



From the office of the Chief Executive Officer / Du cabinet du chef de la direction

June 12, 2020

Sherry Romanado, M.P.
Chair, House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

Dear Ms. Romanado:

As governments grapple with an unprecedented global health crisis, it is undeniable that the federal government has started to focus its attention towards rebuilding Canada's economy. While the federal government continues to respond to the most pressing public health concerns, Engineers Canada would like to extend its assistance and offer recommendations to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology regarding its current study on the Canadian response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that future economic recovery measures bring prosperity to all Canadians.

Engineers Canada is the national organization that represents the 12 provincial and territorial engineering regulators that license the more than 300,000 members of the engineering profession in Canada. As the only national voice for the engineering profession, our organization has a long-standing history of working and collaborating with the federal government in order to help inform and develop legislation, regulations, and policies.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, engineers—as part of listed essential services—have been playing a crucial role in supporting frontline workers and communities across Canada. Engineers possess the skillset for innovative solutions to flourish in complex global situations, such as the design of personal protective equipment or the development of diagnostic tools to effectively screen large populations. They also play an important role in developing infrastructure that can mitigate COVID-19 exposure such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, physical distancing design, and others. Engineers will continue supporting Canadians by playing an important role in the immediate and short-, and long-term economic recovery of Canada.

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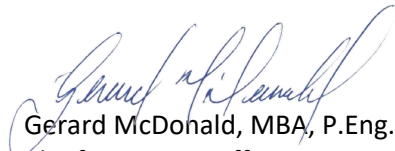
Engineers Canada was encouraged to see the federal government's recent announcement to mobilize key industries to support economic recovery, as well as support 'shovel-ready' public infrastructure projects to stimulate the Canadian economy once current COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. With infrastructure and technological advancements being a cornerstone of effective economic stimulus, it becomes vital that the federal government consult with engineers as economic recovery plans are developed. Public safety will be at risk if engineers are not involved in the development and implementation of a wide range of legislation and regulations in the coming months.

Engineers Canada would like to offer the following recommendations to the members of the standing committee. We recommend that:

- The federal government kick-start the economy through the acceleration of projects promised in the [Investing in Canada Plan](#) and other federal-provincial legacy programs from recent years into the next two or three years. By accelerating project approvals, jobs will be created, and the economy will continue to be supported. In addition, engineers must be consulted for projects promised in the *Investing in Canada Plan*. It is important that individuals performing assessments for these projects do so with high levels of technical skills, ethics, and accountability. Public confidence and safety are at risk when engineers are not involved in the development and implementation of a wide range of regulations that require the application of engineering principles.
- The federal government invest in research and development (R&D), and innovation in Canada. The technology sector is a key driver of Canada's economic competitiveness on the global stage and will form an important part of Canada's recovery post-COVID-19. Engineers are at the forefront of many technology companies and are key drivers of innovation.
- The federal government continue to invest in green infrastructure as a recovery strategy to help benefit both the economy post-COVID-19, as well as to deliver on Canada's climate commitments. In 2018, green building activity contributed approximately \$48 billion towards Canada's GDP—an increase of 50 per cent in four years. Investing in green infrastructure has proven to offer both high economic returns and a positive climate impact.
- The federal government must continue to support diversity and inclusion initiatives in infrastructure projects across Canada. In May 2020, Statistics Canada reported that 1.5 million women disproportionately lost their jobs over a two-month period when compared to men. With women making up approximately half of Canada's workforce, it is imperative that the federal government continue to support diversity and inclusion initiatives, such as Engineers Canada's [30 by 30 initiative](#), to kick-start the economy post-COVID-19.

Ms. Romanado, COVID-19 is testing the resilience and adaptability of governments, industries, and societies across the globe. The federal government's willingness to coordinate and collaborate with key stakeholders, particularly the engineering profession, is essential to Canada's economic recovery. The engineering profession is ready and willing to provide transparent, accountable, and credible work to the federal government's economic initiatives. Our past involvement with the federal government demonstrates how we can constructively engage and support your efforts. Engineers Canada would like to thank the members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology for the opportunity to provide our comments on the Canadian response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Gerard McDonald, MBA, P.Eng., ICD.D
Chief Executive Officer

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