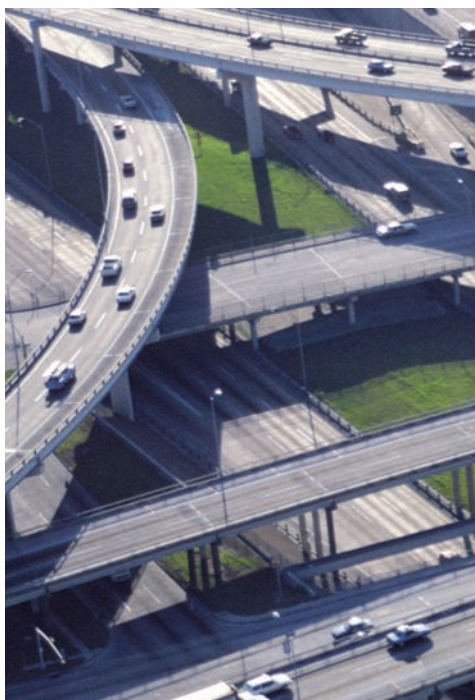


concept

Prosperity requires a healthy environment, safe drinking water, efficient transportation and reliable energy systems.

Engineering Canada's Future

Infrastructure Recovery: National Planning and the Right Engineering Needed



Canadian engineers design our nation's vital infrastructure.

Canada has committed billions to renew its infrastructure. To ensure Canadians get the best value for this significant investment, Canada now needs a well coordinated plan developed by the three levels of government and the relevant stakeholders. In rebuilding its infrastructure, Canada must also make the strategic decision to choose the right professional consulting engineers who will provide infrastructure solutions and design the systems. This is vital because the right engineering at the beginning will determine the success of our infrastructure investments over many decades.

Infrastructure: Backbone of our Economy

Infrastructure is the backbone our nation's economy. Prosperity requires a healthy environment, safe drinking water, efficient transportation and reliable energy systems. In past decades, however, Canada has underinvested in infrastructure resulting in a growing infrastructure deficit that is jeopardizing our prosperity and competitiveness.



Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada
Association des ingénieurs-conseils du Canada

The Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC) represents the private sector engineering companies in Canada. Consulting engineering is a \$10 billion industry in Canada, with 30% of revenue coming from international work. The industry employs over 50,000 people.

A Man of Action; In Canada and Abroad



Wayne Bowes, P.Eng. is this year's recipient of the Beaubien Award, the highest recognition presented annually by the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC) for individual

lifetime achievements and contribution to the engineering industry and to the Association.

Mr. Bowes has a record of exceptional contributions to both the ACEC and FIDIC (the International Federation of Consulting Engineers based in Geneva), and accomplishments in the field of engineering. He served as Chair of the Board of ACEC and was also the first Canadian elected as President of FIDIC. At FIDIC, Mr. Bowes was instrumental in developing the Quality Management Guide, a principal drafter of the interpretative Guide to ISO 9000 and the FIDIC Strategic Plan. He has been a key driver in FIDIC during the last ten years and helped set it on its current course of activity.

Graduating from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Masters degree in Transportation, Mr. Bowes commenced his engineering career in the mid 1960's with Delcan. As a transportation engineer, he has been a key contributor to the Transportation Association of Canada, serving in many capacities to an organization which has been a key promoter of excellence in transportation design and construction.

In volunteer activities, Mr. Bowes has been involved with Scouts Canada and the Edmonton Community Softball League, as well as the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

continued from page 1

With its May 2006 Budget, the Canadian government has resolved to tackle our national infrastructure challenge. Building on the previous federal governments' commitment to infrastructure, the new administration acknowledges the seriousness of the problem and the need for action. Although the \$16.5 billion committed by the federal government over the next five years is a significant step, the renewal of infrastructure requires a long term commitment of 30 to 40 years and permanent support.

The National Roundtable on Sustainable Infrastructure (NRTSI) is the ideal forum for effective long-term planning. The federal government should provide NRTSI with the necessary support. A well established and funded NRTSI can effectively coordinate national efforts on infrastructure renewal.

"Best Practice" for Selecting the Engineer

Long-term value and sustainability requires the right engineering decisions. That is why it is essential that governments adopt the "Best Practice for Selecting a Professional Consultant". This recommended "Best Practice" was recently developed by the National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure (InfraGuide), a federal government initiative bringing together experts to develop a best practice for infrastructure. InfraGuide was founded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the National Research Council and Infrastructure Canada to help municipalities make informed, smart decisions that will sustain our quality of life.

The "Best Practice" places the emphasis on choosing the right team for the right job based on expertise and innovation, and application of the most appropriate technology. The engineer can act as a trusted advisor to help the client improve quality, add value, and maximize return on investments. Engineering fees are generally only 1-2% of the total life-cycle cost of a structure, yet if this 1-2% is wisely invested, governments can save significantly on construction and maintenance costs, which make up the remaining 98-99% of the life-cycle costs. Though engineering fees represent only a modest upfront investment, the impact of engineering decisions will impact the effectiveness of Canada's infrastructure investment for decades.

Recommendation

The Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC) recommends that the federal government:

- 1) Establish predictable long-term funding to support the renewal of the country's infrastructure.***
- 2) Support and fund the operations of a National Roundtable for Sustainable Infrastructure (NRTSI) involving all relevant public and private sector stakeholders, including consulting engineers who are involved in virtually every infrastructure project in the country.***
- 3) Adopt and promote the InfraGuide "Best Practice" for Selecting a Professional Consultant to ensure quality and achieve value for money.***



*Claude Paul Boivin
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