



## Engineers Canada: Federal Budget 2015

### Highlights & Analysis

***The federal Budget was tabled in the House of Commons on April 21, 2015, by Minister of Finance Joe Oliver.***

***In our pre-budget submission, Engineers Canada recommended the following:***

To build a stronger, safer and more prosperous country, Engineers Canada recommends that the federal government make public interest investments infrastructure risk assessments and promoting the availability and use of engineering expertise. Specifically, we called for:

- A minimum of \$4 million over two years for infrastructure owners – such as municipalities – to undertake infrastructure risk assessments to ensure that communities are better able to withstand extreme weather events or other service disruptions.
- Incorporating infrastructure risk assessments into existing infrastructure funding programs.
- Federal government investments in better labour market data collection so that employers, governments, employees, academia and prospective immigrants have a true picture of national and regional labour market needs and opportunities.

***Economic Action Plan 2015 includes the following proposed measures of interest to the engineering regulatory bodies and reflective of our key positions***

#### **Labour Market and Foreign Credential Recognition**

- Reallocating \$4 million over two years starting in 2015-2016 to support the launch of a new one-stop national labour market information portal.
- Reallocation of \$7 million over two years starting in 2015-2016 for programs which support the relocation of youth and immigrants to areas where job opportunities exist.
- Reallocation of up to \$35 million over five years starting in 2015-2016 to make the Foreign Credential Recognition Loans Pilot Project permanent. This project supports internationally trained workers in their pursuit of foreign credential recognition.
- A one-time investment of \$65 million to business and industry associations to help them work with post-secondary institutions to better align curricula with the needs of employers.

- Creating an Internal Trade Promotion Office within Industry Canada. The Office will support federal-provincial-territorial negotiations to improve the domestic economy by renewing the Agreement on Internal Trade.

### **Analysis**

Engineers Canada has been calling for improved labour market information for several years. Providing current, accurate, and accessible data will help students, Canadians and those considering moving to Canada a better picture of the country's economy, regional diversity, and key sectors. This information will help engineers plan for their future.

The making permanent of the Foreign Credentials Loan Recognition pilot project will help international engineering graduates work toward achieving their full potential as licensed professional engineers.

### **Investing in Aboriginal People**

- Investing \$248.5 million over five years in Aboriginal labour market programming.
- Providing \$33.2 million over four years starting in 2016-2017 to support the Surveys on Aboriginal People.
- Providing \$33.5 million over five years starting in 2015-2016 for administrative support for Aboriginal labour market programs and to launch a pilot labour force survey on reserve in order to improve available labour market information.
- Providing \$200 million over five years starting in 2015-2016 to improve First Nations education

### **Analysis**

Engineers Canada is committed to promoting diversity in the engineering profession. Our current programs focus on women in engineering, but also on Aboriginals.

The proposed initiatives in Economic Action Plan 2015 have the potential to provide better information on the role Aboriginals play in Canada's economy, and provide needed support for education and labour market involvement.

### **Infrastructure**

- Providing \$750 million over two years starting in 2017-2018 and \$1 billion per year ongoing thereafter for the Public Transit Fund. The Fund will promote future public transit infrastructure investment.

### **Analysis**

Engineers Canada acknowledges that the Government has made significant investments in public infrastructure over the past decade. The proposed creation of a Public Transit Fund is another example of an investment that may improve Canadian communities. However, governments and infrastructure owners must recognize the need to invest funds and time in understanding the risks that new and existing infrastructure are going to have to withstand as a result of extreme weather. The engineering profession will continue to push for climate risk assessments for transit projects, and other infrastructures, so that Canadians can rely on the services they have come to expect, regardless of the weather.

## Resources and Innovation

- Providing \$80 million over five years, fully cost-recovered from industry, starting in 2015/2016 to the National Energy Board to support safety and environmental protection, and enhance engagement with Canadians related to energy transportation infrastructure.
- The intent to provide accelerated capital cost allowance (CCA) treatment for assets used in facilities that liquefy natural gas.
- Providing \$15 million over five years starting in 2015/2016 to continue support for science-based assessments conducted by the Council of Canadian Academies.
- Providing \$15 million per year on an ongoing basis to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) to support new collaborations between companies and researchers from both universities and colleges.
- Providing manufacturers with an accelerated CCA at a rate of 50 per cent on a declining-balance basis for eligible assets acquired after 2015 and before 2026.
- Providing \$36.4 million over five years starting in 2015/2016 to support the Government's efforts to ensure Canada's vital cyber systems remain safe and reliable.

## Analysis

Many of the measures proposed in the Economic Action Plan 2015 are designed to support economic growth in Canada. We will continue to monitor the implementation of these initiatives to determine their potential impact on the engineering profession.

**For more information, contact:** Alana Lavoie, Practice Lead, Public Affairs  
613-232-2474 ext. 276  
[alana.lavoie@engineerscanada.ca](mailto:alana.lavoie@engineerscanada.ca)