



BCIT Burnaby Campus

CASE STUDY

The British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) has been providing world-class technical, vocational, environmental, and trades training education to students from their Burnaby Campus since the early 60s.

BCIT has evolved to meet the needs of the times, and the campus has expanded accordingly – but many 60s-era buildings have remained, untouched by plumbing system upgrades. Even the most conscientious maintenance program cannot halt the effects of time and chemistry on copper piping after 50+ years. Pinhole leaks are inevitable, but routine water systems maintenance budgets were eaten up by emergency responses to more serious leaks and related issues. It was determined it was the time to fix things. Permanently.

Classes must go on. This meant classrooms, labs, and washrooms had to be fully functional during the day. With space at a premium, budgets tight, and student schedules and facilities access taking priority, repiping was never a practical option. The BCIT Facilities and Campus Development Department turned to CuraFlo to provide a solution.

When the CuraFlo team took on the BCIT building water system upgrade project in 2016, the first step was to assess and document the building's existing plumbing. Undocumented pipes, valves and fixtures, and abandoned water lines were discovered, as well as some piping embedded in concrete. Other plumbing was located too close to fragile glass lab areas to make removal and replacement practical. Fortunately, these were not issues for CuraFlo's CuraPoxy lining process.

Once the existing plumbing was documented, a plan was formulated and CuraFlo's teams went to work. Every day after classes, CuraFlo's crew would move in and do their job. The next morning before

“Having seen first-hand the benefits that the CuraFlo solution provided on failing hospital domestic water systems, the answer was simple for BCIT when we faced those same complex challenges - **CURAFLO**.”

– Daniel Clement, *Director, BCIT Facilities Services Division*

students showed up for classes, the CuraFlo crew was gone without a trace, having reconnected all plumbing and removed all equipment.

CuraFlo's lining process only required plumbing system access using out-of-the-way service rooms and existing service panels. No intrusive drywall removal, replacement, taping, sanding, and repainting. All existing valves and fixtures replaced with new top-of-the-line products. As for hazardous material remediation: only about 10% of existing asbestos pipe insulation needed to be abated, significantly less than repiping.



Shutting down labs and classrooms at BCIT for months, or even days, was never an option. The CuraFlo crews worked after hours and weekends so as to not disrupt classes. Washrooms and other essential plumbing services were restored in time for each day's classes. Equipment was removed and stored during the day and reconnected each night.

The BCIT CuraFlo CuraPoxy lining project cost a fraction of traditional pipe replacement, was far less intrusive, and took about half the time. Valve schedules and plumbing plans were updated, leaving BCIT Facilities Management / Plumbing Crews with accurate plumbing system plans.

