

# National Statement of Collaboration

**This National Statement of Collaboration (NSC) is dated as of May 23, 2024.**

**AMONG: THE MEMBERS OF ENGINEERS CANADA:**

Association of Professional Engineers of Yukon (“Engineers Yukon”)

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia (“EGBC”)

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (“APEGA”)

Northwest Territories and Nunavut Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists (“NAPEG”)

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (“APEGS”)

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of Manitoba (“Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba”)

Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario (“PEO”)

Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (“OIQ”)

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick (“APEGNB”)

Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia (“Engineers Nova Scotia”)

The Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of Prince Edward Island (“Engineers PEI”)

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador (“PEGNL”)

hereinafter collectively the “Regulators”

**AND**

Engineers Canada

**WHEREAS**, there is recognition that the protection of the public requires a continued effective, fair and equitable regulatory framework of the engineering profession;

**WHEREAS**, Engineers Canada was created by regulators to foster collaboration, harmonization, and innovation, considering regional differences in engineering regulation and governance as well as emerging trends.

**WHEREAS**, there is recognition that increased collaboration and harmonization of legislation, regulations, by-laws, policies, programs or practices will bring increased efficiency to regulators.

**WHEREAS**, there is an understanding that increased collaboration and harmonization of the regulatory framework will foster an equitable approach for future and current license holders across jurisdictions, enhancing their perceptions of engineering regulation and facilitating their ability to work in Canada and abroad.

**Now therefore, the signatories agree to enter into this National Statement of Collaboration;**

## **1. Background of the National Statement of Collaboration**

Engineers Canada was founded in 1936 as the Dominion Council of Engineers with the goal of bringing greater harmony to the regulatory framework of engineering given the considerable variation of legislation across the provinces and territories at the time. Over time, although internal mobility agreements have resulted in regulators recognizing licenses for engineers working in multiple jurisdictions, yet barriers remain.

In 2022, Engineers Canada adopted a new vision: *Advancing Canadian engineering through national collaboration*. To implement this future state, Engineers Canada embarked on a national engagement project to assess whether regulators were interested in realizing this vision by seeking opportunities to collaborate and harmonize, thereby reducing barriers within the regulatory framework.

Harmonization of provincial and territorial regulatory practices can take decades. To support collaboration and harmonization in the long-term, a Pan-Canadian commitment of financial and institutional support from national, provincial and territorial councils and chief executive officers is required.

This statement of collaboration reflects a commitment at all levels, of national, provincial and territorial councils and chief executive officers, to provide clear direction and criteria for long-term collaboration and harmonization. These efforts aim to overcome barriers and promote continuity within the engineering regulator leadership throughout the years. The signatories express their commitment to work together to protect the public, enhance mobility, and promote efficiencies

within the regulatory framework. They are committed to creating a stronger federation, upholding the public interest, and creating a better society in Canada.

## **2. National Statement of Collaboration objectives**

- i. Promote long-term commitment of signatories to collaboration and the identification of harmonization initiatives within the regulatory framework.
- ii. Strengthen collaboration and harmonization among engineering regulators.
- iii. Define roles and responsibilities between engineering regulators and Engineers Canada.

## **3. Roles and responsibilities of the signatories**

### **3.1 Roles and responsibilities of the engineering regulators**

- i. Proactively share information and actively pursue alignment among regulators.
- ii. Assess the impact of any changes to legislation, regulations, by-laws, policies, programs, or practices and advocate for collaboration within their jurisdiction when making changes.
- iii. Identify and work on national priorities for collaboration and harmonization initiatives and encourage consensus with other regulators on these decisions.
- iv. Participate in and, where possible, resource collaboration and harmonization initiatives or indicate their intention to not be involved.
- v. Adopt collaboration as a fundamental approach, such as by interpreting legislation in a manner that maximizes participation in national initiatives.
- vi. Advise other regulators regarding the interests of, and regulatory impact to, provincial partners and interest holders that would be affected by national collaboration and harmonization initiatives.

### **3.2 Role and responsibilities of Engineers Canada**

- i. Maintain processes and infrastructure to share information and collaborate.
- ii. Facilitate discussions that support alignment between regulators.
- iii. Act as a knowledge hub for regulators' information, and information regarding advances and changes in the professional regulatory framework.
- iv. Resource and provide project management to collaboration and harmonization initiatives.
- v. Maintain a process to identify, select and adequately resource collaboration and harmonization initiatives.
- vi. Be transparent with all work, providing opportunities for regulators to engage, partner, lead or innovate.
- vii. Advise regulators on the known or perceived impacts of proposed national collaboration initiatives on national and international partners and interest holders.

## **4. Evaluation**

The signatories agree to assess their performance in the implementation of this Statement of Collaboration. Such assessment will take place at least one year before the expiration of this agreement, so that the assessment results can inform future iterations of the Statement of Collaboration.

## 5. Term

This Statement of Collaboration is effective as of May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and is valid for a period of five years before it will be reviewed, and, if appropriate, renewed.

## 6. Amendment

This Statement of Collaboration may be amended with the written consent of all signatories at any time.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Collaboration** is the act of working respectfully with regulators to create something of mutual value. This implies both contributing and compromising and may include sharing best practices, identifying ways to align existing processes, and other activities.

**Harmonization** is the act of working respectfully with regulators to make processes, policies, systems or rules similar or the same to the extent possible per provincial/ territorial legislation