

Nova Scotia Power Corporate Office

Adaptive Reuse and Acoustical Design on Halifax Harbour

VISION

A LEED Platinum corporate headquarters that honours the industrial heritage of a former power station while creating a high-performance, acoustically comfortable workplace on Halifax Harbour.

PARTNERSHIP

Acoustical engineering services provided in collaboration with WZMH Architects and associate architect Fowler Bauld & Mitchell Ltd., supporting a complex adaptive reuse with a wide range of interior environments.

VALUE-ADD

Acoustic input across meeting rooms, public atrium spaces, and open and private offices, contributing to a workplace environment that supports both collaboration and concentration.

CLIENT

Nova Scotia Power Inc.

ARCHITECT

WZMH Architects

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

Fowler Bauld & Mitchell Ltd.

ACOUSTICAL DESIGN

Trinity Consultants Canada

The Nova Scotia Power Corporate Office stands as one of Atlantic Canada's most celebrated examples of adaptive reuse. A former coal-fired generating station on Halifax Harbour was transformed into LEED Platinum-certified corporate headquarters for the provincial electrical utility, housing more than 600 staff across approximately 14,600 square metres of office space. The project was the first building in Atlantic Canada to achieve LEED Platinum certification, and it received the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Engineering.

Trinity Consultants Canada was retained by the architect to provide acoustical engineering services across the facility's meeting spaces, public areas, and open and private offices. Our team's work supported a building designed to be as functional and acoustically comfortable as it is architecturally distinguished.

VISION

Nova Scotia Power's ambition for this project went well beyond providing new office space. As the provincial power authority, the organisation sought a visible demonstration of its commitment to environmental responsibility, choosing to adaptively reuse the former Water Street Generating Station rather than build new. The result is a building that carries the memory of its industrial past—retained steel structure, chimney bases converted to skylights, original concrete cladding—while delivering a contemporary, light-filled workplace connected to the city's waterfront.

The acoustic environment was an integral part of realising this vision. The building's five-storey atrium, galleria, and open-plan office floors introduced a range of acoustic conditions that required careful consideration. Creating a workplace where employees could interact freely in public areas while maintaining appropriate speech privacy and concentration conditions in offices and meeting rooms was central to the project's success.

PARTNERSHIP

Trinity Consultants Canada was engaged by the project's architect, WZMH Architects, working alongside associate architect Fowler Bauld & Mitchell Ltd. Our team contributed acoustic input across the full range of interior environments within the facility, from the public-facing atrium and galleria to the private offices and boardrooms used daily by Nova Scotia Power staff.

The project's scale and complexity—an 18,000-square-metre adaptive reuse with an innovative structural strategy involving the insertion of floor assemblies into the existing generating station shell—required acoustical solutions that could be integrated within the constraints of the existing building fabric. Our team worked within the broader design and engineering process to develop practical recommendations suited to each space type.

VALUE-ADD

The building's atrium and galleria serve as social and civic spaces, connecting the Halifax neighbourhood to the waterfront and encouraging interaction among employees. Our team provided acoustic input to ensure these lively public areas function as intended without compromising the acoustic conditions of the adjacent office environments. The design of glazed inter-floor stairs, exterior balconies, and open circulation areas all contributed to an acoustic environment that needed to be considered holistically.

For the meeting rooms and private offices, our team addressed sound isolation and background noise conditions to support effective communication and appropriate levels of speech privacy. Open-plan office areas presented their own acoustic considerations, balancing the collaborative intent of the workplace design with the need for individual focus.

The completed project demonstrates that an adaptive reuse of an industrial structure can achieve both environmental and acoustic performance at the highest level. The Nova Scotia Power Corporate Office received the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Engineering and remains one of the most recognised sustainable workplace projects in Atlantic Canada.

ABOUT TRINITY CONSULTANTS

Trinity Consultants, a leading global environmental consulting firm, provides services and solutions in the EHS Regulatory Compliance, Built Environment, Life Sciences, and Water & Ecology markets. Founded in 1974, Trinity has the technical expertise, industry depth, and capabilities to help clients achieve their goals across the natural and built environments.