



CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS: PROTECTING CANADIANS SINCE 1920

THE ISSUE: HOW THE PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING IS REGULATED

The practice of engineering is the application of engineering principles to activities with the potential to affect public safety, the public interest or the environment. It includes such activities as planning, designing, composing, evaluating, advising, reporting, directing, supervising, or managing any of the foregoing.

The practice of engineering is regulated under similar legislation in each province and territory. Each Act makes a single regulatory body responsible for the practice of engineering within its borders. Simple. Clear. Well defined.

For some provinces and territories it has been this way since 1920, an effective and successful model that has come to be respected and admired by other professions in Canada and around the world.

Serving the public, regulators in each jurisdiction carry out vital functions at no cost to taxpayers. They include:

- confirming the qualifications of individuals before licensing them to practice engineering
- enforcing the legislation so that individuals do not practice engineering without a licence, misuse protected titles, or use any titles that might mislead the public
- supporting continuing competence and lifelong learning
- addressing issues of members' professional and ethical conduct

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

A civilized society depends on its infrastructure, which is a product of engineering. The existing model of one Act, one regulator in each jurisdiction, allows members of the engineering team to work efficiently and effectively together to their fullest potential. In turn, we all benefit from the skills, education and experience each of them brings to the engineering team.

It is in the public's best interest to sustain the one Act, one regulator in each jurisdiction model, so that those practising engineering meet an appropriate and consistent high standard of education and experience.

WHAT THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION HAS DONE TO DATE

The engineering profession is open to everyone who can meet the criteria for licensure. This is as true for technologists and for international engineering graduates as it is for graduates of Canadian accredited engineering programs. It is a ladder approach to professional licensing in which all take responsibility according to the level of their education and experience.

Some provinces and territories have implemented a licence that allows qualified non-engineering professionals to be responsible for engineering practice within a defined limited scope of practice; others are considering a similar category of licensure. This is further evidence of the openness and flexibility of engineering regulators to enable those with special expertise to practice to their full potential.

HOW THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION CONTRIBUTES TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The existing one Act, one regulator, model of engineering regulation is inclusive, open to change and able to provide graduated and appropriate levels of professional responsibility. It supports accredited engineering graduates, international engineering graduates, technologists and related professions. Moreover, because of its simplicity, the current regulatory model for engineering in Canada embodies the principles of transparency, accountability, and enhanced public safety, while providing consistency across the country. It has an enviable record of success.

The engineering team concept it enables has fostered an environment where Canadians continue to enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living.

Canada's 160,000 professional engineers, together with the thousands of others who work with them on engineering teams, apply their skills, knowledge and experience for the benefit of all Canadians. They contribute to our quality of life by safeguarding the public's well-being where engineering is concerned, and also serve as a catalyst to wealth creation, continued prosperity and a healthy environment.

PROFESSION'S POSITION

- It is in the public's interest to maintain the current Canadian regulatory model for the practice of engineering, which relies on one Act and one regulatory body within provincial and territorial jurisdictions, to promote transparency and accountability.
- The existing regulatory model is simple, clear, well defined, open to change, proven, and able to provide graduated and appropriate levels of professional responsibility.
- The public is best served by having those taking responsibility for engineering practice meet an appropriate and consistent high standard of education and experience, with one body determining standards of practice.

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