

08 September 2026

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P., Minister of Finance and National Revenue
via e-mail (minister-ministre@fin.gc.ca)

Re: 2026 Pre-Budget Submission in advance of the 2026 Federal Budget

Dear Minister Champagne:

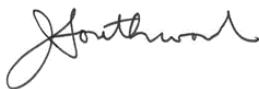
Engineers Canada is pleased to provide its pre-budget submission in advance of the 2026 federal budget.

As Canada works to strengthen economic resilience, deliver major projects, expand housing supply and modernize critical infrastructure and responsibly adopt artificial intelligence, engineering expertise must be fully integrated into federal decision-making. A resilient, productive, and future-ready Canada depends on the effective planning, design, implementation and oversight of the systems and infrastructure that support public safety, economic growth, and quality of life.

In our submission, Engineers Canada recommends practical federal action in four key areas: require that engineering-related procurement, design, and implementation decisions for major projects are carried out with the appropriate involvement of licensed engineers, in accordance with applicable provincial or territorial requirements; require that engineers are properly consulted and embed the foundational principles of resiliency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy efficiency, and accessibility into efforts to streamline housing construction; review the existing qualification standards for engineers in the public service to require the licensure of public servants where required by provincial or territorial legislation; and work with Engineers Canada to establish a pan-Canadian initiative to improve credential recognition and access to engineering employment.

Please find our submission attached in English and French, which lays out these recommendations in more detail. We look forward to working with the Government of Canada to strengthen our country and build a more resilient future. Engineers Canada would be pleased to meet with you or your team to discuss our recommendations in more detail. To schedule a meeting, please contact Abiola Sulaiman, Interim Manager, Public Affairs at 613.232.2474 x265 or abiola.sulaiman@engineerscanada.ca.

Yours sincerely,



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Submission for the 2026 Pre-Budget Consultations

September 2026

Questions concerning the content of this report should be directed to:

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Recommendation 1: Require that engineering-related procurement, design, and implementation decisions for major projects are carried out with the appropriate involvement of licensed engineers, in accordance with applicable provincial or territorial requirements.

Recommendation 2: Require that engineers are properly consulted and embed the foundational principles of resiliency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy efficiency, and accessibility into efforts to streamline housing construction.

Recommendation 3: Review the existing qualification standards for engineers in the public service to require the licensure of public servants where required by provincial or territorial legislation.

Recommendation 4: Provide up to \$10 million over 4 years through the Foreign Credential Recognition Action Fund, or a successor mechanism, for a pan-Canadian initiative led by Engineers Canada with the engineering regulators to improve credential recognition and access to engineering employment.

Recommendation 1: Require that engineering-related procurement, design, and implementation decisions for major projects are carried out with the appropriate involvement of licensed engineers, in accordance with applicable provincial or territorial requirements.

All levels of government have a responsibility to provide predictable funding for the design, construction, and maintenance of safe and resilient public infrastructure throughout its full life cycle. This necessitates adopting a long-term perspective and conducting comprehensive life cycle analyses, recognizing that investing in infrastructure today will yield benefits for future generations. It also requires a strategic approach that prioritizes projects that are essential to Canada's economy and national security.

The growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) in infrastructure planning, design, procurement and project delivery strengthens the need for clear professional accountability. Where AI tools contribute to engineering work, appropriately licensed engineers must exercise professional judgement, validate the outputs, and remain accountable for the resulting decisions.

Engineers Canada therefore welcomes recent commitments by the federal government to invest heavily in and [streamline the regulatory approval process](#) for major infrastructure projects in the national interest, as well as efforts [to improve labour mobility](#) for licensed professionals working on these projects. As the government implements these commitments, it is critical that it recognize the essential role engineers play in prioritizing public safety and the public interest.

We are especially pleased to see that the *Budget Implementation Act* for Budget 2025 emphasizes the importance of engineering assessment for critical minerals and clean technology projects, and clarifies that this engineering work must be undertaken by engineers who are licensed in the jurisdiction in which they are working. We ask that the federal government continue to recognize the important contributions of engineers and offer the following recommendations:

- Require that all engineering decisions taken by the Government of Canada during the identification, procurement, development, design, and implementation of major infrastructure projects are made by engineers who are licensed by the provincial or territorial regulator in the jurisdictions where the work is taking place.
- 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.
- Work with provinces and territories to promote mutual recognition and national labour mobility while respecting the fundamental mandate of the provincial and territorial engineering regulators to protect the public.



By building professional accountability into all federal engineering work and decisions and by advancing labour mobility for engineers, the Government of Canada can lay the foundation for a stronger economy and build a more resilient Canada.

Recommendation 2: As the Government of Canada invests to streamline housing construction across the country, ensure that engineers are properly consulted and embed the foundational principles of resiliency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy efficiency, and accessibility.

As the government works to streamline housing construction across Canada, it is essential to recognize [the important role engineers play](#) in the building process. Engineers are responsible for developing and updating building codes. They also verify that various development scenarios align with those codes, meet local infrastructure requirements, and accommodate user- and site-specific engineering needs.

Provincial and territorial engineering regulators hold engineers accountable in this work to keep Canadians safe. In areas that may fall outside of provincial jurisdiction, like federal housing initiatives through Build Canada Homes, housing on federal lands, and conversion of federally owned buildings, engineers are equally important. With that in mind, Engineers Canada offers the following considerations for future infrastructure investment that will directly enable new housing construction:

- Work with provinces and territories to facilitate the adoption of new resiliency and climate change adaptation objectives by [incorporating these objectives](#) into the National Building Code.
- Use federal funding and efforts to streamline housing construction to enhance the [resiliency of the built environment](#), including flood-proofing, protection against extreme heat and cold, air quality protection, wind-resistant design, storm protections, efficient water and wastewater systems, and other necessary factors for resiliency.

By encouraging the adoption of resiliency and climate change adaptation objectives into building codes and requiring that federal funding support resilient building practices, the federal government can help achieve a prosperous and sustainable future.

Recommendation 3: Review the existing qualification standards for engineers in the public service to ensure the licensure of public servants where required by provincial or territorial legislation.

For many years federal departments and agencies have filled engineering positions in the public service, particularly those categorized as EN-ENG, without requiring engineering licensure as a condition of employment. This lack of licensure requirement for performing engineering work poses potential risks to public safety. The guidelines issued by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) do not universally mandate occupational certification for all EN-ENG positions across federal departments, leading to inconsistent criteria for EN-ENG job postings throughout the federal public service.

In cases where certification is required, the minimum standard merely refers to eligibility for professional engineering certification in Canada without specifying how eligibility is determined. Eligibility can only be determined by the provincial and territorial regulators. The current TBS guidelines do not mandate applicants to have applied for licensure or be registered with any of these engineering regulators.

Furthermore, all engineering regulators have provisions in their provincial and territorial acts that prohibit non-licensed individuals from using the title 'engineer.' When positions within the federal public service include the term 'engineer' in their titles, it is crucial that only licensed engineers fill these roles. Disregarding the regulated use of the title 'engineer' confuses the public perception of an individual's qualifications and undermines the high level of trust the public places in the engineering profession. Each engineering regulator strives to ensure that only licensed individuals can rightfully use the title 'engineer.'

Engineers Canada urges the TBS to undertake a swift review of the current qualification standards to require the licensure of engineers in the public service. This can be achieved by making "certification as a professional engineer in Canada" a mandatory occupational certification requirement for all new positions at EN-ENG-03 level and above.

It is vital that individuals practising engineering and using the title 'engineer' (or any similar variation) hold a licence from the engineering regulator in the province or territory where the title is being used. This minimizes risks to public safety by requiring that these activities are carried out by licensed engineers who are bound by stringent professional and ethical standards, working in the best interest of the public.

Recommendation 4: Provide up to \$10 million over 4 years through the Foreign Credential Recognition Action Fund, or a successor mechanism, for a pan-Canadian initiative led by Engineers Canada with the engineering regulators to improve credential recognition and access to engineering employment.

Canada's housing, infrastructure, energy, transportation, and critical minerals priorities require more engineering capacity. Internationally-trained professionals bring valuable skills, but face differing provincial requirements, repeated documentation and assessment steps, and employers that may not be familiar with how to hire and support candidates pursuing licensure.

Budget 2025 announced \$97 million over 5 years, beginning in 2026-27, for a Foreign Credential Recognition Action Fund focused on health and construction. A dedicated engineering stream would extend that investment to a profession critical to major projects while preserving the authority of engineering regulators.

The federal government should:

- Launch a 90-day co-design process with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), Engineers Canada, engineering regulators, provinces and territories, employers, and Indigenous and newcomer partners to confirm scope, cost, privacy, and non-duplication.
- Develop a bilingual national entry point that builds on Engineers Canada's website, <https://engineerhere.ca/>, and directs applicants to engineering regulator-owned information on education, experience, examinations, documents, costs, and timelines, including before arrival in Canada.
- Support engineering regulator-led pilots to reduce avoidable duplication and securely reuse verified documents where legally and technically feasible.
- Create employer partnerships that provide suitable roles, professional engineering supervision, and opportunities to demonstrate required competencies, particularly in housing and major project sectors.
- Establish common, privacy-protected measures for processing stages, applicant attrition, licensure, employment outcomes and employer participation, supported by independent evaluation.

The initiative would not create a national license or lower professional standards. Regulators would retain all licensing decisions. ESDC would fund and oversee the initiative, Engineers Canada would coordinate national delivery and reporting, and employers and other partners would provide employment and experience pathways.

The proposed \$10 million envelope is a maximum, subject to the 90-day design process, detailed costing and staged federal approvals. Four years would allow the initiative to be built, piloted, evaluated, and embedded across multiple jurisdictions.

Success would mean clearer pathways, less duplication, more employers supporting engineering licensure, better evidence on where candidates stall, and more internationally-trained professionals working at the level their qualifications support. This would help Canada deliver national priorities safely and efficiently.

About Engineers Canada

Engineers Canada is the national organization that represents the provincial and territorial engineering regulators that license the more than 330,000 members of the engineering profession in Canada. As the only national voice for the engineering profession, our organization has a long-standing history of working and collaborating with the federal government to help inform and develop legislation, regulations, and policies. In making these recommendations for Budget 2026, Engineers Canada commits to this engagement to shape a positive future for engineering in Canada and is ready to work with the federal government to achieve this.