

# Canada Weekly

Ottawa  
Canada

Volume 12, No. 32  
September 12 1984

Consulting engineering devices span the globe, 1

Asia-Pacific Foundation, 3

Tough little bus for wheelchair passengers, 3

Dogged drug detectors, 4

Sale to Barbados, 5

Aid to Thai refugees, 5

Ingenuity pays off for specialty products firm, 5

Arctic expert leads icy voyage, 6

Aid, oil and gas report, 6

News of the arts — TV, conductor, exhibition, 7

News briefs, 8

Stock market at a glance, 8

## Consulting engineering devices span the globe

Lavalin Inc. of Montreal, is Canada's largest and one of three Canadian firms that are among the world's ten largest consulting engineering services. The others are SNC and Monenco, both also of Montreal.

With a total of over 6 000 engineers, associated professionals and technicians in every major field of engineering and project management, Lavalin has undertaken massive projects in more than 90 countries and currently has projects in some 60 countries, mostly Africa, South America and the Pacific Rim.

Lavalin Inc. was established in 1936 but it was not until the early 1970s that the firm took off under its new president, Bernard Lamarre, now chairman of the board. Through acquisitions of some of Canada's larger engineering firms in a wide range of disciplines, in just over a decade Lavalin has grown from 40 to 6 000 employees.

The range of its services is just as impressive — from general projects to transportation, oil and gas, industrial and mining, geotechnical sciences, airborne geophysics, mapping, urban and regional planning,

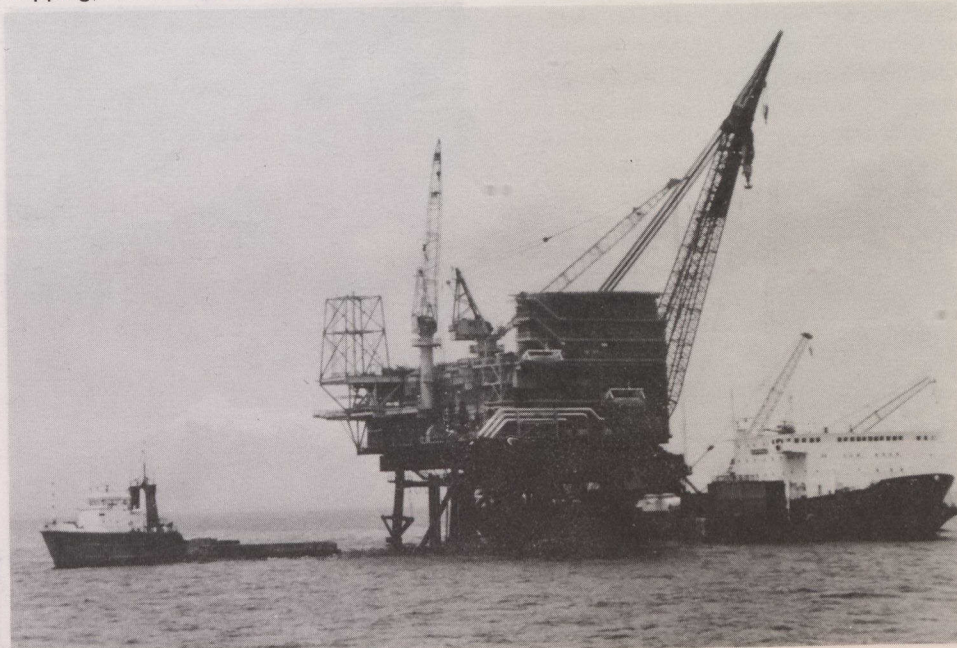
environmental assessment, economic and social studies and planning, computer sciences and agriculture — and includes planning, engineering, project management, procurement and construction.

### Expansion

Two factors were of paramount importance in the company's expansion. The first was the growth of Quebec's infrastructure in the late 1960s and early 1970s as the province emerged from its largely rural-based past into the twentieth century. Quebec built roads, sewers, waterworks, schools, hospitals, airports and, of course, hosted Expo 67 and the Montreal Olympics.

Unlike many of the other provinces which had slowly developed their own in-house engineering expertise, Quebec turned to the private sector. As a result, these were heady days for the purveyors of consulting engineering services. But not content to rest on its local achievements, Lavalin went one step further and entered the export market with its services.

Building on its strength in major Quebec



Offshore drilling platform near Mount Egmon, New Zealand.



External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
Canada