



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### New Brunswick Consulting Engineers Shine at Engineering Excellence Awards Gala

**(Fredericton) April 19, 2018** – From the permitting of essential power transmission between two provinces, to developing new methodologies to mitigate spills in Canadian waters, designing infrastructure with the environment and culture in mind, to restoring a waste-water lagoon to wetland habitat and accessible land to local residents, consulting engineers from across New Brunswick were celebrated for these outstanding achievements Thursday night, April 26, 2018 in Fredericton at the 2018 ACEC-NB Engineering Excellence Awards gala. Recognized as the industry's highest honours, the awards are presented to projects by New Brunswick firms that showcase the most remarkable engineering feats.

“These awards provide the opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions that consulting engineers make to our communities” said ACEC-NB Executive Director Christy Cunningham. “They bring focus to the important role that these projects, and consulting engineers in general, have on the social, economic and environmental quality of life of all New Brunswickers.”

Well deserved awards were presented to 5 New Brunswick Consulting Engineering firms. The firms and projects range in size, discipline and location, one of the five projects was honoured with The Pinnacle Award which is the top ranked entry deemed to demonstrate consulting engineering excellence by the Judging Panel.

The most prestigious Award, **the Pinnacle Award**, was presented to a project that best demonstrates technical excellence and innovation; only projects that display the highest degree of technical merit are rewarded. This year's Pinnacle award recipient was **Stantec Consulting Ltd.** for their *PEI-NB Cable Interconnection Environmental Impact Assessment project*.

An improvement and modernization to the electrical power transmission system between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick was required due to an increasing power demand and the existing cables nearing the end of service life. To install, and operate, two new high voltage submarine cables between the provinces an environmental impact assessment was required. Stantec worked with MECL and PEI Energy Corporation to collect the necessary data and prepare permit applications and an environmental assessment to meet multi-jurisdictional (i.e., interprovincial and Federal) regulatory requirements.

Stantec provided a permitting strategy, a solid and defensible environmental assessment, as well as technical support for the project which received multi-jurisdictional approvals and licenses within 20 months of commencing the environmental permitting phase of the project.

“The judges felt this was clearly a critical infrastructure project that will set the standard and improve the procurement process going forward. Great technical expertise and challenge identification”.



They also particularly liked the added analysis of public and aboriginal engagement and social impacts.

For their *Development and Validation of Area Risk Assessment Methodology for Ship- Source Oil Spills*, **Dillon Consulting** was presented an Engineering Excellence Award.

The Government of Canada recognized the increased transport of dangerous goods, such as crude oil within Canadian Waters, has inherent risks and the approach to managing these risks necessitated an advanced analysis and progressive approach to management them. Dillon developed a process called the Area Risk Assessment Methodology. It identified potential locations, volumes and return periods of ship source oil spills; modelled their fate and trajectory and evaluated potential impacts to receptors. It was tested in four regions of Canada including the Bay of Fundy. This multi-million-dollar project (first of its kind in Canada) was led from Fredericton.

“The judges said this was a one of a kind project and the area risk assessment is clearly evolutionary for the industry, great development of knowledge”

The next award was presented to **exp Services for the project RCMP West District Office** – located in Saint-Léonard, NB.

Exp Services provided the RCMP with integrated multidiscipline design services, including survey of the existing property, schematic design, design development, construction documents, tendering services, construction contract administration, opinion of costs and warranty reviews for the successful delivery of this project.

Part of the RCMP strategic operational plan for the area, the new regional facility replaces three aging facilities previously located in Saint -Léonard, Rivière-Verte and Grand Falls and combines them into one state-of-the-art facility strategically positioned at the juncture point of two transportation highways: TransCanada highway and Highway 17. The facility is designed for 55 full time employees including RCMP members and support staff. Prominently located, overlooking the great Saint John River Valley, the new regional office offers policing services to an area of approximately 4,000 square kilometers in North Western New Brunswick.

“The judges thought this project clearly demonstrated client collaboration and integration; consideration of environmental elements and energy efficiency. It aligned with the culture of RCMP which was a nice touch.”

*The next award winner was the Green Infrastructure Asset Management Plan for the Regional Municipality of York* by **WSP/Opus** is unique for its living assets, its environmental intrinsic character, and its close association in the public with quality of life and community character. Few municipal infrastructure assets create connections to people in this way. This makes the management of these sort of assets somewhat unique, however many of the same methods and techniques that are applied to manage other asset types, are also appropriate for green infrastructure. It does, however make



this project somewhat distinctive. Opus, in association with Silv-Econ developed an Asset Management Plan that articulates management intent and long-term initiatives to steward these assets including:

- tools to enable assess optimized lifecycle cost and planning for the Region's green assets;
- achieves goals and objectives to improve asset management maturity;
- complements and integrates applicable plans such as York Regional Forest Management Plan; and,
- supports the development of a sustainable financial plan and an understanding of corporate risk towards delivering the value these assets bring to municipal services. This project is one of the first of its kind in Canada and included innovation to help the Region be a leading municipality in this area.

The final award went to **Fundy Engineering from Saint John** for the **Matthew's Cove Wetland Restoration Project in Quispamsis, NB**. In the 1970s, a wastewater treatment lagoon was constructed at Matthews Cove to serve the village of Gondola Point. Around 2003, the flow of wastewater to the lagoon was halted, with the sewage diverted to wastewater treatment plant. The lagoon sat full and collecting surface water runoff for several years. Fundy Engineering worked with the Town of Quispamsis and Canaport™ LNGLP over a several year period to reclaim the lagoon and transform it into a functional shallow open water wetland. Restoration work yielded 8 hectares of wetland habitat, which is now accessible for local residents and visitors via a walking trail.

“The judges liked the excellent descriptions of prestudy and restoration work/solution and consideration of environmental elements. Also, excellent technical innovation preserving natural elements and habitats”

#### About award-winning firms

**Stantec Consulting** <https://www.stantec.com>

**Dillon Consulting** <http://www.dillon.ca>

**Exp Services** <http://www.exp.com/>

**Fundy Engineering** <http://www.fundyeng.com>

**WSP/Opus** <http://www.opusinternational.ca/>

#### **About ACEC-NB**

ACEC represents companies in New Brunswick that provide professional engineering services to both public and private sector clients. These services include the planning, design and execution of all types of engineering projects, as well as providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering and engineering-related fields. For more information about ACEC-NB and the 2018 Engineering Excellence Awards, please visit [www.acec-nb.ca](http://www.acec-nb.ca).

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