



Canadian Institute of
Quantity Surveyors

Institut canadien des
économistes en construction

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

"Meet the People"



ROY HOWES, PQS(F)

TITLE: Director, Estimating

COMPANY: Fluor Corporation

YEARS IN PROFESSION: 31

What does a typical workday look like for you?

Every working day is different, new and exciting, filled with a variety of interesting challenges. My position requires that I manage both a department of professionals and a functional group while executing project work. This dual role (management and working on projects) provides a unique perspective on the industry with continuous work experience where I am exposed to changing market trends with new approaches, coupled with technology enhancements.

What are some of the most important skills required to succeed in your job?

Ability to analyze data that is relevant to the task. The focus on our work can be compared to a camera lens where at times you need to 'zoom in' to all the detail while other times you need to 'zoom out' to see the big picture. Experience from completing similar tasks on projects provides a measured perspective.

Would you change anything about your career path?

Quantity Surveying (QS) training provides a broad range of skills on which to grow and become a professional within the construction and development industry. As a QS you are highly respected due to your training, professional perspective and approach and high standards of integrity. The industry relies heavily on the CIQS as an institution. Therefore, I would like to see QS become more involved with technical aspects in problem solving. The technical problem solving is often directed to the engineering profession and/or construction. However, I believe as a QS we are well positioned to provide practical solutions on construction projects. This will enhance the profession and will provide greater leverage to the role of a QS within the industry.



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Is there a specific project that you have worked on that stands out to you? Why?

I have been involved with the development of many mining projects. One project, which stands out above the rest, is the Oyu Tolgoi Copper project in Mongolia. The size, complexity and challenge located in one of the most remote regions of the world made it a unique project. It was more than simply a complex mining project. Once complete, this facility transformed the country.

Would you recommend a career as a quantity surveyor? Explain.

Yes, most definitely. The training and qualification of a quantity surveyor provides versatility and enables you to perform a variety of tasks. A QS has the capacity to be gainfully employed as a sole proprietor and/or employed within a company or corporation. During times of economic volatility, QS's are able to provide consulting services during the early stages of a project through construction to completion. A QS can work both in the office as well as on construction sites. QS training provides skills that are always in demand and effective in planning, problem solving and dispute resolution.