

## News summaries and information for procurement professionals

### **The EcoLogo program launches development of pool and spa chemical standard**

News release, June 22, 2009

The number of residential pools in North America has risen sharply over the past 50 years from a few thousand to more than seven million. With more people frequenting pools and spas, special attention needs to be paid to the chemicals used to maintain them. The EcoLogo Program is pleased to announce the initiation of its first environmental standard for pool and spa chemicals.

“Chemicals used in pools and spas can contain substances potentially toxic for the environment and human health,” explained Scot Case, executive director of the EcoLogo Program. “This new EcoLogo standard will define clear criteria that products must meet before they can claim environmental leadership.”

The EcoLogo Program is reaching out to interested individuals and companies who want to participate in a process that will reduce the environmental and human health impacts of pool and spa chemical products.

EcoLogo standards are developed in an open, public, transparent process. The process begins by outlining key environmental issues and questions to be addressed by the standard. Anyone is able to participate, including parents, pool and spa chemical manufacturers, government agencies, and non-profit advocacy groups.

The EcoLogo Program is inviting anyone interested in helping to develop or review

the pool and spa chemical standard to email Terri Cundy at: [tcundy@ecologo.org](mailto:tcundy@ecologo.org), or call (613) 247-1900, x242.

EcoLogo is a third-party, multi-attribute eco-labeling program approved by the Global Ecolabelling Network, an international association of eco-labeling programs, as meeting the ISO 14024 standard. EcoLogo was established in 1988 and today is one of the most recognized eco-labels in North America. For more information, visit [www.ecologo.org](http://www.ecologo.org).

### **Corner Brook to get new “green” city hall**

[www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/env/0616n05.htm](http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/env/0616n05.htm)

In mid June, the City of Corner Brook received \$895,100 in support from the Newfoundland and Labrador Green Fund to help make its new city hall an environmentally friendly structure. The new building will be certified silver under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system and will include various energy efficient components.

...The new city hall concept intends to draw together under one complex the administrative function of city hall, a public library and the Corner Brook Museum and Archives. The building design incorporates a multitude of environmentally focused features such as a green roof and a Window on the World (WOW) building performance system. A green roof is one that is planted with various types of vegetation to provide natural air conditioning for the building;

includes a water reservoir to reduce run off and provides a habitat for birds, as well as outdoor leisure space for individuals. WOW technology is an electronic system that publicly displays the building's energy performance in a measurable way and permits individuals to learn about energy savings.

... the Newfoundland and Labrador Green Fund is a three-year, \$25 million program which is supported by both the federal and provincial governments. This funding is to support projects geared toward environmental sustainability and provide real reductions in GHG emissions.

### **Edmonton North Central recreation centre breaks ground**

[www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/news](http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/news)

Following extensive consultation, Edmonton approved a Recreation Facility Master Plan in August 2004 that governs the short and long term planning for the city regarding the provision of renewed and new recreation facilities for the residents. The plan outlines the intended progress in both the short and long term. The need for a multipurpose recreation centre in north central Edmonton was identified through extensive public consultation during the development of the master plan. This facility aims to complement the City Centre YMCA and meet the needs of residents north of the downtown core. The master plan can be found at: [www.edmonton.ca/attractions\\_recreation/documents/CityGov/RecFacilityMasterPlanAugust2004FullDoc.pdf](http://www.edmonton.ca/attractions_recreation/documents/CityGov/RecFacilityMasterPlanAugust2004FullDoc.pdf).

In mid-June the city announced that construction started on the new \$112.5 million North Central Community Recreation Centre at Commonwealth Stadium (a short term plan component).

... Since Commonwealth Stadium opened in 1978 for the Commonwealth Games, it has created a legacy that has continued to grow. The addition of the new recreation centre

and field house will bring a wide range of opportunities for residents in the community, as well as for amateur and professional sports groups, and for Edmonton in the future.

“The vision, determination, and spirit of cooperation that led to the construction of Commonwealth Stadium over 30 years ago is as strong today as it was then,” said Doug Goss, chairman of the Board of Directors, Edmonton Eskimo Football Club. “Working in close partnership with the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Eskimo Football Club is proud to play a part in making this next piece of the Commonwealth Stadium legacy a reality.”

... The new North Central Community Recreation Centre will be built onto the Stadium's existing sports and fitness centre, and expanded south onto the Joe Clarke Athletic Grounds.

The award-winning MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller and HIP architectural firms, and Clark Builders, have created a design that integrates the existing facility with new features such as an aquatic area, fitness centre, community and program spaces, field house with indoor walking / jogging track, and the relocated Edmonton Eskimos administration offices. These amenities reflect the highest priorities of the community as well as the needs of the sports groups sharing the site.

The total cost of the project is \$112.5 million, with the City of Edmonton contributing \$90 million, the Government of Alberta \$15 million, and the Edmonton Eskimos \$7.5 million. Portions of the field house will open to host Edmonton's Grey Cup events in fall 2010. The field house and recreation centre will open to the public in early 2012.

The North Central Community Recreation Centre aligns with the City of Edmonton's

strategic plan, and the recreation facility master plan.

### **BC's Sprott Shaw college moves to virtual textbooks**

[www.prnewswire.com/](http://www.prnewswire.com/)

In March 2009, CIBT Education Group Inc. announced that its BC subsidiary, Sprott-Shaw Community College (Sprott-Shaw), in an effort to improve the learning environment and latest information technology for its students, eliminated textbooks in a number of its classes. As of September 2008, 11 of the private college's courses in seven of its campuses implemented a redesigned curriculum to engage students with a combination of technology-based materials and face-to-face classroom sessions. The college's goal is to eliminate the need for up to 66,000 textbooks by 2014.

Sprott-Shaw opted to redesign its curriculums to ensure that its classrooms offer progressive and more sustainable programs. This initiative differs from other educational institutions that are utilizing e-books, by ensuring that Sprott-Shaw's curriculum is constantly updated and the information being taught is always current.

The redesigned curriculums include Internet-based research and computers to replace textbooks. Instructors use Moodle, a free learning software accessible from any Internet browser. Moodle allows instructors to create customized interactive websites to communicate and collaborate with students. It augments face-to-face classroom sessions with timely information rather than outdated textbooks.

"Eliminating textbooks allows our instructors to use the interactive richness of the Internet to bring curriculum alive in ways that textbooks are not able to," says Dean Duperron, president of Sprott-Shaw

Community College. "It also allows the college to have a smaller carbon footprint and reduces the destruction of precious trees."

According to CafeScribe, a technology company dedicated to helping people share knowledge more efficiently, the average college student buys more than a tree's worth of textbooks during the course of a school year. Using digital textbooks rather than their more expensive counterparts would save nearly 50,000 sheets of paper per student – enough to preserve six trees – over the course of a four-year program.

Statistics released from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development indicate that approximately 430,000 students were enrolled in public post-secondary institutions in BC in 2006-07. With students purchasing a minimum of one textbook per course, the environmental impacts as well as cost savings to students of moving to digital learning is paramount.

"We have received very positive feedback from students in the textbook-free courses," says Duperron. "They love how easy it is to reach instructors and access information. They also appreciate not having to haul a lot of heavy textbooks to class each day."

Sprott-Shaw is currently calling its eliminating textbooks initiative G2 Learning - Great Green Learning.

To date, there have been approximately 400 enrollments for Sprott-Shaw courses without textbooks and more than 200 computers have been purchased for students to use in these courses. Sprott-Shaw plans to implement these courses in the rest of its campuses by the end of 2009. The college is also moving toward a program where students purchase computers for the same cost of textbooks.

## Environment ministers recognize Canadian company's green efforts

News Release, Teknion

In mid-June 2009, Teknion Corporation ([www.teknion.com](http://www.teknion.com)), a leading international designer, manufacturer and marketer of office systems and related office furniture products, was recognized by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) with a 2009 CCME Pollution Prevention Award in the large Bbusiness (500+ employees) category.

The annual CCME Pollution Prevention Awards recognize up to seven companies or organizations of all sizes and from all sectors for their overall pollution prevention efforts, innovations and reductions in greenhouse gases. The awards highlight efforts to minimize or avoid creating pollutants and waste at the source rather than to clean up or treat them after they have been produced. Pollution prevention can be instrumental in addressing some of the most challenging environmental issues, particularly climate change, smog and reducing toxic substances.

CCME works to promote the cooperation and coordination of inter-jurisdictional issues such as waste management, air pollution and toxic chemicals. Comprised of environment ministers from federal, provincial and territorial governments, CCME proposes nationally consistent environmental standards and objectives to achieve a high level of environmental quality across the country. Through task groups, CCME members work cooperatively to achieve specific goals, and to reach consensus on proposed national policies, programs, standards and guidelines. CCME's aim is to assist members to meet their mandate of protecting Canada's environment.

## Guelph wins its legal battle with recycling partner SUBBOR

Guelph Mercury

In 1998 Guelph agreed to become a test site for SUBBOR's (Super Blue Box Recycling Corporation) technology, which used anaerobic digestion to turn unsorted waste into recyclable products, peat and gas to generate electrical power. Things went wrong and political championship waned and eventually the city provided SUBBOR with a termination date to close the company's demonstration waste processing plant built beside Guelph's waste facility. SUBBOR took the city to court where the Superior Court decided in favour of the city in the breach of contract case. On June 16, 2009 the Court of Appeal upheld the Superior Court's "decision." SUBBOR's appeal was dismissed on all counts. It took less than one day, with no comments from the city lawyer's for the Appeal Court to order SUBBOR to pay the city's court costs, to remove the demonstration plant, to sign the property back to the city, and to restore the land to its original state. According to the city news release ([http://guelph.ca/newsroom\\_display.cfm?itemID=77680](http://guelph.ca/newsroom_display.cfm?itemID=77680)), the Court of Appeal also upheld the Superior Court of Justice's decision that SUBBOR's parent company, Eastern Power Limited, be required to indemnify the city for any liabilities arising from SUBBOR's demonstration waste processing plant, including the city's cost for the legal proceedings.