements continue to commodify our work. Other professions with similar business models, such as legal and accounting, generally reserve fixed fees for routine transactions like simple wills or individual tax returns, nowhere near the complexity of many projects we work on. Yet engineers are often asked to provide fixed fees for complex projects that can span many years.



An internet search of legal fees shows rates easily exceeding those for engineering by three times or more. Lawyers explain that it is difficult to give an accurate estimate of fees because so much depends on how a matter unfolds. Engineering projects are no different. Yet engineering firms are often expected to absorb the risk associated with uncertainty while delivering on a predetermined scope for a fixed price.

The good news is there is no reason to be pessimistic, and by educating our clients and working together, we can all benefit.

As an example, the Government of Canada has stated ambitious plans requiring major infrastructure investments: advancing major projects, investing in community infrastructure, increasing defence spending and dual-use infrastructure, and the infrastructure needed to move Canadian goods, resources and energy to new markets. These investments will also generate significant private-sector activity.

Consulting engineering is a tapestry of firms of different sizes, specialties and ownership models. That diversity positions us well to take on the range of Canada's ambitions. There should be plenty to go around. The next proposal request is more than likely not going to be your last.

But we will need to work more effectively and more efficiently. We will need to attract, develop and retain the next generation of talent. To do that, we must take an honest look at our business model.

The value of engineering services cannot be adequately measured by labour costs. Hourly rates measure the time to provide a service, but not the value created. Fixed fees provide predictable budgeting for clients but shift financial risk almost entirely to the service provider. They can lead to underestimated scope, reduced margins when additional work arises, incentives to cut quality to save time, and inflated pricing to cover unexpected risks. They are also easily 'shopped around.'

Neither approach adequately captures the value created for clients: the risks managed, costs avoided, efficiencies gained, useful life extended and better outcomes made possible by good engineering. Nor do they adequately reflect the professional, commercial and reputational risks that firms assume delivering that value.

Like the infrastructure we create, the professional services required to create it must be valued as an investment to be leveraged, rather than a cost to be minimized. We need to become better at demonstrating the value we create and find ways to make that value a more meaningful basis for compensation and we need to get it right.

Historically, when our industry has adopted new technologies and improved productivity, we have too often passed the resulting savings on while retaining little to reinvest in the future of our firms and employees. New technologies such as AI, cannot simply become another way for our industry to deliver more for less. Productivity gains must also enable firms to invest in their people, technology and future capacity.

If our industry is expected to innovate, develop its people, expand its capacity and take on increasingly complex assignments, we will need more creative approaches about how engineering services are procured and compensated. It is unrealistic to expect the cheaper alternative to deliver the same quality, capability and outcomes. Expectations cannot be separated from the resources required to achieve them.

This is not simply about the interests of engineering firms. It is about ensuring that our industry has the capacity to do what our clients, governments, and Canadian taxpayers will expect from us in the years ahead.

The lesson of Ruskin's *Common Law of Business Balance* remains as relevant today as ever, but we need to move the conversation away from simply, "What is the lowest price?" Marketing the value of engineering is not limited to EGM or ACEC. We need to tell our story collectively as an industry, and individually through our firms, projects and people. To demonstrate what our industry contributes, the problems we solve, the positive impact our work has on people and communities.

I'd like to thank ACEC Canada President and CEO, John Gamble P. Eng. for some of the information in this article.



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ENGINEERING ACTION AWARD

Mario Scerbo, M.Sc., P.Eng.

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The Kinosew Sipi Nanatawiwekamik Health Centre of Excellence



The Kinosew Sipi Nanatawiwekamik Health Centre of Excellence (HCE) is designed to deliver comprehensive, community-based healthcare in a remote northern environment where climate, distance, and limited utility infrastructure shape every engineering decision. The 100,000 ft^2 facility integrates emergency care, diagnostic imaging, renal dialysis, labour and delivery, inpatient and palliative care, rehabilitation, and community health services, supported by culturally significant spaces and additional site buildings. Our team provided mechanical and electrical engineering design and contract administration, encompassing HVAC systems, plumbing, lighting, normal and emergency power, life-safety systems, communications infrastructure, and controls. The objective was not only to build a modern healthcare facility, but to ensure that every system could operate reliably, efficiently, and safely under the constraints of a remote northern community.

Application of Technology

The project was delivered with a construction management model. Revit software was used as an essential tool to aid the coordination efforts between the design disciplines. This is an essential part of any project but is paramount for northern construction where changes due to coordination are costly and often incur significant delays. The 3D model also allowed contractors to fabricate large portions of ductwork and electrical assemblies off-site, significantly minimizing the risk of rework.

Engineering designed for the north

The absence of natural gas and the limited electrical capacity available in the community required an unconventional heating strategy. A dual-fuel boiler plant was selected, with propane as the primary source and diesel as backup, ensuring continuous operation through fuel shortages, delivery delays, or extreme temperatures. To improve efficiency, airside economizers were incorporated to

recover heat from boiler flue gas. Ventilation systems were designed to provide minimum 35% fresh air, with the capability to increase to 100% fresh air during catastrophic emergencies. The air handling system serving patient care areas was designed with 100% redundancy. To reduce fuel usage several systems were implemented to improve energy efficiency. Glycol run-around heat recovery recovers heat from the exhaust air and using to pre-heat the intake air. The chilled water system was configured to allow the heat rejection to be used for supplementary heating. Reheat coils were specially selected to operate with the lower amount of energy provided by the chiller.

Power resilience, life safety, and code-compliant innovation

Electrical systems were designed for reliability and long-term serviceability. Two 1000 kW/1250 kVA generators provide emergency power to support life-safety and critical loads, with loadshedding as required. Healthcare facilities must maintain function during outages, therefore, distribution pathways and system redundancies were configured to ensure continuity of care. The emergency generator fuel tanks were sized to provide over 72 hours of continuous runtime, with interconnection to the diesel storage tank for additional fuel.

The lighting systems were engineered for durability, efficiency, and reduced infrastructure complexity. All LED lighting in the facility operates at 277 V: this reduces conductor sizes and decreases overall system losses. This higher voltage distribution also allowed the design team to reduce the number of lighting panels and transformers required, simplifying installation and lowering longterm maintenance needs. The majority of the lighting is supplied from the emergency power system. This design further reduced wiring runs, branch circuit modules, and other potential points of failure, while adding minimal additional demand to the generator due to the low connected load of modern LEDs. This approach enhances system reliability during outages without materially increasing emergency power infrastructure.



Connectivity for clinical operations and safety

A converged network supported by a 48-strand OS2 armored fibre-optic backbone was implemented in a ring configuration, providing redundancy so that communication and security systems remain operational even if one portion of the pathway is interrupted. The converged network integrates access control, CCTV, staff duress, intercom, and PoE clock systems. This unified architecture reduces duplicated cabling, simplifies management, improves scalability, and supports quick troubleshooting. Emergency stations were located throughout the facility so that staff can notify security personnel if there is a dangerous situation. Staff also have panic buttons with location monitoring capabilities to improve safety. Remote connectivity was integrated into the building management system and several electrical systems to allow technical support without requiring immediate on-site intervention. This significantly reduces operational risk and supports continuous healthcare delivery in a community where travel distances are extensive.

Social/Economic/Environmental Impact

Norway House Cree Nation had the oldest federally owned and operated hospital in the country, dating back to World War 1. The current iteration of the 'Norway House Indian Hospital' was renovated in 1952. The hospital provided acute care, but many procedures required patients to travel hours to Thompson or Winnipeg. Planning for this project has been underway with community engagement and a conceptual space program started in 2005, when the inpatient services at the hospital were shut down.

Cultural Integration Through Engineering

A guiding principle of the project was respect for the cultural practices of the community. Throughout construction community members, elders, and health care professionals were all engaged regularly to voice opinions and provide recommendations on the HCE design. The facility includes a dedicated cultural room and allows smudging in specific clinical spaces, including palliative care and labour and delivery rooms. Ventilation sequences were developed to support smoke exhaust and negative-pressure operation, while the fire alarm system was programmed to temporarily adjust smoke detector sensitivity during smudging events. This integration allows cultural practices to continue safely and demonstrates how engineering can meaningfully support culturally grounded care.

Integration of 3D modelling

A major factor in the project's successful delivery was the use of Revit to a fully realized coordinated design. The design







team created a detailed, fully coordinated Revit model that served not only as the foundation for design coordination but also as a practical tool for construction planning and execution. The model played an essential role in clash detection, identifying conflicts between architectural, structural, and MEP components well before materials were ordered. Early coordination prevented many issues that would typically lead to RFIs or change orders during construction. By resolving these challenges in advance, the project reduced rework, limited disruptions in the field, and maintained better cost control. Contractors relied heavily on this model during field operations for layout, verification, and installation sequencing, helping ensure that on-site work aligned with the intended design. Mechanical and electrical teams used the model to prefabricate large assemblies off site, allowing completed modules to be shipped directly to Norway House. This strategy significantly reduced the amount of labour required on site and improved the precision of installations. These efficiencies were especially valuable in a remote northern location, where limited site access and constrained construction windows make proactive planning essential.

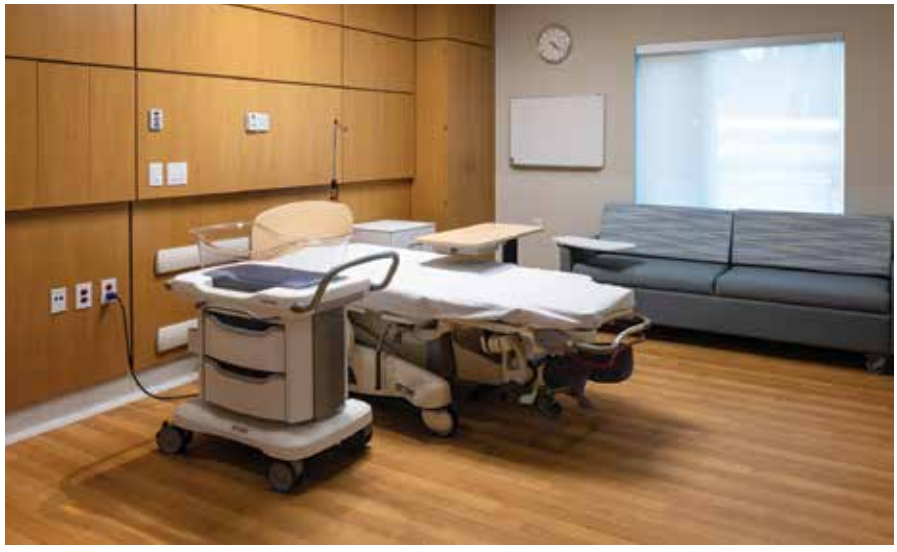
Complexity

A major engineering challenge involved meeting code requirements for protected conductors serving areas of refuge – which are areas in a building where patients cannot





be easily moved, so they must be able to remain there during an emergency – in a building where available assemblies could not provide the necessary fire-resistance ratings. Emergency power feeders were routed on the building exterior in stainless-steel covered cable trays, then re-entered at required points. Exterior routing avoided the need for fire-rated cable because the conductors were outside the building envelope. This approach satisfied code intent, reduced constructability risk, and avoided extensive interior rework. This creative solution reflects a broader engineering philosophy carried throughout the project: solve complex problems with methods that meet technical requirements while remaining buildable and maintainable in a remote setting.

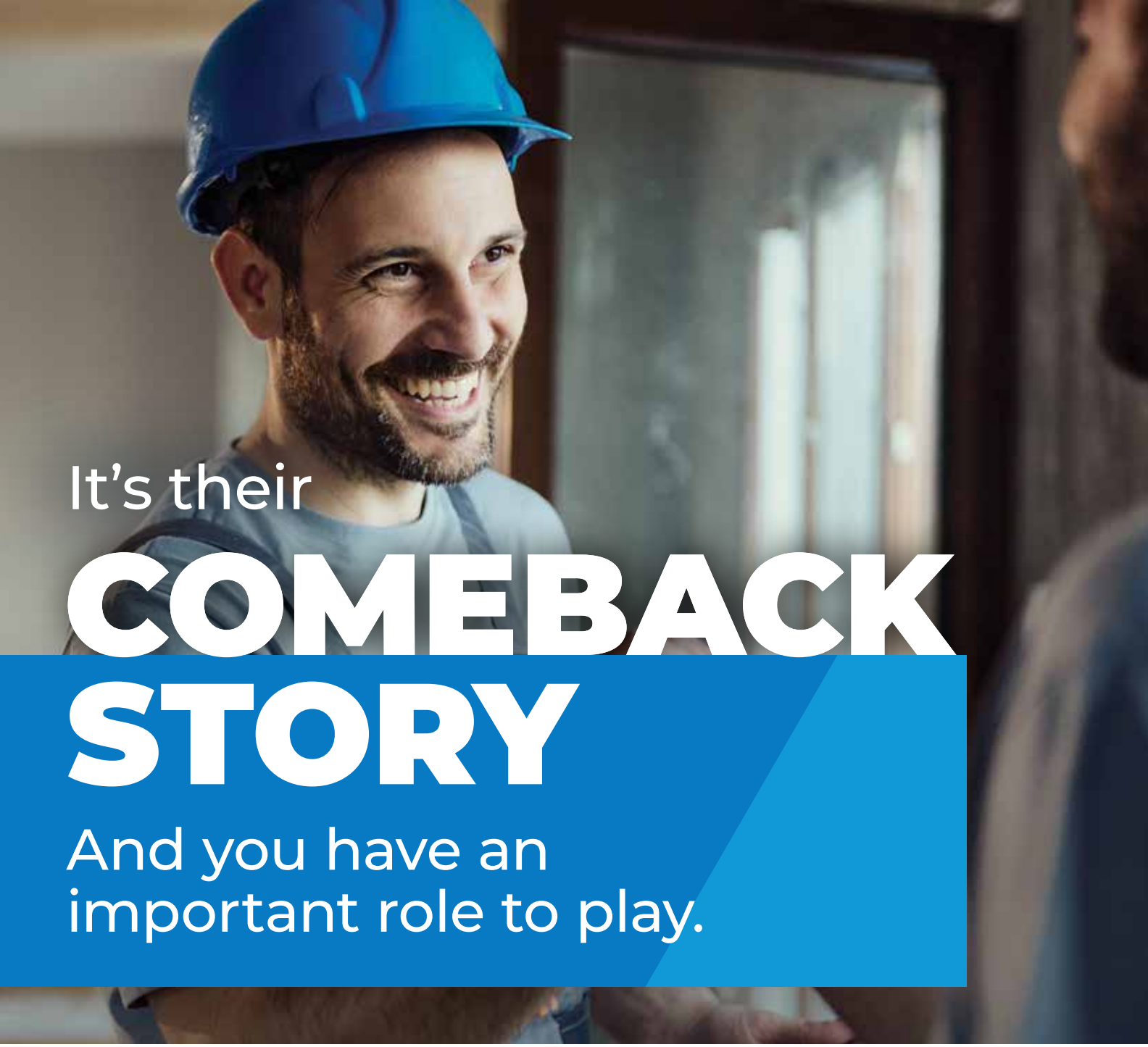




Closing Statement

The Kinosew Sipi Nanatawiwekamik Health Centre of Excellence provides comprehensive routine and emergency healthcare services across all stages of life for the citizens of the Norway House Cree Nation. The facility reflects engineering shaped directly by the realities of northern infrastructure as well as the cultural values and priorities of the community it serves. Through resilient heating solutions, strategic energy-recovery systems, innovative electrical routing for lifesafety continuity, and a redundant communications backbone, the design supports longterm operational reliability in a remote setting.





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AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Kinosew Sipi Nanatawiwekamik Health Centre of Excellence

Culturally responsive healthcare for Norway House Cree Nation and surrounding northern communities. The 9,470 m² facility delivers emergency care, labour and delivery, dialysis, diagnostics, and palliative services, along with spaces that support Indigenous cultural practices such as smudging. Designed for extreme climate, remote access, and limited utilities, the Centre features dual-fuel heating, layered heat recovery, resilient power systems, and digital coordination. Built with extensive community engagement and local labour, it enhances healthcare access, cultural safety, and operational reliability while significantly reducing the need for long-distance patient travel.

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AWARD OF MERIT

MCW Consultants Ltd.

Shoal Lake CFS Prevention Centre

Straddling the Ontario/Manitoba border and surrounded by the waters of Shoal Lake, Indian Bay, and Snowshoe Bay, the Shoal Lake 40 Prevention Centre stands on Treaty Three Territory, the traditional homeland of the Ojibway/Saulteaux. It offers a safe, supportive place for gathering, learning, and healing. Working with Bridgeman Collaborative Architecture and Shoal Lake 40's Chief and Council, MCW designed efficient, reliable, and economical mechanical and electrical systems that honour the cultural significance of the building and its surroundings. The facility reflects traditional values and nurtures the strengths of children and youth, helping them grow into strong, healthy, and confident community members.

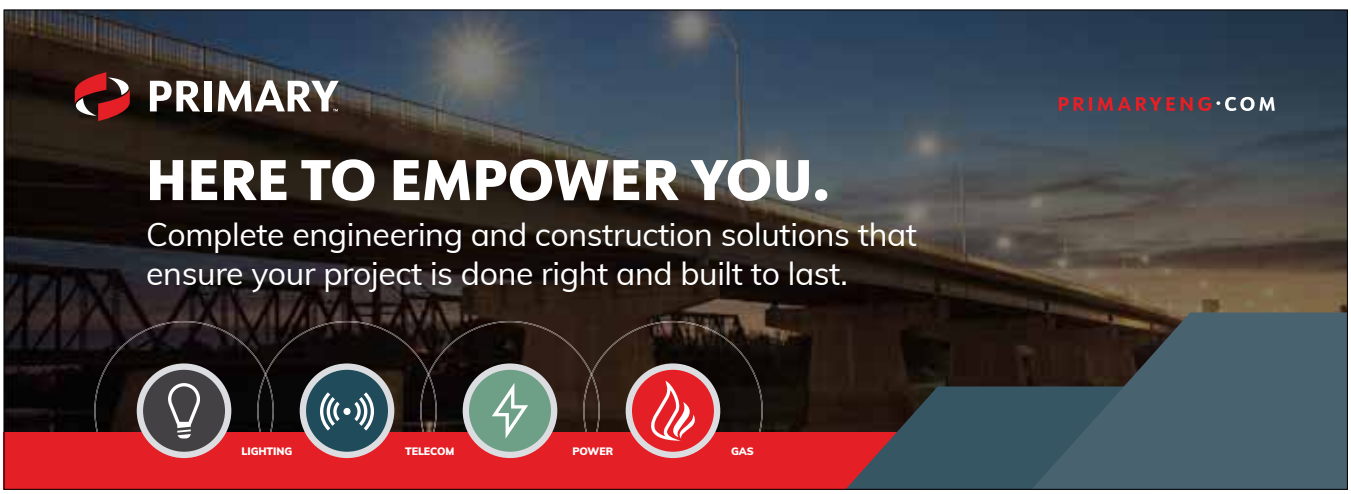




MCW Consultants Ltd.

Oak Hammock Marsh Wetland Discovery Centre Renewal

The Ducks Unlimited Wetland Discovery Centre was a highly rewarding engineering project supported by a knowledgeable and engaged ownership team. Key achievements included using artesian wells without pitless adaptors to directly supply building cooling and fire pumps, resolving a significant confined space entry challenge, effectively increasing ventilation capacity to meet current codes, and developing a new controls strategy that minimized electrical consumption and demand. These innovations, combined with strong design collaboration, made this project a standout example of thoughtful, solutions-focused engineering.



ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Little Long Dam Safety Project

KGS GROUP

The Little Long Dam Safety Project increased the Adam Creek Sluiceway's discharge capacity by over 40% to meet Ontario Power Generation's updated Inflow Design Flood requirements. The multidisciplinary team applied advanced geotechnical investigations, CFD and physical hydraulic modeling, and innovative structural solutions to design and construct four new sluice bays while keeping existing infrastructure safely in service. The project strengthened climate resilience, reduced environmental impacts such as lake sturgeon entrapment, and included significant Indigenous participation. Completed in 2025, it achieved exemplary safety, cost, and schedule performance for a complex, high-risk dam safety upgrade, supported by effective collaboration across all partners.





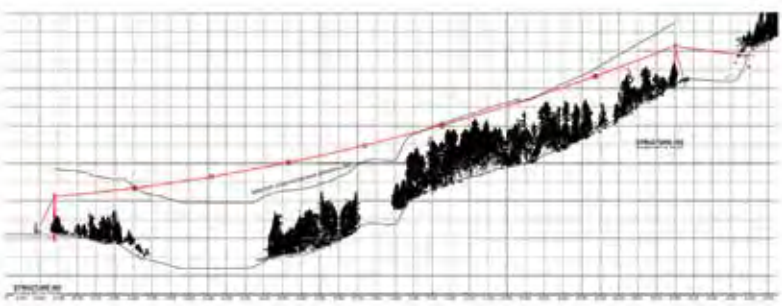
ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

AWARD OF MERIT

Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Distribution Design and Engineering

MCW Consultants Ltd.

MCW was engaged by BC Hydro to provide distribution design and engineering services for electrical infrastructure associated with the Trans Mountain Expansion Project. The scope included the design of overhead and underground distribution modifications, including pole relocations, wire raises, crossings, and new service connections to accommodate pipeline construction. Engineering solutions were developed using advanced modelling and option-based design to address complex clearance, permitting, terrain, and constructability constraints. Over 300 design packages were delivered through multiple formal review stages, enabling safe construction while maintaining system reliability and strengthening BC Hydro's distribution network in support of a nationally significant energy infrastructure project.





North Channel Block Dam Replacement Project

KGS GROUP

To address safety risks at the North Channel Block Dam, situated 45 km northwest of Kenora, Ontario, Ontario Power Generation retained KGS Group to complete a detailed design update and provide oversight throughout construction. The original 1958 structure faced critical overtopping and internal erosion hazards due to inadequate freeboard and seepage. Through an innovative collaboration, KGS implemented a solution featuring a reinforced concrete core wall and a foundation cut-off. Despite remote access and rugged terrain, the project was executed within budget and on schedule. This sustainable remediation ensures long-term stability, community protection and continued renewable power generation for northwestern Ontario.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Connecting Back to Nature: Restoring Lake Audy Road Crossings on Jackfish Creek

KGS GROUP

In Riding Mountain National Park, the Lake Audy Road Crossings project turned the damage done by a record-level flood into an opportunity to rebuild differently. Instead of reinstalling traditional culverts, Parks Canada Agency and KGS Group chose open bottom soil-arch structures that let Jackfish Creek follow its natural path beneath the road. The new crossings restore fish passage and reconnect habitat, improve resilience to major floods and reduce long term maintenance. They also protect access to key park sites, including the campground and Bison Enclosure, while blending seamlessly into the landscape. The result strengthens essential infrastructure while helping the creek and surrounding ecosystem thrive by connecting back to nature.

MUNICIPAL AND WATER TECHNOLOGY

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Berens River First Nation Water Treatment Plant Expansion

Stantec

The Berens River First Nation water treatment plant was nearing the design life of the facility and required additional treatment, storage, and pumping systems. After the aging treatment system failed to meet national standards, the community was placed under a boil water advisory. This project delivered a resilient, future-ready solution. Despite challenges with variable geotechnical conditions, lack of facility as-built information, and the need to construct around working systems, the team implemented an innovative ultrafiltration and nanofiltration membrane system, advanced automation, and strategic reuse of existing infrastructure. The project restored potable water, protected health, and lifted the boil water advisory.





AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Branch I Aqueduct Underdrain Outfall Repairs

Stantec

This project safeguards Winnipeg's potable water supply by rehabilitating the underdrain system, which protects the century-old Branch I Aqueduct from sulphate-related deterioration. The project renewed three major river outfalls, eliminated cross connections to the combined sewer system, and repaired the underdrain in vulnerable areas, including beneath railways, regional streets, and riverbanks. Using advanced trenchless technologies, including CIPP lining and directional drilling, the repairs were completed successfully while reducing risk to the Branch I Aqueduct. Completed in 2026, the project restored protection for this vital asset that supplies 40% of the city's potable water.





Dog Paw Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

DGH ENGINEERING LTD. | JR Cousin Consultants Ltd. | TOWER ENGINEERING

The Northwest Angle 33 First Nation community of Dog Paw had an ageing water treatment plant that was subject to several boil water advisories and was unable to provide water for community fire protection. Working with the First Nation, JRCC designed and implemented an upgrade to the existing facility to support long-term growth in the community. The new water treatment system included a new crossflow membrane system and upgrades to the chemical feed, distribution pumping and SCADA systems. Dog Paw residents now have a safe and resilient drinking water system with the redundancy required to avoid future boil water advisories.

SMALL FIRM, BIG IMPACT

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

24kV Switch Automation Program

Primary Engineering partnered with Manitoba Hydro and local municipalities to modernize distribution feeders in Winnipeg and surrounding rural areas by installing IntelliRupter Fault Interrupters and Vista-Gear's. The project addressed reliability limitations from ageing reclosers and manual switches and supported future self-healing feeder operation. Installation started in 2023, and most of the work was completed in late 2025, with multiple IntelliRupters 'teams' installed on critical feeders serving more than 15000 customers. Primary's scope included design of overhead IntelliRupters, and pad mounted smart switching devices as well as construction coordination to ensure equipment was installed correctly.





Wastewater System Upgrade

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations required a reliable, cost-effective interim upgrade for their wastewater treatment system that would address chronically failing RBC equipment and aging lift stations. JRCC delivered a custom-designed MBBR process that was built directly into the existing treatment basins – an innovative solution that restored treatment performance without major structural modifications. Mechanical and electrical repairs, HVAC and safety upgrades, and comprehensive lift station improvements, including backup power, enhanced operator safety and system resilience. The project extended the life of the existing plant, reduced maintenance burdens, and provided dependable wastewater treatment while the community secures funding for a long-term replacement system.

SMALL PROJECTS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

RRC Polytech Aviation HVAC Upgrade

SMS Engineering

The RRC Aviation HVAC Upgrade project showcased careful integration of mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering disciplines. The mechanical scope focused on the replacement of two roof-top gas-fired air handling units with four new indoor air handling units that utilized air source heat pumps for primary heating and cooling. Through this project the building was electrified up to 99.5%, which has reduced the annual carbon emissions by approximately 121 tonnes. This electrification was completed without an electrical service upgrade and demonstrates clever consulting to focus on delivering environmental results in a reasonable and practical way.





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SMALL PROJECTS

Southport Fire Pump and Pumphouse Upgrades

The multidisciplinary project involved upgrading Southport's fire protection system by replacing a diesel-powered fire pump with an electric fire pump and generator. The project addressed deteriorating pump performance while eliminating the environmental risk of diesel storage above treated water reservoirs. The new pump was required to provide fire protection for numerous airport hangars, industrial facilities, and commercial buildings. Unlike typical fire pump installations, this fire pump was directly integrated into the potable water distribution network, which required that all components and appurtenances met NSF 61 requirements for materials in contact with drinking water, as well as ULC/FM fire ratings.

Commissioning the G7 Summit

Commissioning the 2025 G7 Leaders' Summit at the Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge required delivering mission-critical building systems performance under extreme schedule, security, and operational constraints. With commissioning scheduled for just three days before a security lockdown, work was complicated by incomplete installations, undocumented scope changes, and contractors already off site. Crosier Kilgour assessed HVAC performance and adjusted controls in real time. Temporary architectural reconfigurations and tight security restrictions added further complexity. Through adaptive controls recalibration, on-site performance validation, and remote monitoring during the event itself, CK helped deliver reliable environmental and life safety conditions for a globally significant diplomatic summit.

Variable Message Board Design

The MTI VMB Design and Tender Package modernized highway communication on Manitoba's critical trade corridors (PTH 1, 75, 100/101, 6), deploying a multi-disciplinary solution across 19 dispersed sites to enhance public safety with real-time hazard alerts. Complexity was met with adaptive design, including a cost-saving specialized shallow foundation at the Ontario border to overcome shallow bedrock. Proactive risk management was critical; a dedicated 'utility capture' scope deployed surveyors to 18 sites to physically map underground utilities, successfully avoiding construction stand-downs and service interruptions. A strategic 'split tender' delivery model ensured the rapid deployment schedule was met.





ENVIRONMENTAL

AWARD OF MERIT

Beaver Creek Wastewater Treatment Lagoon – Northern Yukon Lagoon Design

TETRA TECH

The Government of Yukon retained Tetra Tech to complete the design and contract administration of the Beaver Creek Lagoon. Tetra Tech assembled a highly skilled team to undertake the design, which took into consideration the permafrost and northern climate. Through a workshop involving the operations and maintenance staff and the Government of Yukon, a customized design was developed that considered the unique constraints at the Beaver Creek Lagoon, which ultimately was accepted and constructed, ahead of schedule and under the construction budget allotted.





ENVIRONMENTAL

Manto Sipi Cree Nation Waste Management Facility

DILLON

Manto Sipi Cree Nation required a long-term, environmentally responsible solution to replace aging waste disposal practices in a remote northern community with seasonal winter road access and limited year-round transportation options. Engineering services supported planning, design, and phased construction of a new integrated Waste Management Facility including engineered disposal areas, leachate management and evaporation systems, recycling infrastructure, public drop-off areas, and material recovery and operations buildings. The facility was designed to perform under northern climate conditions and remote construction constraints. Operational since 2025, the community-operated facility strengthens environmental protection, supports ongoing operator training and capacity building, and supports structured waste diversion, recycling, and coordinated winter road back-haul of diverted materials.

God's Lake First Nation Waste Management Facility

DILLON

God's Lake First Nation required a long-term, environmentally responsible replacement for aging waste disposal practices in a remote northern community accessible primarily by air and seasonal winter road. Engineering services supported planning, design, and phased construction of a new integrated Waste Management Facility including engineered disposal areas, leachate management and evaporation systems, recycling infrastructure, public drop-off areas, and material recovery and operations buildings. The facility was designed for northern climate durability and remote construction logistics. Operational since 2025, the community-operated facility improves environmental protection, supports ongoing operator training and capacity building, and enables structured waste diversion, recycling, and winter road back-haul of diverted materials.



TRANSPORTATION

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

TETRA TECH

Major Bridge Rehabilitation of Bridge Over the Burntwood River on PR 391

The Major Rehabilitation of the Burntwood Bridge on PR 391 included widening the bridge superstructure from 12.42m to 14.65m to better accommodate pedestrians and high truck volumes that use the bridge every day. Widening the CIP concrete deck required adding steel cantilever supports to the bridge overhangs. The bridge construction staging maintained a single operating lane of traffic throughout construction. The detailed design assignment also included steel girder strengthening, eliminating expansion joints over the piers, and connecting all girders to be continuous spans. It also included bearing replacement, substructure modifications, and a new CIP concrete deck complete with an AT pathway.







TRANSPORTATION

AWARD OF MERIT

Portage and Main Pedestrian Opening

After 46 years, pedestrians once again can cross Portage and Main, Winnipeg's most iconic intersection. A multidisciplinary team delivered this time-critical retrofit: removing barriers; targeting waterproofing and structural upgrades, modernizing signals, lighting and utilities, and restoring sidewalks and plazas. The design schedule was maintained through concurrent, collaborative design between consultants and the City. Winter construction, parallel workflows, rapid decisions, and field validations compressed delivery while maintaining quality. The project restores Portage and Main as a people-oriented, vibrant meeting place that maintains traffic operations and business access, proving that bold, people-centred choices can transform a historical barrier into a modern, multimodal hub.





TRANSPORTATION

AWARD OF MERIT

Louise Bridge Urgent Repairs

DILLON TETRA TECH

The City of Winnipeg retained Tetra Tech to complete the preliminary rehabilitation design of the historic Louise Bridge over the Red River. Tetra Tech and Dillon Consulting undertook a detailed visual inspection, which revealed severe corrosion on critical swing span gusset plates, leading to the immediate closure of the bridge on May 23, 2025. The team designed complex structural repairs to restore the bridge's capacity. Through the coordination of multiple specialized contractors on an accelerated schedule, the team successfully executed the works, allowing the bridge to reopen on August 22, 2025, restoring this vital link in time for September's regular traffic volumes.





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TRANSPORTATION

AWARD OF MERIT

Keewatin Channel Bridge Recoating & Structural Steel Repair

Stantec

The project involved comprehensive rehabilitation of the 104 m steel arch of the Keewatin Channel Bridge to restore structural capacity and extend service life. Key efforts included detailed rope access inspections, hazardous materials testing, and ultrasonic NDT of six critical arch pins. Targeted steel repairs addressed localized section loss in lattice bars, batten plates, and chord members. A full containment abrasive blasting program to SSPC SP10 removed a leadbased coating, followed by application of a threecoat OZ/EP/PU protective system. Continuous resident and non-resident contract administration, rigorous quality control, and effective traffic management enabled safe construction while keeping the bridge operational.







TRANSPORTATION

Construction Administration for PTH 2 Reconstruction from PR 240 to PTH 13

Dillon executed construction administration and inspection for the PTH 2 Reconstruction project using innovative digital tools and quality-based specifications, enhancing quality control and transparency. The project maintained essential community connectivity during construction, prioritized local Indigenous hiring, and addressed safety concerns through roadway realignment. Environmental protocols mitigated agricultural risks, while effective project management ensured adherence to budget and schedule, ultimately benefiting the local economy and ecosystem. This award winning reconstruction project was completed while working in concert with the owner, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, TTES as a subconsultant and GIP as the contractor.

Main Street Reconstruction

The City of Selkirk proceeded with the Main Street Reconstruction project as part of the Downtown Selkirk Renewal Strategy to create a vibrant and accessible downtown. As part of the Strategy, JRCC and HTFC designed new transportation infrastructure including roadway paving, sidewalks, Active Transportation Path, landscaping, furnishings and infrastructure renewal. Innovative design elements and thoughtfully selected materials celebrate Selkirk's rich heritage while encouraging walking, cycling, and community connection. The project aligned seamlessly with the City's Downtown Selkirk Renewal Strategy, Climate Change Adaption Strategy, Active Transportation Strategy, and Street Tree Policy to support a resilient and welcoming downtown core.

St. Mary's Road Flood Resiliency Project

The St. Mary's Road Flood Resiliency Project transforms a flood prone rural corridor into a reliable lifeline for the RM of Montcalm. Using advanced two-dimensional hydraulic modelling calibrated to historic flood events, Stantec evaluated multiple design scenarios to balance flood protection, constructability, and cost. The 6.1-kilometre upgrade incorporated large diameter culverts, twin 11-meter structural steel box culverts, and stabilized roadway embankments to withstand future flood elevations. Designed with public input and delivered in 2024, the $6 million project met schedule and budget while RM of Montcalm's priorities for resilient, buildable infrastructure across Manitoba's floodplain landscapes.

North Perimeter Highway Design Study

The North Perimeter is part of Manitoba's Strategic Highway Network, a key link in CentrePort, a key route for trade and commerce, and part of the National Highway System. To address existing safety, operations, and condition issues, WSP and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure developed a plan that will accommodate the development of the North Perimeter Highway into a fully access-controlled, grade-separated freeway. The North Perimeter redesign will create a modern freeway facility, and the recommendations from the North Perimeter Highway Design Study will be used to help prioritize projects on the Perimeter Highway over the next several decades.



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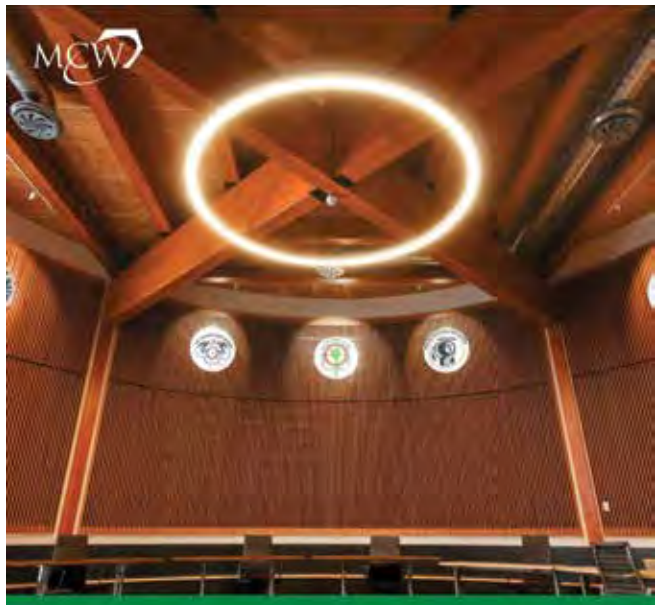
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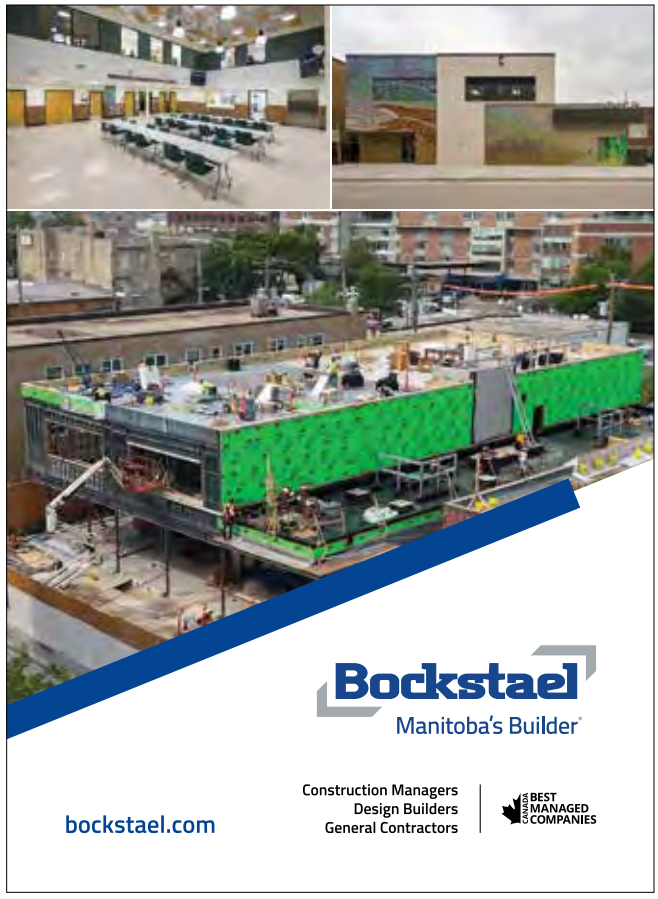


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INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

RISING STAR AWARD

The Rising Star Award is intended to recognize exceptional achievements in the early years of a person's career. This award was established in 2008 in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of Manitoba. The award is intended to celebrate an individual who has demonstrated excellence in business practices, outstanding achievements in their applicable fields, leadership in the community and the active participation in the association. The award was first presented to Daniel Zaborniak in 2008, Jason Cousin in 2009, Beth Phillips in 2010, Owen Van Walleghem in 2011, Jonathan Epp in 2012, Kimberly Yathon in 2013, Kristen Poff in 2014, Jomar Manzano in 2015, Lin Watt in 2016, Dana Bredin in 2017, Misty Klassen in 2018, Tyson Ehnes in 2019, Irene Davies in 2020, Steven Goldstine in 2022, Hailey Collins-Kramble in 2023, Ian Moran in 2024 and Danielle Leslie in 2025.

2026 RISING STAR AWARD RECIPIENT

Rhianna Holter-Ferguson



Rhianna Holter-Ferguson graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biosystems Engineering. She began her career as an EIT with JR Cousin Consultants Ltd. (JRCC), responsible for providing construction inspection services, conducting surveys, and preparing design and construction drawings for various civil and municipal engineering projects. She has developed extensive experience in the planning, design, and project management of municipal and civil infrastructure projects, with a focus on water and wastewater systems, particularly in remote and northern communities across Manitoba and Ontario.

Rhianna has contributed to the successful delivery of numerous complex and impactful projects, including upgrades to water and wastewater treatment systems in First Nation communities. Her experience has progressed from design support roles on key projects to serving as a lead design engineer/project manager on major infrastructure initiatives. Rhianna has gained significant experience from the successful design and construction of her many unique, complex, and challenging projects. She is dedicated to each project and works to provide the best outcome for every community and community member.

In addition to her project work, Rhianna is actively engaged in advancing the engineering profession. She is Co-Chair of the ACEC-MB Future Leaders Committee and has participated in the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Women in Engineering mentorship program since 2019. She regularly contributes to student development through presentations, panel discussions, and judging engineering design projects, and currently serves on the Biosystems Engineering Alumni of Influence Awards Committee. She is a member of the JRCC's social committee and takes an active role in the mentorship of junior staff.

Rhianna is an active member of her community, attending community Open Houses and Town of Stonewall Council Meetings to engage with citizens and government and to participate in community initiatives. In her free time, she enjoys baking, playing softball, watching football, and vacationing with family and friends.

Rhianna is a dedicated and talented engineer. Her commitment and enthusiasm to her professional growth and the engineering profession, and her support and encouragement of fellow engineers, makes her a deserving recipient of the Rising Star Award.

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INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ENGINEERING ACTION AWARD

Established in 2005, the Engineering Action Award recognizes outstanding service and dedication to the association, the Canadian consulting engineering profession and the community. Previous recipients include Garry Bolton in 2005, John Woods in 2006, Roger Rempel in 2008, Ken Anderson in 2009, Ralph Kurth in 2010, William (Bill) H. Brant in 2011, Tom Wingrove in 2012, Ron Typliski in 2013, Alana Gauthier in 2014, Grantley King in 2015, Cameron Dyck in 2016, Allyson Desgroseilliers in 2018, Richard Tebinka in 2019, Todd Smith in 2020, Brad Cook in 2022, Justin Rak-Banville in 2023, Kerra Mruss in 2024 and Indra Kalinovich in 2025.

2026 ENGINEERING ACTION AWARD RECIPIENT

Mario Scerbo



Mario Scerbo, P.Eng., has over 30 years of experience in the consulting engineering profession and is recognized for his leadership across technical practice, project delivery, and operational management. Since beginning his career in 1995, he has progressed through roles including design lead, project manager, and operational leader, consistently delivering high-quality outcomes while fostering collaboration and strong client relationships. His expertise in construction and contract administration, combined with sound judgment and a pragmatic approach, has made him a trusted advisor on complex and high-stakes projects.

Throughout his career, Mario has contributed significantly to the advancement of the engineering profession through active involvement in professional organizations and governance. He served on the Board of Directors of ACI Manitoba and held the role of Chapter President. He is also a member of the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Investigations Committee and serves as the EGM representative on the Province of Manitoba's Advisory Committee for the Development Agreements Guide update. Through these roles, he has helped shape policy, strengthen professional standards, and support the regulatory frameworks that underpin safe and effective engineering practice.

Mario has demonstrated a strong commitment to mentorship and the development of future engineers. As an Industry Mentor for the University of Manitoba Price Faculty of Engineering Capstone Program, he provides practical guidance and industry insight to student teams, helping bridge academic theory with real-world application. His mentorship has contributed to successful student outcomes, including recognition for industry-relevant project work, and reflects his dedication to supporting the next generation of engineering professionals.

Mario's involvement with the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Manitoba (ACEC-MB) has been both extensive and impactful. He has served on numerous committees, including Government Relations, Transportation, Water & Environment, Buildings & Institutions, and Board Nominations, and has held leadership roles as a member of the Board of Directors, President, and currently Past President. He also serves as Board Liaison to Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba.

During his tenure with ACEC-MB, Mario has played a key leadership role in advancing the association's mandate to promote fair procurement and protect the interests of consulting engineering firms. He led engagement with the Province of Manitoba on the Engineering Master Services Agreement, advocating for transparency, equitable procurement practices, and sustainable outcomes for the consulting industry. He has also represented ACEC-MB as an industry liaison with the Winnipeg Construction Association and the City of Winnipeg Industry Advisory Group, ensuring that industry perspectives are reflected in municipal and provincial decision-making.

Mario is also widely recognized for his leadership style and commitment to mentorship within his organization and the broader engineering community. He actively supports the development of junior and intermediate engineers, fostering confidence, technical growth, and strong professional values. Known for his calm, pragmatic, and solutions-focused approach, he is consistently relied upon by colleagues and clients to navigate complex challenges and deliver effective outcomes.

Mario Scerbo's career reflects a sustained commitment to excellence in engineering, leadership in professional service, and dedication to advancing the consulting engineering industry. His contributions to the profession, the association, and the community make him a highly deserving recipient of the Engineering Action Award.

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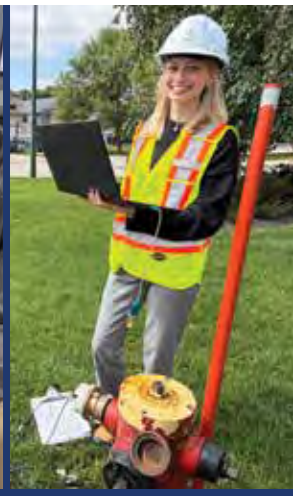
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INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The ***Lifetime Achievement Award*** is presented to an individual in recognition of their significant contribution and service to their profession, the association and the community. The award is presented to a long time ACEC-MB Member to acknowledge the individual's leadership, achievements and impact. Previous recipients include Les Wardrop in 2002, Bill McKay in 2003, William Mitchell in 2004, Russell Hood in 2005, Al Dyregrov in 2006, Alfred Poetker in 2007, Norman Ulyatt in 2008, Peter Washchyshyn in 2009, George Rempel in 2011, Garry Bolton in 2012, Tim Stratton in 2013, William H. (Bill) Brant in 2014, Tom Wingrove in 2015, Jerry Cousin in 2016, David Krahn in 2017, Doug Stewart in 2018, Bruce Wilton in 2019, Eric Blais in 2020, Neil Klassen in 2022, William (Bill) Brant in 2023, Richard Tebinka in 2024 and Todd Smith in 2025.

2026 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

Steve Reaburn



Steve Reaburn has dedicated over 40 years to the field of mechanical engineering, making a lasting impact on the profession, the consulting engineering industry, and the broader community. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated exceptional technical expertise, leadership, and a strong commitment to mentorship, helping to shape the next generation of engineers while contributing to impactful projects across Western Canada.

Steve began his career in the early 1980s and went on to become a key leader at MCW Consultants Ltd., where he served for over two decades as Mechanical Division Manager and later as a partner. In this role, he guided the growth and direction of the firm's mechanical practice, leading complex projects and fostering a culture of collaboration, learning, and technical excellence. His work has been recognized through numerous ACEC-MB Awards of Excellence and Merit, with notable projects including healthcare facilities, schools, and large-scale energy efficiency initiatives.

A recognized leader in sustainable design, Steve has been at the forefront of energy-efficient mechanical systems and building performance. As a LEED Accredited Professional and ASHRAE Healthcare Facility Design Professional, he championed innovative approaches to HVAC and plumbing design, consistently promoting energy conservation and practical, high-performing solutions for clients. He was also an active contributor to industry knowledge-sharing, frequently presenting at conferences and engaging with clients and peers to advance best practices in engineering.

Steve has demonstrated extensive service to the ACEC–MB. He served on the Board of Directors for seven years, including roles as Treasurer, President-Elect, President, and Past President. He also contributed to the Building & Institution Committee and played a key role in advancing the association's mission, advocating for the consulting engineering industry and supporting its continued growth and recognition.

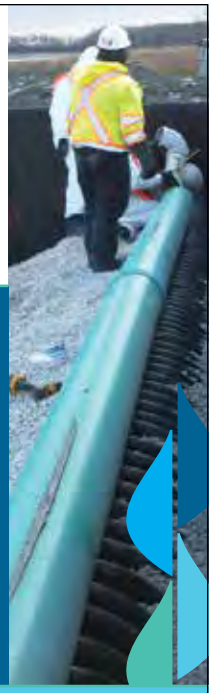
Beyond his professional achievements, Steve has been deeply committed to mentorship and community involvement. He has guided and supported countless young engineers throughout his career, both within MCW and through broader industry engagement, including guest lectures and student outreach. His dedication to education extended beyond engineering, as he volunteered extensively in coaching and community activities, supporting youth development in sports and other programs.

Steve's contributions to the community also include his work on energy performance and infrastructure projects for key Manitoba institutions such as the University of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, and Manitoba Métis Federation. Through these projects, he has helped improve building performance, sustainability, and long-term resilience for public and institutional facilities.

Known for his professionalism, collaborative approach, and commitment to excellence, Steve has consistently reinforced the reputation of his firm and the engineering profession as a whole. His leadership, technical achievements, and dedication to mentorship and community service have left a lasting legacy.

Steve Reaburn's career reflects the highest standards of the engineering profession. His outstanding contributions to consulting engineering, ACEC-MB, and the community make him a highly deserving recipient of the ACEC-MB Lifetime Achievement Award.

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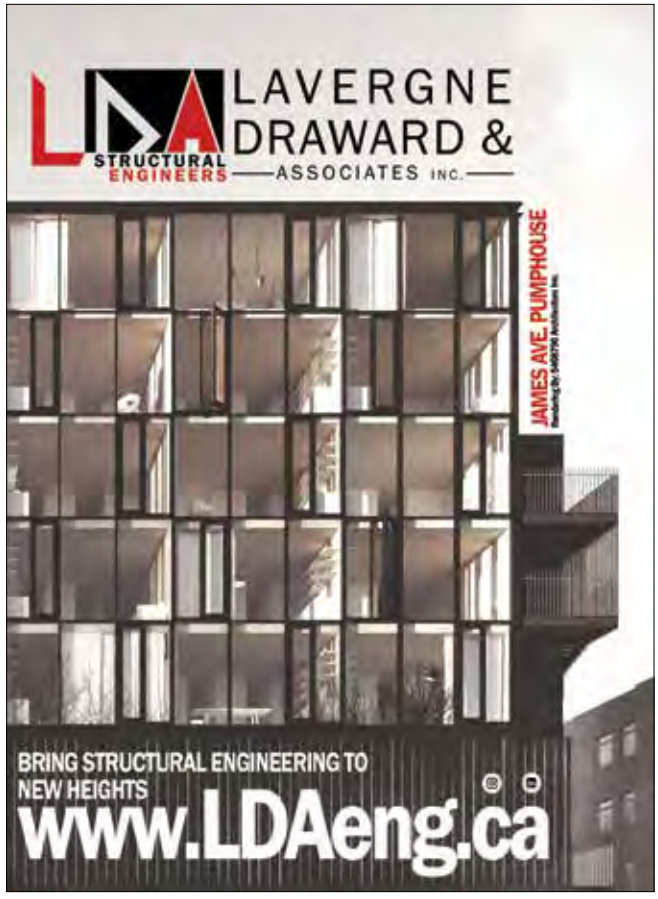


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Todd Smith

On family vacations driving across Canada, Todd Smith's father would point out the interesting parts of infrastructure as they passed. And at age 10 or 12, Todd started to pay attention.

"My father was an engineer. He did road safety audits across the country, and he worked on the original steel arch Port Mann Highway 1 Improvement project in Vancouver. He got me to start looking at these incredible parts of the built world around us, and I was hooked."

Todd graduated from the U of M School of Engineering in 1984. He wanted to focus on water resources, but when he worked for ID Engineering (eventually Stantec) as a student, and eventually an employee, he got interested in highways and road construction. "In my time with ID, there was too many City of Winnipeg roads to count that I worked on. As a student, I worked on the Route 90 and Logan underpass. Bev Fisher and Victor Neufeld at ID Engineering were some of my earliest professional mentors. I learned from them how important it is to keep your clients informed as much as you possibly can."

In 1989, Todd was hired at Reid Crowther and Partners Ltd., which would eventually be acquired by AECOM. "The former CEO and president of Reid Crowther, Ed Tahmazian, was another mentor of mine. We worked together on the Main and Norwood Bridges Project and the Charleswood Bridge Project. He was always full of great ideas and supportive of young staff. He loved the job, and he made us love the job too."

AECOM was where Todd would spend the next 35 years of his career, holding multiple leadership positions. From October 2012 to June 2014, Todd was the general manager for the Prairies District. The role encompassed overall operational oversight of offices in Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg.

He then led the Transportation team in Western Canada. This included oversight of staff in Burnaby, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg. Todd managed this diverse team of 350 transportation professionals whose work spanned sub-disciplines of highway/bridge, rail, marine, aviation, transportation planning and construction oversight. This role included resource and budget planning and implementation, business development, client relations, proposal preparation, technical reviews, inputs on major projects and general operations oversight.

Todd's next leadership role was AECOM's Manitoba/Saskatchewan Metro Lead, guiding all areas of the consulting engineering business – transportation, environmental, water and buildings. He was responsible for business development, advising on major projects and key alternative delivery pursuits. During this time, he still maintained an active role in projects as a senior manager and project director on significant infrastructure projects across Canada.



Todd Smith receiving his Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025.

Across his career, Todd oversaw several big rewarding projects, including the groundside infrastructure expansion for the James Richardson Winnipeg International Airport. This included the civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, and construction of a new utility tunnel.

"One of the most interesting projects I was part of was the Kichi Sipi Bridge south of Cross Lake, crossing the Nelson River. It was an incredibly remote project and huge in scale, crossing a channel in 100 feet of water." This bridge is the only all-weather road connecting north-eastern Manitoba to the rest of the province, and the second longest road-bridge in Manitoba.

Todd's advice to new engineers? "Get into the business side of things. Take civil engineering: it covers everything and can expand to a wide range of fields. Be willing to move across Canada in your early career and get as wide a range of experience as you can. Learn what is it to work remotely, outside city centres. Keep your eyes open for positions all over the world but always remember that you can have a fabulous career in Winnipeg."



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The 27th Annual ACEC-MB Golf Tournament was held September 8, 2026. It was a windy, chilly day at Bridges Golf Course in Starbuck. Golfers enjoyed a lunch sponsored by Stantec Consulting Ltd., beverages sponsored by ENG-TECH Consulting Limited, and golf carts sponsored by Tri-Core Projects Ltd. Title sponsor was Paddock Drilling.



ACEC-MB Tournament – winning team from SSU; Silvestre Urbano, Tony Latiza, Eddie Exconde and Edwin Gambalan.



















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2026 ACEC-MB Awards of Excellence

Gallery

The 2026 ACEC-MB Awards of Excellence were held at the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada on April 23, 2026. The Keystone Award winning museum has played host to the awards for four years in a row and serves as a fitting backdrop for the honouring of engineering talent and ingenuity in Manitoba.













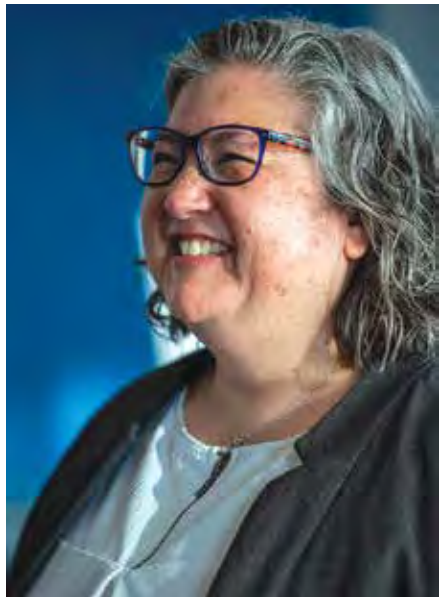
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