

THE ENGINEERING 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.

The challenge(s)

Public safety is at risk when professional engineers are not involved in the development and implementation of a wide range of legislation and regulations that require the application of engineering principles. Although the involvement of engineers is often sought in the development of 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, such as research, technology, and innovation.

How Engineers Canada has contributed

Engineers Canada knows the importance of actively engaging with the federal government regarding public consultations on legislation and regulations that impact the work that engineers do, and address activities that could involve engineering work. We have built strong and open working relationships with the federal government, both with parliamentarians and senior federal officials. Because of these efforts, Engineers Canada, with our members, have proposed changes to existing legislation. For example, Engineers Canada and Professional Engineers of Ontario proposed changes to the Section 11 of the *Railway Safety Act*¹ 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."

Engineers Canada will continue to build working relationships with key federal departments, both with elected officials and senior public servants, to provide an experienced regulatory perspective on federal legislation and policy.

Recommendations to the federal government

The federal government should:

- 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.
- Adopt a government wide policy to ensure that engineering work be performed by individuals who are licensed to do so, thereby encouraging compliance with professional regulatory legislation.

How Engineers Canada will contribute

Engineers Canada will continue to:

- Actively identify opportunities to provide input from engineers within federal legislation and regulations where such involvement would be in the public interest.
- Request that decision-makers ensure that demand-side legislation retains explicit references to engineers and engineering in the interest of public safety across Canada.
- Monitor the government agenda, legislative initiatives, and proposed regulations to bring recommendations on demand-side legislation to the attention of government.

In addition, 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.

¹ Government of Canada (2019). "Railway Safety Act." Retrieved August 12, 2019 from: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/r-r-4.2/>.