



Attn: Health / Science / Technology / Business / Lifestyle Writers and/or Editors

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Engineers look beyond own profession to address critical challenges facing Canada today**

**MONTREAL (Thursday, May 21, 2009)** – The Canadian Engineering profession has heard the call from experts and have committed to address key issues facing Canadians and their country. The Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum (Leadership Forum) signed a memorandum of understanding today formalizing their collaboration as they work together to ensure a safer, cleaner, healthier and more competitive Canada. The Leadership Forum brings together representatives from Engineers Canada, the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Association of Canadian Engineering Companies, the National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science, and the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students.

“Engineering plays a largely hidden, but vital role, in almost every aspect of society,” said Dick Fletcher, FEC, P.Eng., chair of the Leadership Forum. “Our organizations are partnering to optimize the value and effectiveness of the engineering profession as it supports Canada and its needs that evolve in the increasingly global society in which we live.”

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the first-ever National Engineering Summit, titled *Leading a Canadian Future – The New Engineer in Society*, which brought together representatives from a broad range of sectors and disciplines. For three days, Summit participants attended presentations and discussions on healthcare, the environment, safety and security, global competitiveness and quality of life. With major demographic, social, technological and environmental changes expected over the next 10 years and beyond, the goal of the Summit was to see how engineering can best serve the public interest and determine the new engineer’s role in society.

To mark the end of the Summit, a closing statement was presented to the participants declaring the profession’s commitments in innovation, sustainable development, educational engagements and public policy development. This statement came as a result of presentations by engineers and key experts in all areas that impact Canadians.

"For the first time, engineers have turned to other professions to hear from them how engineers can be enablers," said Pat Quinn, P.Eng., chair of the Engineering Summit Organizing Committee. "Engineers want to play a vital role in our societal development that will drive economic progress, enhance social and physical infrastructures, and inspire the changes that improve our quality of life."

The Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum will play a central role in enabling the profession to achieve these ends – providing direction and fostering collaboration.

### **About Engineers Canada**

Engineers Canada is the Secretariat for the Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum (CELF) and is the national organization of the 12 provincial and territorial associations that regulate the practice of engineering in Canada and license the country's more than 160,000 professional engineers.

**For more information please contact:**

Aurélie Walsh  
Blueprint Public Relations  
(613) 237-7400 Ext. 23 / cell (613) 797-4259  
[aurelie@blueprintpr.ca](mailto:aurelie@blueprintpr.ca)