

As a float plane glides off the waters in the harbor and gains altitude, the tourists aboard take in a view of cruise ships cradled in their berths alongside the shimmering skyline of Vancouver, British Columbia, the third-largest city in Canada. Within minutes, they're over Stanley Park, the famous Lion's Gate Bridge and soaring above the impressive North Shore Mountains. As they travel out of the Burrard Inlet and over the Strait of Georgia, pods of killer whales can be seen breaching the emerald waters below.



A Line Forms in Vancouver





Selected to host the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Vancouver is a major tourist destination and ranked as one of the “greenest” and most livable cities in the world. It’s also a gateway to the winter resort of Whistler, where many of the Olympic events will take place. Richmond, a city just 11 miles to the south, will host speedskating events at its recently completed Olympic Oval. The Vancouver International Airport, located in the outskirts of Richmond, is the tourist portal to the games and is just 7.5 miles from downtown Vancouver.

Reliable urban mobility

Both Vancouver and Richmond are cities concerned with preserving the beauty of their natural surroundings and soon will see further reductions in car traffic. This is largely due to a public-private partnership (P3) project in British Columbia to offer efficient mass-transit alternatives. The most recent of these is the Canada Line, an automated, rail-based rapid transit service connecting Vancouver with central Richmond and the Vancouver International Airport. Linking with existing rail lines at Waterfront Station in Vancouver, the Canada Line will add transit capacity equivalent to 10 major road lanes, reducing the cost and pressure of the automobile on the environment. In addition, the Canada Line will provide fast and easy access between the Vancouver and Richmond Olympic venue areas in 2010 and beyond. ▶

- ▶ Schindler is supplying 38 escalators, many of which are outdoor covered installations, and 34 elevators to 15 stations of the Canada Line, along with a full suite of ISO-certified maintenance services to keep the equipment in top operating condition. This includes Schindler Remote Monitoring™ (SRM), an intelligent electronic system that monitors elevators and escalators 24/7, every day of the year. The elevators and escalators play an important role for the Canada Line rail system in delivering passengers safely and reliably to their destinations.

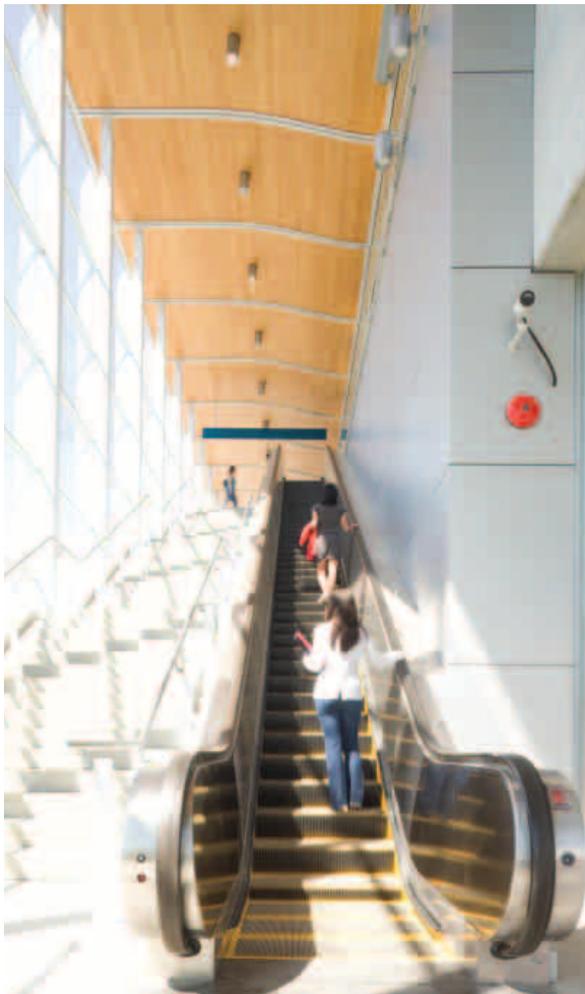




Photo far left: Brent Fisher, SNC-Lavalin Inc. contract administrator, overseeing Schindler Elevator Corporation.
Photo left: A rapid transit train pulls into one of the stations along the Canada Line route.

The challenges

After carefully listening to customer requirements in meetings with transit officials and the contractor, it became clear to senior-level Schindler managers that a variety of installation configurations would be encountered at each of the stations. And, since each station would be monitored with cameras, extensive use of glass in the elevators would be needed to meet security requirements.

SNC-Lavalin Inc., one of the leading engineering and construction groups in the world, is responsible for the engineering, procurement and construction of the Canada Line Rapid Transit Project. According to Brent Fisher, contract administrator overseeing Schindler, "We selected Schindler for this massive project because they offered the wide variety and quality of products we required. Since most of the elevators and escalators are installed in outdoor stations, the equipment has to withstand the rigors of weather and temperature extremes. Modifications to meet these demands included waterproofing of switches and controllers, automated lubrication of key components and the addition of heating elements to help ensure smooth operation in below-freezing temperatures.

"Schindler also met the challenge of a tight installation deadline to ensure the rail link would be completed on schedule. The involvement of the Schindler team early in the assignment, and the close coordination of project partners offered the flexibility to meet the scheduling challenges that typically arise in projects of this complexity," added Fisher.

The Canada Line will be fully operational by the Labor Day weekend in early September 2009. As part of a maintenance agreement, a team of Schindler service technicians will ensure dependable and efficient elevator and escalator operation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The vibrant city of Vancouver, set between the Pacific Ocean and majestic snow-capped mountains, is an ideal urban destination, and the Canada Line will provide residents and visitors with enhanced mobility via reliable and efficient rapid transit. ■



Canada Line Fast Facts

Cost: \$2 billion

Length: 11.8 miles

Construction methods: Bored tunnel, cut-and-cover tunnel, elevated and at-grade guideway, and two bridges

New stations: 16 total, four in Richmond, three on Sea Island and nine in Vancouver

Schindler units: 34 elevators and 38 escalators

Transit capacity: equivalent to 10 lanes of roadway

Capacity: 100,000 riders per day anticipated

Transit time: approximately 25 minutes from downtown Vancouver to Vancouver International Airport