

# REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING IN CANADA

engineerscanada



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## Issue

Canada has developed an effective and globally respected regulatory model for the practice of engineering that has been protecting Canadians since 1920.

## Why Is This Important?

Sound engineering principles affect public health, safety and welfare, as well as the public interest and the environment. A prosperous society depends on its infrastructure and its electrical and mechanical systems, which are products of engineering. It is in the public's interest that the practice of engineering be regulated to ensure that individuals practising engineering meet an appropriate and consistent high standard of education and experience.

In Canada, the practice of engineering is regulated under similar provincial or territorial legislation. Each act makes a single regulatory body responsible for the practice of engineering within its borders.

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

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

The existing model of one act, one regulator in each jurisdiction, allows members of the engineering team to work efficiently together to their fullest potential. In turn, all Canadians benefit from their skills, education and experience.

## What Has Engineers Canada Done To Date?

Engineers Canada recognizes the need for engineers to be self-regulating and we work closely with our member associations within that regulatory model.

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 practise to their full potential.

## How Can Engineers Canada Contribute?

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.

Canada's more than 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.

## THE 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.*

Last updated: November 2007