

# 'Canada...it's a decision I do not regret making at all!'



Dan Polgar  
Consultant

Having worked for Systech for 12 months I was offered the opportunity to work in Montreal, Canada. I have been in the country since June 2016 and it's a decision I do not regret making at all!

The project I have initially been posted to is working as a consultant working on the new multi-billion-dollar hospital project in Montreal, Canada. It is a very multi-cultural project with people from all different areas of the world working on it which has been a good experience and I have got to know a lot of good people.

The hospital has been a challenging one to work on and has given me a good experience of working on a large scale project and dealing with sub-contractors and project teams who mainly speak French as their first language! Day to day tasks vary from processing interim payment applications, drafting contractual letters, discussing scope omissions/additions, valuing change orders and claims and putting together counter claims and back charges. Most of my time is spent in the office which is in the centre of Montreal with the site only a 5 minute walk away should I need to see something with a sub-contractor or internal colleagues.

Living in Canada is a great experience with so many different things to do and see. I arrived at a good time when it was the summer where it was hot almost every day so I had the chance to get to know Montreal. The city is a fantastic place with great nightlife, restaurants and so much to do. The additional aspect of it being French speaking is also a good experience however most people are bilingual so not being able to speak French is not a huge issue.

I have had the opportunity to travel around Canada and USA with internal flights being so cheap it's a no brainer to do whilst working over here! So far I have visited; New York, Toronto, Ottawa and Boston and have made plans to visit other cities. Also, I have been to see "soccer" games of my new local team Montreal Impact which is a lot different than going to games in England – a main benefit being beer and food is sold to you whilst your sat in your seat!





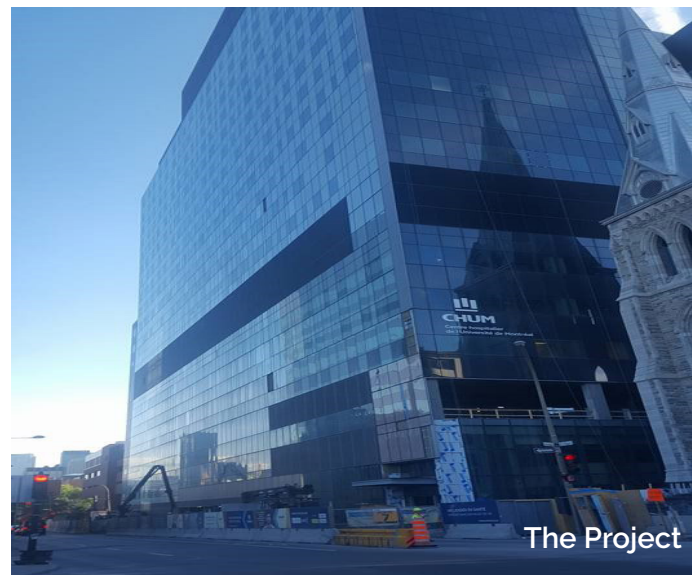
Top of Mount Royal - Montreal

As it is now getting colder with winter approaching (temperatures can reach as low as -30!) there is the opportunity to go skiing in Mont Tremblant which is supposed to be amazing and is approximately 40 minutes' drive away which makes it very convenient for weekends.

The economy in Canada is booming and everywhere you go there is construction work taking place with some huge projects either underway, or are planned to start in the coming years as the Government invests into the country's Infrastructure. As there is a shortage of skilled construction workers in Canada and pretty much no Quantity Surveyors, it is a great place to work with the potential to work on big schemes whilst also getting to experience living in North America which is a great continent.

Overall, I would highly recommend living and working in Canada to anyone and once you get here and get to live the more relaxed way of life whilst also the extreme weather conditions of summer and winter and the activities both can offer you, it results in not missing the UK!

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The Project



Montreal Impact v New York City