



Backgrounder

About the Vancouver Convention Centre

Vancouver Convention Centre East (Original Building)

- Originally built as Canada Pavilion for 1986 Expo, with 133,000 sq feet of meeting/exhibition/ballroom space
- Currently hosts more than 300 events annually with almost 600,000 delegate days each year; generating \$213 million in annual economic activity (Fiscal 2008)
- 55 full-time staff, plus 170 FTE contracted staff in areas such as Food and Beverage, Housekeeping, Security, Audio/Visual, Rigging, etc.

Vancouver Convention Centre West (Expansion)

- Groundbreaking: November 8, 2004; Completion: March 15, 2009
- Opening: April 3, 2009
- Total area of expansion: 1.2 million square feet (111,500 m²)
- 60 per cent of expansion is over land; 40 per cent is over water
- Total area of meeting space (west and east combined): approximately 500,000 ft² (46,450 m²); more than triple the existing space
- Canada's largest waterfront convention centre ballroom at 55,000 ft² with dramatic five-story ceilings and spectacular mountain vistas
- Total cost of expansion: \$883.2 million
- Funding sources: Province of British Columbia - \$540.7 million; Government of Canada - \$222.5 million; Tourism Vancouver - \$90 million, Vancouver Convention Centre generated revenue - \$30 million



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Opening expansion events

- Public Open House – April 4 and 5, 2009
- First international convention: American Bar Association (April 16-18) with 1700 delegates and 5,100 non-resident delegate days (NRDDs), generating \$2.5 million in economic benefits

In 2010, the expanded convention centre will host the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games International Media Centre

Economic impact

- New larger facility able to host large scale conferences, or host several medium size events – all at the same time
- 169 events already booked for new expansion; expected to generate more than \$2 billion in economic activity. Of this, direct non-resident delegate & exhibitor spending is estimated at \$935.3 million
- 57 of these events could not have been accommodated in existing facility due to their size
- Confirmed non-resident delegate days from April, 2009 and beyond: 1.56 million
- On average, a non-resident delegate (NRDD) spends over \$500 a day.
- 2011 and 2012 are shaping up to be the largest convention years Vancouver has ever seen
- Typically, 70% of events and conventions at the convention centre are from outside of Canada.

About the Building Design: Going Green

Environmental Sustainability at the Vancouver Convention Centre

- The convention centre's new expansion is constructed to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold standards
- Advanced energy management; carbon neutral by 2010; can host green meetings or "zero waste" events

- “Zero waste” target - current facility-wide recycling program recovers nearly half the total volume of waste generated, including paper and cardboard, wood, metal, plastics, glass, batteries, food and organic waste and electronic equipment.
- Green Seal certified cleaning products and restroom papers are used throughout the Centre
- Fresh, locally and organically produced foods to be sourced for “scratch” banquet kitchens

Living Roof

- New six acre (2.4 hectare) downtown rooftop eco-system featuring more than 20 species from the west coast
- Largest green roof in Canada; largest non industrial living roof in North America
- 400,000 indigenous plants and grasses (350,000 plants, 40,000 bulbs, 10 species of native grass and herb seeds). Unique plants include Beach Strawberries, Hookers Onion, Native Sedges, Native Potentilla and Aster to attract bees to the living roof’s three beehives
- Over 5000 cubic metres of growing medium weighing over 11 million pounds - consisting of lava rock, topsoil and Gravel (approximately six inches deep). The topsoil consists of dredged silt from the Fraser River.
- Drainage and water recovery systems collect and use rainwater as irrigation; utilizing 43 km of drip irrigation piping
- Building’s black water treatment process also collects, cleans water from washrooms for use in living roof irrigation system during summer
- No chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides will be used. Each year, the roof will be weeded and trimmed in the fall, and clippings will be composted back into the soil as fertilizer.
- Living roof design by PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc. of Vancouver

Building Design

- Expansion has been rated a High Performance energy conservation building, as defined by BC Hydro; use of natural light, natural ventilation throughout
- Interior walls feature more than two acres (100,000 sq feet) of BC hemlock cladding developed and provided by Island Precision Manufacturing, Victoria and Morinwood Inc.,



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Victoria. Wall design gives visitors the illusion that they are walking through a giant stylized stack of lumber.

- Ceilings detail consists of 45 linear kilometres of glulam beams manufactured by Structurlam Products of Penticton, using 300,000 board feet of lumber. All of the lumber was harvested in British Columbia and meets LEED requirements.

Black and Grey Water Recycling

- The black water treatment/reclamation system will providing toilet flushing water in the non-summer months and rooftop irrigation during warmer weather
- Water use for the convention centre (not including the kitchen) will be reduced by approximately 70%.

Seawater Heating and Cooling

- The building will be heated and cooled by a sea water heat pump system. The Centre will be able to extract heat from the ocean and heat the building in winter, resulting in a low GHG signature.

Marine Habitat

- A new unique marine habitat is built into the expansion's foundations, as 40% of the centre is built over the harbour.
- Surespan Structures Ltd. of Vancouver installed 76 "stair step" style frames (manufactured in Duncan) around the waterside perimeter of the expansion project, and were topped with horizontal concrete "benches."
- This marine skirt is more than 73,000 square feet in area. Water quality in the area has improved dramatically, with the growth of sea urchins, starfish, barnacles, mussels, kelp and sea lettuce on the tidal steps.

Glazing

- Inland Glass & Aluminum of Kamloops supplied the 136,000 sq. feet or 1.5 hectares of glass, which comprises the glazed exterior wall system
- The north-side glazing facing Burrard Inlet is laminated with a special acoustic interlayer to add extra sound insulation