



City of Langley

A city is only as sound as its infrastructure. Running a city's business and finances properly requires equally sound software. That's where AGRESSO comes in.

The City of Langley, population approximately 24,000, is located 44 km east of Vancouver.

Recently, Langley's Finance and Corporate Services Department gave up on their antiquated business information software and switched to AGRESSO. The city's director of finance and corporate services, Cliff Gittens, explains: "We were using a shareware software package that was originally created in the mid-seventies and we had modified it quite a bit over time but our needs were changing. We were having difficulty reacting quickly to certain situations because we were doing far too much manual interfacing. Worse yet, our system wasn't Y2K compatible. So we took a look at what was out there and found AGRESSO."

Why AGRESSO? Gittens says it's one of the most flexible, easily expandable systems on the market. "We needed something that

was going to grow with us, not against us," tells Gittens, noting that this was a key factor in making the switch. "AGRESSO is incredibly well-defined because it allows users to capture the greatest amount of information with the least amount of data input. We're not wasting too much time putting in so many codes."

All of this means practicality and an ease of use that a community like Langley needs to survive its growing pains. The City's annual growth is predicted to be around six percent by the year 2001. As it stands, the City of Langley is a major center for commerce and industry in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). The City also features two substantial industrial areas containing approximately 300,000 square metres of floorspace and supporting in excess of 3,000 jobs. Commercial and industrial employers provided the majority of the city's estimated 12,750 jobs in 1996. In that year, the City's total employment nearly equaled the size of its labor force (11,790-1996 Canada Census). The City



of Langley's employment to population ratio was fifth highest amongst the GVRD's 22 member municipalities and jurisdictions. Under the GVRD Livable Region Strategic Plan's Growth Management Scenario, the City's total employment is projected to grow to 24,110 jobs by the year 2021. Langley's population will by then be over 32,000—that's double-digit growth.

Tells Gittens, "We were very careful when we made the decision to switch systems. And now after using AGRESSO for over a year we've discovered that it has surpassed most of our expectations. One of the best features of the system is the browser, which is basically an ad-hoc reporting tool. It is really flexible and we can get any information we've input with very little effort."

AGRESSO also proved to be excellent value and one of the most stable systems on the market. "We've had no database problems, no crashes, no messes—all the data goes where it's supposed to and it's worked just like we hoped it would: problem-free," says Gittens. The City of Langley finance department is finding out that using AGRESSO has allowed them to eliminate downtime due to data input.

Running the city's finances more efficiently means the City of Langley runs better, Gittens says. "We can't afford to have a business information system that isn't scalable or flexible and we don't want to change software again. AGRESSO allows us to look into the future with relative calm."

ABOUT AGRESSO Agresso Americas delivers end-to-end specialized solutions that solve real business problems for professional service firms, higher education institutions and government agencies.

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