

The engineering profession's position

- All engineering decisions during the procurement of engineering-related goods and services must be made by an engineer licensed with a provincial or territorial engineering regulator.
- The federal government must consult and collaborate with the engineering profession on government procurement decisions related to engineering for the benefit of public safety, the economy, and the environment, and for the well-being of communities across Canada.
- Only engineers who are licensed by one of the provincial or territorial regulators may take responsibility for engineering work and engineering decisions in the federal procurement process. This professional accountability fosters a system in which Canadians receive goods and services that are safe and compliant with standards and codes.
- All engineering documents issued or submitted as part of a procurement process that require a professional seal must be sealed in accordance with provincial or territorial legislation by an engineer licensed with a provincial or territorial engineering regulator.

The challenge(s)

The Government of Canada is one of the largest public buyers of goods and services in Canada, purchasing approximately \$37 billion every year on behalf of federal departments and agencies.¹ Many contracts involve engineering services and/or engineered products. As the public policy agenda of the federal government evolves to include larger investments in economic development, defence, and national infrastructure projects, the procurement process for engineering-related goods and services is especially important.

Reliance on non-engineers for critical decisions undermines the principle of self-regulation that is the foundation of the engineering profession, and undermines public safety. Engineering is a regulated profession, and engineering decisions must only be made by engineers who are licensed with a provincial or territorial regulatory body. The practice of engineering involves activities of planning, designing, composing, evaluating, advising, reporting, directing or supervising, or managing throughout different phases of a system lifecycle, from design to disposal, that require application of engineering principles and the inclusion of safeguards and other protective measures to mitigate risks and avoid harm.²

¹ Government of Canada. Get to know the Government of Canada procurement process. <https://www.ccc.ca/en/insights-for-exporters/get-to-know-the-government-of-canada-procurement-process/>

² Engineers Canada. *Public guideline on the practice of engineering in Canada*. <https://engineerscanada.ca/guidelines-and-papers/public-guideline-on-the-practice-of-engineering-in-canada#-defining-the-engineering-profession>.

For this reason, Engineers Canada believes that the Government of Canada should leverage its position as the primary funder of basic research in Canada to provide national leadership on RDI. This focus is especially critical as Canada seeks to attract, build, and retain talent to support economic growth.

How Engineers Canada has contributed

Engineers Canada participates in consultations on legislation and regulations that impact the work of engineers and addresses activities that could involve engineering work. Engineers Canada will continue to build open working relationships with the federal government to advocate that engineers are directly involved with decision-making throughout the federal procurement process.

Recommendations to the federal government

The federal government must require that engineering decisions made within the procurement of engineering-related goods and services are only made by engineers. The federal government must also:

- Actively collaborate with the engineering profession throughout all phases of the procurement process.
- Require that every engineering decision required on a Government of Canada procurement project is made by an engineer who is licensed with a provincial or territorial regulator.
- Require that engineers take responsibility for preparing engineering documents used for construction or project implementation, including procurement notices that constitute engineering work, supervising engineering projects, and preparing tender agreements for engineering projects.

How Engineers Canada will contribute

Engineers Canada will continue to:

- Participate in formal government consultations, national roundtables, and appear before the House of Commons and Senate standing committees to advance the inclusion of engineers as decision makers during the federal government's engineering-related procurement processes in the interest of public safety.
- Provide advice and proposed language on the federal government's engineering-related procurement processes to facilitate the development of legislation and federal regulatory frameworks.
- Continue to work with the federal government and engineering regulators to promote and educate the federal government on the importance of including engineers at all stages of the federal procurement process for engineering-related goods and services.

About Engineers Canada

Engineers Canada is the national association of the 12 engineering regulators that regulate engineering practice and license Canada's more than 320,000 members of the engineering profession.