

## THE PROFESSION'S POSITION

Where engineering work is being performed, it is in the public interest that a professional engineer be involved.

Legislation that speaks to engineering work, regardless of whether it is a federal or provincial statute, should require the involvement of a professional engineer.

Incorporating professional engineers' accountability into federal and provincial legislation and regulation weaves the engineering regulatory process into the fabric of government and keeps Canadians safe.

### Issue

Public safety is at risk when professional engineers are not involved in the implementation of a wide range of legislation and regulations that require the application of engineering principles.

In addition to the obvious, such as legislation and regulations governing infrastructure, transportation, resource development and manufacturing, there are other areas where the need for the involvement of engineers is less apparent but no less critical.

### What Engineers Canada Has Done

Engineers Canada participates in consultations on legislation and regulations that impacts the work that engineers do, or address activities that could involve engineering work.

We have built open working relationships with key government departments, both with elected officials and senior public servants. Departments include:

- Environment Canada,
- Natural Resources Canada,
- Transport Canada,
- Infrastructure Canada

Engineers Canada is providing an experienced regulatory perspective on legislation and policy where professional engineers are already identified.

### The Railway Safety Act

Engineers Canada and Professional Engineers of Ontario proposed changes to the Section 11 of the *Railway Safety Act* that would continue to protect public safety by requiring a professional engineer to approve all engineering work. As a result the section was changed and now reads "All Engineering work relating to railway works must be approved by a professional engineer."

### Consistency in federal broadcast, radio and telecom policies

Engineers Canada research has shown that recognition of the role of professional engineers is not consistently communicated across federal government departments, agencies, and companies involved in broadcast, radio, and telecom. Engineers Canada is working with Industry Canada to ensure that the public is protected by the consistent application of safety and siting procedures that require professional engineers to be involved.

### What the Federal Government Can Do

The federal government must ensure that any legislation or regulations that refer to engineering work require the involvement of a professional engineer, in accordance with provincial and territorial engineering acts.

## How Engineers Canada Will Contribute

Engineers Canada will:

- Actively identify opportunities to include requirements to use engineers within federal legislation and regulations where such involvement would be in the public interest;
- Request that decision-makers ensure that “demand-side legislation” – legislation or regulations that require the certification of projects and works by an engineer – retains explicit references to engineers and engineering in the interest of public safety;
- Monitor the government agenda, legislative initiatives and proposed regulations to bring recommendations on demand-side legislation to the attention of government; and
- Engineers Canada will continue to work with engineers in the public service to promote the value of appropriate professional involvement.

## What Provincial and Territorial Regulators Do

Provincial and territorial regulators:

- Will continue to hold all professional engineers publicly accountable for their work;
- Work collaboratively with provincial and local governments to ensure engineering professionals are appropriately referenced in demand side legislation; and
- Work collaboratively with provincial and local governments to develop practise guidelines for their members and licensees.