

## FEDERAL BUDGET 2014 ANALYSIS

### Engineers Canada's Federal Budget Priorities

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Engineers Canada had hoped to see the following in Economic Action Plan 2014:

- Allocation of \$4 million of the Building Canada Fund to promote the use of risk assessments by infrastructure owners to ensure that new and existing projects can withstand extreme weather.
- Coordinated spending of \$19 million of previously allocated funds to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

### Infrastructure

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Economic Action Plan 2014 included:

- \$200 million over 5 years to create the National Disaster Mitigation Program to support investment in structural mitigation measures that will reduce the impact of severe natural disasters.
- \$40 million over 5 years for natural disaster mitigation for First Nations communities.
- Over \$1 billion allocated for the construction of a new bridge over the St. Lawrence River and a new Windsor-Detroit International Crossing, and the rehabilitation of Montreal bridges.
- Over \$700 million allocated for transportation infrastructure in Northern Canada.

Engineers Canada:

- Recognizes the importance of the new investments in disaster mitigation. We will work with Public Safety, Natural Resources Canada and other stakeholders to ensure that these funds are applied to both proactive measures, such as undertaking risk assessments like the Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee Protocol and ensuring professional engineers are involved in reactive measures.
- Believes the inclusion of disaster mitigation projects in the new Building Canada Plan is a positive step toward keeping Canadian communities safe.
- Supports long-term investment in public infrastructure across Canada and hopes that the additional investments in Canada's bridges and northern infrastructure will be undertaken with the need for long-term asset management in mind.

## Skills and Foreign Credential Recognition

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Economic Action Plan 2014 included:

- \$40 million over 2 years will be allocated for up to 3000 full-time internships, with \$30 million provided to the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program.
- \$14 million over 2 years to implement the Expression of Interest system to Canada's immigration process, with \$4.7 million provided per year for the operation of the system.

Engineers Canada:

- Welcomes the new investment in internships and hopes to see engineers participate actively in the program. These internships can provide valuable experience that can put engineers on the path to licensure and a commitment to protecting the public.
- Is pleased to see funds committed to the implementation of the Expression of Interest system. We have worked with the federal government and our members to develop best practices through the Canadian Framework for Licensure and the Competency-Based Assessment Project, and to provide better information to prospective immigrants about licensure through our Roadmap to Engineering in Canada. These proactive measures will help Engineers Canada's members support the Government's goal of connecting skilled professionals to the needs of employers, while continuing to uphold the public interest.

## Research and Development

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Economic Action Plan 2014 included:

- \$46 million per year to support advanced research and scientific discoveries, including \$15 million per year to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

Engineers Canada:

- Was pleased to see ongoing support for the work of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. We believe that governments, academia, and other stakeholders have a joint role to play in promoting research, development and innovation.

## **Women and Engineering**

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Economic Action Plan 2014 included:

- \$150,000 in 2014–15 to Status of Women Canada to promote mentorship among women entrepreneurs.

Engineers Canada:

- Believes that diversity in professions and business makes for a stronger, more sustainable workforce. Engineers Canada is committed to promoting engineering as a profession of choice for women.