



From the office of the Chief Executive Officer / Du cabinet du chef de la direction

November 13, 2023

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, P.C., M.P.  
Leader of the Official Opposition of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Poilievre:

**Re: Conservative Party of Canada’s “Blue Seal” standard proposal**

I am writing to you regarding the Conservative Party of Canada’s “Blue Seal” National Professional Testing Standard proposal.

Engineers Canada is the national organization representing the 12 provincial and territorial engineering [regulators](#) that license the over 300,000 members of the engineering profession across the country. Our organization has a long-standing history of collaborating with the federal government to inform and develop legislation, regulations, and policies.

We acknowledge the challenge posed by the growing disparity between labour demand and supply in Canada. Recognizing foreign qualifications is fundamental to effectively integrating highly skilled individuals into the Canadian labour market. We commend your initiative to simplify the licensing process for professionals, including potential immigrant professionals in various fields. The “Blue Seal” certificate is indeed a significant step towards attracting a diverse range of skilled professionals to Canada.

However, we would like to highlight that provincial and territorial engineering regulators are deeply engaged in this work. The path to engineering licensure in Canada involves a comprehensive review of an individual’s academic background, work experience, language proficiency, ethical standing, and character by the provincial or territorial engineering regulator.

Our organization is currently focused on initiatives to enhance and harmonize existing engineering licensure structures. Through close collaboration with engineering regulators, our effort is on developing systems and tools that meet fairness requirements, maintain licensure authority, and support a nationally harmonized and equitable academic assessment process for all.

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We propose that the federal government collaborate with self-regulated professions, such as engineering regulators, instead of creating a new system. By providing funding support, the federal government can help strengthen the existing structures. This approach would lead to the development of trusted, efficient, inclusive, and proactive systems while respecting provincial and territorial authority for engineering licensure.

Furthermore, the federal government can support the immigration process in several ways, with a central focus on integrating proactive communication. This would involve the federal government sharing important information with international engineering graduates about the regulatory requirements for practising engineering in Canada. To support this process, we have launched [EngineerHere.ca](http://EngineerHere.ca), a comprehensive resource that provides essential details for newcomers. The dissemination of this information by the federal government to incoming immigrants would be greatly appreciated and would enhance the efficiency of our current systems.

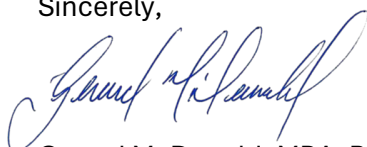
For a more detailed understanding of the role of engineering regulators in Canada in relation to immigration and recognition of foreign qualifications, we invite you to refer to our [national position statement](#) on the subject.

Engineers Canada is dedicated to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of licensing processes. We remain committed to collaborating with the federal government to maintain a robust, fair, and responsive immigration system that meets the economic requirements of communities across Canada.

Mr. Poilievre, a member of our team would be delighted to meet with you, or a member of your team to further discuss this priority and the nature of our involvement. To schedule a meeting, please contact Joey Taylor, Manager, Public Affairs and Government Relations at 613-232-2474 x213, or at [joey.taylor@engineerscanada.ca](mailto:joey.taylor@engineerscanada.ca).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gerard McDonald, MBA, P.Eng., ICD.D  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Tom Kmiec, Shadow Minister for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
Brad Redekopp, Associate Shadow Minister for Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship  
Stephanie Price, FEC, P.Eng., CAE, Executive Vice President, Regulatory Affairs  
Jeanette M. Southwood, FCAE, FEC, LL.D. (honoris causa), P.Eng., IntPE, Vice-President,  
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Joey Taylor, MHA, M.Sc., PMP, Manager, Public Affairs and Government Relations