



CANADIAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
CONSEIL CANADIEN DES INGÉNIEURS

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NEWS RELEASE

Engineers Call for Sustained Infrastructure Funding

October 4, 2006, Ottawa (Ontario) – The overpass collapse in Laval, Quebec, which killed five, strengthens the engineering profession's call for a long-term approach to infrastructure funding. "It is unfortunate that it takes events such as that of September 30 to get Canadians to pay attention to issues such as infrastructure renewal and maintenance. Our thoughts are with the families of the victims," says Marie Lemay, P.Eng., ing., Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE). "Hopefully this tragic event did not happen in vain and we, as a society, will learn from it and make the conscious decision to re-invest in infrastructure using a long-term, holistic approach as well as life-cycle management guidelines."

Ms. Lemay added that long-term adequate financial resources are needed from all levels of government in order to support a sustainable and planned approach over the full life cycle of any infrastructure project.

For the past three years, CCPE has taken a leadership role in calling for the creation of a National Round Table on Sustainable Infrastructure (NRTSI), an independent, multi-stakeholder, advisory body that aims to facilitate decision-making on sustainable infrastructure.

With an initial focus on public works, the NRTSI would bring together an important, yet highly diverse community of more than 35 representatives of organisations, including all orders of government.

"The NRTSI can provide a broad perspective that can draw upon the expertise of a range of stakeholders from both inside and outside government," noted Ms. Lemay.

Ms. Lemay added that there is a need to re-educate Canadians on the importance of infrastructure maintenance and the urgent need to invest in renewing the roads, sewers, and water systems on which we rely daily. Construction of newer buildings and roads are often signs of economic prosperity in a community. Infrastructure renewal is not as appealing to tax payers who often only see continuous increase in their taxes.

CCPE is the national organization of the 12 provincial and territorial associations/ordre that regulate the practice of engineering in Canada and license the country's more than 160,000 professional engineers.

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