

Ventana Construction chosen to build new Mountain Equipment Co-op North Vancouver store

Environmentally sustainable building is one of five green design, construction projects currently underway for Ventana

Burnaby, BC (August 15, 2011) – Ventana Construction Corporation, a Burnaby, British Columbia-based construction company, is pleased to announce that it has been chosen to build the new, environmentally sustainable Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) retail store in North Vancouver, BC.

The new 20,000 sq. ft. North Vancouver store will be designed and built using guidelines from MEC's own green building program, which mandates sustainable design and construction, highly energy-efficient facilities and environmentally responsible operations for all of the company's stores and offices.

"We're extremely proud to be working with the MEC project team and Proscenium Architecture + Interiors to build this new store in North Vancouver," said John Sharp, President of Ventana Construction.

"Mountain Equipment Co-op has long been recognized for its commitment to green buildings and sustainable operations – as well as being the leading outdoor retailer in Canada."

The new MEC store is the latest addition to a growing portfolio of environmentally responsible design and construction projects from Ventana Construction. According to Mr. Sharp, "Sustainable design and environmentally conscious buildings are things that many of our clients have been asking for over the last few years. We've worked hard to make sure we have the people, the technical knowledge and the partners necessary to design and build these types of facilities. It's a great stamp of approval for all of our efforts in this field to be chosen by MEC to build a store that meets their exacting standards for sustainable construction and operations."

"MEC has been privileged to work with some of Canada's best green building constructors, and we are pleased to renew our relationship with Ventana Construction for the new North Vancouver store," said MEC CFO Sandy Treagus. "The store promises to be nothing short of a landmark development, and we are excited about it taking shape over the coming months as we gear up to opening it next spring."

Ventana provided input and guidance on a range of sustainability options for the new store, including re-using materials from the building currently standing on the site, implementing an erosion and sediment control system and coordinating environmentally responsible construction waste management practices.

Because of MEC's high standards for environmentally responsible facilities, the store will also meet the Canada Green Building Council (CGBC)'s Leadership in Energy and Efficiency Design (LEED®) guidelines for Gold certification. Buildings must score between 60 and 79 points out of a possible 110 points in order to earn Gold certification; they are graded on factors such as site sustainability, water efficiency, occupant comfort, optimized energy usage and the use of renewable materials in construction.

The finished building will earn credits towards LEED certification with features such as an innovative storm water management system that is not tied in to the City of North Vancouver storm sewer, the elimination of thermal bridging, high efficiency mechanical systems, occupancy sensors and daylight controls on lighting systems and the use of regional construction materials that will reduce the building's carbon footprint.

Designed by Proscenium Architecture to be visually striking, the building will be a two-storey structure with a distinctive sawtooth roof, built from steel, natural wood glulam roof beams and structural insulated

panelling; exterior finishes on the building will include natural Whistler basalt stone and western red cedar. The development plan for the project also calls for significant improvements to be made to Lynn Mouth Park, which borders the MEC property.

This is one of five Ventana projects currently under construction that is pursuing LEED certification, including the Mount Seymour Seniors' Residence in North Vancouver and the Canadian Tire retail complex on Marine Drive in Vancouver; both of these are also targeting LEED Gold certification.

Mr. Sharp concluded by noting, "We're also glad to have renewed our relationship with MEC on this project. Ventana built MEC's flagship Vancouver store on West Broadway Ave. in 1994, and this new project is a great testament to the types of enduring relationships that are important to us here at Ventana."

The new MEC North Vancouver store will be located at the corner of Brooksbank Ave. and Cotton St., one block west of the current North Vancouver location; it is scheduled to open in March 2012.

About Ventana Construction

Ventana Construction Corporation is a general contractor and construction manager that has been operating in British Columbia since 1987; the company's roots date back to 1953. Ventana has a proven track record of delivering high-quality commercial, industrial, retail, multi-unit residential and retail buildings and providing comprehensive construction services that meet the specialized needs of its clients. For more information on Ventana, go to VentanaConstruction.com.

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Editors – architectural renderings are available for this project. Contact Stuart Kernaghan, Ventana Construction Marketing & Communications Manager, for details.

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