

NEWS RELEASE

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Engineers Canada Pleased Infrastructure and Innovation Rank High in Federal Government's Plans

Ottawa, Ontario, June 7, 2011 — Canada's engineering profession welcomes the federal government's commitment to work with other levels of government and stakeholders on a long-term vision for infrastructure in Canada, as well as an innovation strategy.

On June 3, 2011, the Governor General of Canada David Johnston delivered the Speech from the Throne, outlining the federal government's priorities for the next four years. On June 6, 2011, Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty presented the 2011 federal budget.

"We are pleased with the government's commitment in the 2011 federal budget to addressing existing and future infrastructure gaps," said Engineers Canada Chief Executive Officer Chantal Guay, ing., P.Eng., M.Env. "We look forward to working with them to develop a national vision on infrastructure that will help improve the quality of life of Canadians."

Along with a commitment to work with stakeholders on a national vision for infrastructure, the federal government also intends to table legislation that will ensure a permanent annual investment of \$2 billion in the Gas Tax Fund.

Engineers Canada was also pleased that the federal government intends to develop a funding strategy for research and development and innovation that will encourage long-term commitments and partnerships across sectors. This will be achieved with increased or new funding for emerging and key technologies through funding councils and post-secondary institutions, the creation of new Canada Excellence Research chairs, the support for partnerships between business and colleges, and the creation of a digital economy strategy.

"We are pleased that the federal government has recognized that in order for Canada to achieve a sustainable economy that is accessible, reliable and globally competitive, they need to provide consistent investment in research and development and innovation," said Ms. Guay.

In addition, Engineers Canada applauds the budget's proposal to amend the Tuition Tax Credit to recognize fees paid to a professional association for the exams required for licensure for all those who are eligible to take the exams.

This proposed tax credit, along with the government's intent to promote enrolment in post-secondary science, technology, engineering and math programs, demonstrates a real commitment to fostering the highly-skilled and qualified talent the country needs to compete, and will also continue the significant work done by the federal government, and Engineers Canada and its constituent associations.

These investments will help in the pursuit of a strong, diverse, and modern economy to help improve the quality of life for Canadians.

Engineers Canada is the national organization of the 12 provincial and territorial associations that regulate the practice of engineering in Canada and license the country's more than 234,000 members of the engineering profession. Engineers Canada is the business name of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers.

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