



## **Aha! is potential Columbian Tenant**

By Julia Anderson  
July 27, 2007

A second possible tenant for the new \$30 million Columbian office building in downtown Vancouver has emerged.

Aha!, a Vancouver-based marketing-communications business with 30 employees, is negotiating to lease up to 15,000 square feet in one of two top floors of the six-story building.

"Right now, we're in two buildings downtown," said Tom Henning, Aha! business manager. "Our goal is to get everyone under one roof."

Aha! is owned by Henning's wife, Betsy Henning, and her business partner, Brenda Alling. The two started the company in 1994 and have gathered in clients including Hewlett-Packard Co., for whom they provide a variety of creative-writing services.

"As we looked at options for new space, The Columbia building stood out as something that would exemplify the kind of business we are," Betsy Henning said. "It's being constructed using green certification, it has a great location and a beautiful, pleasing aspect that would allow us to host customers and provide our employees with an incredible work environment."

Accounting firm Moss Adams said in February it was negotiating to bring its Vancouver operations to one of two top floors in the building.

Neither the Aha! lease nor the Moss Adams lease has been signed.

Leasable space in the building totals about 36,000 square feet.

Tamara Fuller with the NAI Norris, Beggs & Simpson commercial real estate brokerage firm in Vancouver described Vancouver's downtown office market as "feeling pretty healthy."

"We've been seeing more activity at Vancouvercenter, more relocations and expansions of existing tenants," Fuller said.

She said a lease with Aha! is expected by summer's end.

Construction of The Columbia building began last year and is expected to be completed this fall. The company's newsroom, advertising and circulation departments are scheduled to move into the building's first four floors by mid-October.

Fuller said her firm continues to seek tenants for 6,000 square feet on the building's ground floor. "We are particularly interested in a good coffee-deli vendor," Fuller said.