

CV Rick Antonson

Rick Antonson is the former president & CEO of the award-winning destination marketing organization, Tourism Vancouver. Among his volunteer leadership roles Rick was president of Pacific Coast Public Television, chair of Destination Marketing Association International (based in Washington, DC), and deputy chair of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (based in Bangkok, Thailand).

Rick collaborated with leaders of other organizations when Tourism Vancouver initiated the Vancouver Convention Centre Expansion Task Force. That, in part, led to Tourism Vancouver's investment of \$90 million as the project's third funding partner (the other two are the federal and provincial governments). Also, Rick was at the helm of Tourism Vancouver when that organization launched the bid to bring the 2010 Winter Olympic Games to Vancouver and Whistler.

Today Rick is a full time author and scriptwriter. The New York Times noted his *Route 66 Still Kicks; Driving America's Main Street* as "One of the best books of the bunch" in their Christmas book roundup. The Chicago Tribune called his *To Timbuktu for a Haircut; A Journey Through West Africa* a "travel classic." When his most recent book, *Full Moon Over Noah's Ark; An Odyssey to Mount Ararat* was released in 2016, the American Library Journal saw it as "this tasty, spicy feast of a book...". Antonson's forthcoming book is based in Papua New Guinea (to be published in 2019). Capilano University awarded Antonson an Honorary Doctorate of Laws. The tourism and international meetings industry has conferred recognitions in Canada, Europe, the US, and Asia. Rick often speaks around the world about Cathedral Thinking, an important concept about having a long-term vision. He is quick to point out that he had nothing to do with creating the centuries old principle, but it's one for which he's become an apostle.