

▶ 2009 PRE-BUDGET PRESENTATION  
AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

▶ ALBERTA WINS BGE MEET YOUR  
M.P. SUMMER 2009 CONTEST

# ENGINEERING<sup>\*</sup> *on the Hill*

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**REPORTING ON ISSUES ON PARLIAMENT HILL OF INTEREST TO THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION**

## **ENGINEERS CANADA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHANTAL GUAY, ing., P.Eng., M.Env., APPEARS AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

On October 9, 2009, Engineers Canada chief executive officer Chantal Guay, ing., P.Eng., M.Env., appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, as part of the government's pre-budget consultations. Ms. Guay took forward three key recommendations:

1. Continued support for the National Round Table on Sustainable Infrastructure, which provides long-term best practices in infrastructure planning and national asset management that are invaluable in assisting decision-makers on how best to ensure that Canada's highway systems and bridges, water systems and sewers continue to contribute to our safety, quality of life and prosperity.
2. Provision of sustained funding commitments for existing shared initiatives that are assessing the impacts of climate change on key infrastructure. The Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee is an example of such an initiative.
3. Consistent government investment in research, development and innovation across Canada, in universities, throughout government and industry. Research, development and innovation will ensure economic prosperity and quality of life for our citizens. In instances where innovation intersects with the practice of engineering, engineers are well positioned to provide expertise in the development of controls to ensure public safety.

Several questions were raised, including what key deliverables Engineers Canada expects from the National Round Table on Sustainable Infrastructure, and how best to prioritize funding commitments between pure research or applied research.

## **Parliament Prorogued Until March 3, 2010**

On Wednesday, December 30, 2009, the second session of the 40<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Canada was prorogued. On March 3, 2010, a Speech from the Throne will open the third session.

Prorogation brings to an end all parliamentary business that was unfinished, including bills that have not received Royal Assent, committee hearings and reports, and most other motions. All members of the House are released from parliamentary duties and may be back in their ridings. This is a great opportunity for BGE volunteers to reach out to their local members of Parliament!

The Speech from the Throne in March will signal the government's direction for the course of the next session of Parliament and provide some insight on what the March 4, 2010 federal budget may focus on.

## BGE "Meet Your MP" Summer Contest Winners



Raj Rajan, P.Eng., Ph.D., FEC

**Sherwood Park (Alberta)** - Raj Rajan, Bridging Government and Engineers volunteer since June 2009, met with his federal member of Parliament Tim Uppal on August 26, 2009.

After introductions were made, Mr. Rajan spoke briefly about the role of Engineers Canada and the goals of the BGE program nationwide.

Mr. Rajan spoke directly about several local issues which are of interest to him and the province of Alberta: energy, the environment and the economy.

Mr. Uppal, member of Parliament for Edmonton – Sherwood Park, mentioned how glad he was to learn about the role that Engineers Canada plays vis-à-vis the federal government. He recalled that he attended Engineers Canada's annual Picnic on the Hill event, held in the East Block court yard on Parliament Hill in June before the House breaks for the summer recess.

A copy of the leave behind kit was provided to Mr. Uppal, where he indicated that he was looking forward to future meetings with Mr. Rajan and working together with Engineers Canada on common goals.

Mr. Leo Flaman, P.Eng

**Calgary (Alberta)** – On July 15, 2009, Bridging Government and Engineers volunteer Leo Flaman held a meeting with his federal member of Parliament and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Jason Kenney.

Mr. Flaman admitted to tapping into Mr. Kenney's issues and interests through the member of Parliament's personal Twitter blog, to potentially identify any issues related to engineering and his home riding.

Mr. Flaman called attention to the Bridging Government and Engineers leave behind kit and also mentioned the valuable presence that Engineers Canada has in Ottawa. He further encouraged Minister Kenney to contact Engineers Canada chief executive officer, Chantal Guay, M. Eng., ing., P.Eng., whenever he required information or material on matters pertaining to the engineering profession.



Congratulations to both Leo and Raj, and the province of Alberta, for their participation in the BGE "Meet Your MP" Summer Contest!!!!