



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

March 15, 2022

The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., M.P.
President of the Queen's Privy Council for
Canada and Minister of Emergency
Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers:

Re: Council of Canadian Academies' *Building a Resilient Canada 2022* report

We wanted to inform you of a concern we have regarding the Council of Canadian Academies' (CCA) recent publication of the [*Building a Resilient Canada: The Expert Panel on Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate*](#) that was endorsed by the Government of Canada through a [press release](#) on January 13, 2022. While we were pleased to see the report identify several ways to strengthen the capacity of Canadian households, communities, economic sectors, and institutions to anticipate, prepare for, mitigate, and prevent the damages of extreme weather events in Canada, we were disappointed with the Panel's assessment of the continued operation of the Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) Protocol and Infrastructure Resiliency Professional (IRP) Program.

Engineers Canada is the national organization that represents the 12 provincial and territorial engineering regulators that license the more than 300,000 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.

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We were pleased to notice the inclusion in the CCA report of Engineers Canada’s work in this area and references to our federal government submissions, our creation and original ownership of the PIEVC Protocol and its application to infrastructure climate risk assessments, as well as the inclusion of Engineers Canada’s Infrastructure Resilience Professional (IRP) Program. As you may know, Engineers Canada divested both the PIEVC Program and the IRP Program to other organizations in 2020. However, we wanted to raise a significant concern with regards to Section 4.3.1 of the CCA report (page 79) as it states that, “Engineers Canada no longer runs these programs” and that this “leaves a potential blind spot in the clear standardization of climate risk in Canada...and as a result, there remains a gap in the Canadian industry.” We want to correct this statement and provide you with clarification with regards to the divestment of these programs by Engineers Canada to these other organizations. We would also like the record to reflect that the CCA’s peer review process did not include the organizations mentioned in their final report (specific to Engineers Canada, the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, and the Climate Risk Institute) to verify that claims made about the PIEVC Protocol and IRP Program were in fact valid.

The continuity and growth of the PIEVC Protocol and IRP Program through divestment was a strategic objective of Engineers Canada and the 12 engineering regulators across Canada through Engineers Canada’s 2019-2021 Strategic Plan. Engineers Canada’s Board of Directors ensured that these programs would continue to be offered to engineers across Canada. The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) and its PIEVC Program Partnership, which includes the Climate Risk Institute (CRI), assumed ownership of the PIEVC Program in April 2020, while the CRI assumed ownership of the IRP Program in July 2020. Both ICLR and CRI have a long-term commitment to, and engagement with, Engineers Canada to operate these programs for the public good and to benefit engineering practitioners. These programs continue to be offered to the benefit of all levels of government in Canada, the Canadian consulting engineering industry, and professional service providers when addressing climate risks to infrastructure. The continuation and expansion of these programs ensure that there remains a clear standardization of assessment of climate risks in Canada.

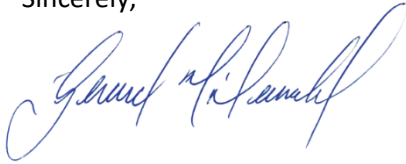
Engineers Canada supported the divestment of both the PIEVC Program and IRP Program to the ICLR and CRI and both programs continue to thrive under these national organizations. The continued availability of the PIEVC Protocol at no charge for Canadian public infrastructure owners to use, the continued availability of the growing inventory of PIEVC assessment reports through the PIEVC website, the development of new PIEVC Products, and the continued offering of the IRP credential—which continues to have substantial interest from engineering license holders across Canada—are examples that demonstrate the sustained value, use, and importance of these programs.

We have requested that the CCA make a correction to the *Building a Resilient Canada: The Expert Panel on Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate* report, clarifying that both the PIEVC and IRP Programs continue to be operated successfully and sustainably by ICLR and CRI. However, the CCA has advised us that their current process does not include making corrections to already published reports. They have also informed us that panel members all supported the statement on page 79 in its current form and, as such, the CCA has determined that no correction is needed.

We wanted to inform you of this development in hopes that the CCA would issue a correction to Section 4.3.1 of the *Building a Resilient Canada: The Expert Panel on Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate* report. Alternatively, we would be happy to discuss our concerns directly with you. To schedule a meeting, please contact Joey Taylor, Manager, Public Affairs, at 613-232-2474 x213, or at joey.taylor@engineerscanada.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerard McDonald".

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

CC: Scott Vaughan, Chair, Expert Panel on Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate, Council of Canadian Academies
Jérôme Marty, Project Director, Council of Canadian Academies
Paul Kovacs, Executive Director, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction
Al Douglas, BSc., MBA, President, Climate Risk Institute
Jeanette Southwood, FCAE, FEC, LL.D. (h.c.), P.Eng., IntPE, Vice-President, Corporate Affairs and Strategic Partnerships
Joey Taylor, M.Sc., PMP, Manager, Public Affairs