

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION'S POSITION

- Engaging and consulting with licensed engineers, be they government employed engineers or consultants, is essential when ensuring that Canadians receive the best possible value from the federal government's engineering related procurements of goods and services.
- All engineering decisions that are required throughout the federal procurement process must be made by a licensed engineer.
- Federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments should consult and collaborate with the engineering profession on government procurement decisions related to engineering for the benefit of public safety, the economy, the environment and for the well-being of communities across Canada.

The challenge(s)

Procurement is defined as the process of obtaining services or goods from providers.¹ In 2015, the Government of Canada purchased \$16.05 billion worth of goods and services on behalf of federal agencies and departments, making it the largest purchaser of public goods and services that year.²

The issue remains that there are large-scale collaboration gaps between the government and the regulated professions—specifically the engineering profession—in the current competitive and non-competitive procurement processes in Canada. These gaps often cause licensed engineers to be excluded from making important engineering decisions.

Yet licensed engineers have an important role to play within the procurement process in Canada.

In order to protect public safety, economic interests and the natural environment, Engineers Canada strongly believes that licensed engineers must be involved in:

1. Preparing engineering documents to be used for construction or project implementation;
2. Supervising projects;
3. Preparing tender documents agreements throughout the procurement process; and
4. Assisting throughout the procurement process where engineering decisions are required.

How Engineers Canada Has Contributed:

Engineering decisions on procurement for projects and services must be made by licensed engineers. Departments and agencies within the Government of Canada want the best value for their procurement project requirements. With this in mind, it is important for engineering services to be seen as an investment—not as an expense.

Finally, Engineers Canada participates in consultations on legislation and regulations that impact the work of engineers and addresses activities that could involve engineering work. Engineers Canada will continue to build open working relationships with the federal government and key government departments to ensure that engineers are directly involved with decision-making throughout the federal procurement process.

Recommendations to the Federal Government :

The federal government must ensure that engineering decisions are made by licensed engineers. This will ensure public safety and welfare, and promote innovation³.

The federal government should also:

- Actively collaborate with the engineering profession throughout all phases of the procurement process;
- Ensure that every engineering decision required on a Government of Canada procurement project is made by a licensed engineer; and

How Engineers Canada Will Contribute

Engineers Canada will continue to:

- Participate in formal government consultations and national round tables, and will continue to appear before House of Commons standing committees in order to advance the inclusion of licensed engineering decision makers during the federal governments engineering related procurement processes;
 - Provide advice and proposed language surrounding the federal governments engineering related procurement processes to facilitate the development of legislation and federal regulatory frameworks that promote innovation and productivity within procurement projects; and
 - Continue to work with governments and engineering regulators to promote and educate the federal government and other levels of government on the importance of including engineers at all stages of the federal procurement process.
- 1 *Government of Canada – Office of the Procurement Ombudsman (2016). “Frequently Asked Questions.” <http://opo-boa.gc.ca/faq-eng.html>.*
 - 2 *Government of Canada - Public Works and Government Services Canada (2015). “The Procurement Process.” <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/for-businesses/selling-to-the-government-of-canada/the-procurement-process>.*
 - 3 *Please refer to Engineers Canada’s National Position Statement for its official position on Qualification-Based Selection; <https://engineerscanada.ca/public-policy/national-position-statements>*