

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Engineers Canada Supports Conclusions of Expert Panel on Federal Support to Research and Development

Ottawa, ON, October 18, 2011 – Engineers Canada welcomes the Independent Panel on Federal Support to Research Development’s report, *Innovation Canada: A Call to Action*, which was submitted today to the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for Science and Technology.

The report recommends establishing a clear federal voice for innovation through a single minister, and to work with the provinces to improve coordination and impact.

According to the panel, the creation of the Industrial Research and Innovation Council (IRIC) will simplify the process by streamlining the federal government’s approach to delivering its business innovation programs worth \$5 billion in research and development annually.

“Streamlining the federal research and development process will not only enhance the country’s economy and Canadians’ quality of life, but also increase public safety by ensuring new technologies are introduced with the appropriate ethical and regulatory mechanisms in place,” says Chantal Guay, ing., P.Eng., M.Env., chief executive officer of Engineers Canada. “A clear federal voice on R&D will help our economy grow, as businesses will have a simpler funding system to navigate, increasing the opportunity for business innovation.”

The report also calls for federal, academic, provincial and industrial collaboration to ensure appropriate training and recruitment of talented and innovative Canadians; an immigration system that focuses on in-demand skill sets; and the simplification of the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit program. Engineering design and operations research projects are eligible for the SR&ED program.

“We are very pleased to see that the panel focussed on these important issues, as they are key drivers in fostering an environment for innovation in Canada,” said Ms. Guay. “Our hope is that the federal government will move forward on these recommendations. Engineers are at the forefront of innovation, and are always at the ready to contribute to research and development. ”

- 30 -

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.

For more information, contact:

William Meyer, Manager, Communications

Engineers Canada

613-232-2474, ext. 249

will.meyer@engineerscanada.ca