

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

▶ PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
▶ DIGITAL ECONOMY SUBMISSION

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

## Engineers Canada and the Assembly of First Nations sign partnership agreement

On July 22, 2010, the Assembly of First Nations and Engineers Canada signed a statement of partnership to help promote the engineering profession among indigenous youth. The statement encourages the Assembly of First Nations and Engineers Canada to work collaboratively to develop materials and initiatives to increase the awareness of young indigenous people about career possibilities in engineering. As a result of the statement of partnership, Engineers Canada will also work with the Assembly of First Nations and other agencies to enhance opportunities for First Nations youth to pursue the education required for a career in engineering.



*Engineers Canada President Zaki Ghavitian, and the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Atleo sign the statement of partnership.*

## Engineers Canada engages with government

In July, Engineers Canada submitted several recommendations to Industry Canada on the digital economy. The consultation process was announced in May, and was conducted through an online process. The document made several recommendations that focused on consistent funding in research and development, ensuring the safety and reliability of emerging technologies and processes, and supporting improvements to the foreign credential recognition system, and ongoing professional development. To view the submission, please visit <http://de-en.gc.ca/2010/07/22/innovation-and-accountability-a-response-to-the-government-of-canada%E2%80%99s-digital-economy-consultation-paper/>

In August, Engineers Canada submitted its annual pre-budget recommendations to the Standing Committee on Finance. This year's recommendations focused on research and development and innovation spending, sustainable investments in infrastructure and climate change.

## Parliamentary summer wrap-up and fall forecast

A July decision by the current government to change how it collects detailed demographic data during the 2011 Census created quite a stir. Engineers Canada flagged concerns about the reliability of data collected through a voluntary survey, rather than the previously used mandatory long census form, traditionally received by one-third of Canadian households.

In August, Prime Minister Harper shuffled his Cabinet, appointing Minister John Baird as Leader of the Government in the House of Commons. Minister Chuck Strahl took over for Minister Baird at Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities and former Parliamentary Secretary (INAC) John Duncan was appointed Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. Engineers Canada looks forward to working with the ministers in their new roles.

It is difficult to say what the fall parliamentary session will bring. As always in a minority government situation, there is ongoing speculation about a fall election. In an interesting development that could change how policy is developed by the government, Prime Minister Harper has set up committees within the Conservative caucus to provide advice to ministers on key policy areas.

Now is a great time to do a bit of research into the issues that your member of Parliament has been following this summer – has the census been a big issue in your riding? Are infrastructure projects continuing to keep your local member engaged?

## BGE training webinar – September 22, 2010

**Are you a BGE trainee? Looking for a refresher? Tune into the Bridging Government and Engineers training webinar on *September 22, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. EST*. Details will be forwarded shortly to BGE volunteers!**

**Have you updated your contact information with Engineers Canada?**

Contact us at [government.relations@engineerscanada.ca](mailto:government.relations@engineerscanada.ca) or visit [https://bge.engineerscanada.ca/index\\_e.cfm](https://bge.engineerscanada.ca/index_e.cfm) for a contact form!