



BUILDDEX A SUCCESS

More than 10,000 professionals gathered at this year's annual Buildex Vancouver tradeshow in the city's downtown Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Under the united brand name of Buildex for 2009, the show has amalgamated the four separate trades shows (BC Construction Show, Design Northwest and HomeBuilder & Renovator Expo) into one to form Western Canada's largest annual exposition for designing, building, architecture and managing real estate.

The two day trade event featured more than 500 exhibitors and 100 industry professional speakers at 50 seminars discussing trends and key issues facing the industry.

The annual CEO Breakfast kicked off the trade show with more than 200 senior industry executives in attendance. They listened as guest speaker Jock Finlayson, executive vice president of the Business Council of BC, outlined the economic crisis situation and the "tough year" ahead for everyone.

The two international design roundtables were again highlights at the event. The interior design panel discussed "Design for Change" and how design is responding to new economic, technological and social realities while the architect panel debated the difficulties of creating "complete communities."

Considering the current economic downturn, attendance numbers at the event were up. "There was a refreshing optimism on the show floor. With what is going on in financial markets, the positive energy was a noticeable contrast. It was nice to see thousands of professionals exploring new opportunities and networking," said show director Dave Tyldesley. "There was also a clear buzz about the 2010 show amongst exhibitors. As Buildex has long outgrown the current facility, the new building will allow for further growth and a new layout."

Buildex 2010 will be held at the new Vancouver Convention Centre West April 21 & 22.

AB INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

The federal government plans to make a multi-million dollar investment over four years to develop infrastructure, such as roads, public transit, and water/wastewater systems in Alberta.

The Alberta government recently announced new plans for the construction of long-term infrastructure are being implemented through an investment of more than \$798 million from the federal Gas Tax fund.

The range of eligible projects includes public transit, community energy, local roads, water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure improvements, and long-term planning. The first phase of the Gas Tax Fund provides more than \$476 million over five years to Alberta communities.

More than \$258 million has already been transferred to municipalities across the province in support of more than 567 projects that are either completed or underway. The fund is a part of Building Canada, the federal government's long-term infrastructure plan.

The Alberta government is also investing \$76 million in 22 municipal infrastructure projects through the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund — Communities Component program. The projects will improve local roads, water, wastewater, cultural and green energy infrastructure. Projects include a new firehall in the Town of Three Hills, a wastewater project in the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River and a water-treatment facility in Hinton.

SAANICH REDEVELOPMENT

The massive \$250 million redevelopment of Saanich's 47-year-old Town and Country Shopping Centre will see the aging strip mall and its parking lots replaced over the next three years by a leading edge uptown development.

Targeted for an overall LEED Neighbourhood Development Gold, the project will feature 1.2 million square feet of retail and office space by late 2011. Individual buildings will be LEED Silver and Gold certified and individual tenants will be urged to pursue LEED designations.

Green roofs will be used on a number of Uptown's low-rise buildings. An integrated, in-water collection system will harvest the Island's abundant precipitation, which will be used to irrigate the green roofs and the vegetation. A district energy loop that collects dumped heating and cooling waste, will enable energy to be transferred from building-to-building.

AECON BUYS LOCKERBIE

Infrastructure and construction company Aecon Group Inc has agreed to acquire Lockerbie & Hole Inc in a deal worth \$220 million to expand into mechanical/electrical and water/wastewater markets in Western Canada. Lockerbie is one of Canada's largest mechanical contractors dating back to 1898.

Advertiser Listings

Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang	48
All Weather Windows	45
Aviva Canada Inc.	15
BC Construction Show	49
BC Hydro	19
BCCA	11
BFL Canada Insurance Services Inc	4
Butler Survey Equipment	9, 48
Construct Calgary	29
Canem	8
Construction Solutions Conference	47
Eagle West Cranes	24
Earth Tech (Canada) Inc.	10
Flynn	25
George Third and Son	21
Houle	14
Jardine Lloyd Thompson Inc.	20
Land Measurement Systems	23
Langley Concrete & Tile	53
Levelton Consultants	23
Lockerbie & Hole	18
Lower Mainland Steel	7, 28
LSC Precast	26
MCABC	31
Miller Thomson	16
Mogil	12
RCABC	59
Reliable Equipment	31
RF Binnie & Associates	27
Shapiro Hankinson & Knutson	55
Singleton Urquhart	14
Task Construction Management	12
Travelers	OBC
Western One	17
Wilson M Beck Insurance	IFC
WorkSafe BC	5
ZINGA/Pacific Evergreen	27

The deal is scheduled to close in April pending approval by Lockerbie's shareholders. With the addition of Lockerbie's 400 salaried and 2,500 peak hourly workers, the new company will employ about 9,000 people.

MORE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The recently announced BC Budget 2009 invests almost \$14 billion in infrastructure projects over three years in every region of the province to build and upgrade housing, schools, hospitals, transit, and roads.

The government will move forward on its capital plan and partner with the federal government and municipalities. These new and accelerated investments are expected to generate as many as 88,000 jobs across the province. Most of the projects have been announced previously. Since 2001, the government has invested \$31 billion in infrastructure projects throughout British Columbia.