



ACEC Members Adopt Principles for Business Integrity

By way of a resolution passed at its annual general meeting, the members of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) unanimously adopted a Statement of Principles and Policies pertaining to business integrity and transparency. The adopted principles were recommended by an ACEC Task Force led by outgoing ACEC Chair Jason Mewis and are consistent with those of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC).

ACEC Statement of Principles and Policies: Business Integrity and Transparency

The vision of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) is a successful, trusted and sustainable consulting engineering industry. This will be accomplished based upon five principles:

- Delivering value to society as an industry and as a profession
- Providing a national voice for our members
- Promoting integrity and transparency
- Providing strategic leadership
- Promoting quality, innovation and sustainability

ACEC recognizes that consulting engineering firms make a vital contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of people and institutions across Canada and globally. Consequently, consulting engineering firms occupy a unique position of responsibility and trust. The onus is on the consulting engineering sector to live up to this responsibility and trust.

In joining the worldwide effort to combat corruption, ACEC has joined the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) in supporting anti-corruption initiatives, promoting the highest ethical standards, and recommending the development and implementation of best practices in integrity management.

ACEC and FIDIC both advocate the following principle:

The consulting engineering sector has zero tolerance toward bribery, extortion, coercion, fraud, collusion, conflict of interest and activities that may attempt to influence the selection or compensation of the company or affect its impartial judgement.

In keeping with this principle, ACEC further recommends that member firms:

- Formulate and subscribe to an internal Code of Conduct for all employees;
- Develop and implement their own Integrity Management Systems and Best Practices focusing on the prevention of corruption, fraud, collusion, and conflict of interest;

- Recognize that the system must demonstrate the commitment of senior management to integrity and should involve the entire staff;
- Associate themselves only with other companies, organizations and clients that share similar ethical standards;
- Co-operate with clients, stakeholders and authorities including those responsible for regulating professional services which seek to reduce corruption;
- Recommend to their clients the most appropriate procurement process or delivery system, consistent with the demands of the project;
- Notify clients and/or relevant project funding or delivery agencies of any irregularities in procurement; and
- Ensure that their employees and agents are aware of local laws regarding corruption and promptly report criminal behaviour to the proper authorities.

In addition, ACEC will work with its Member Associations to:

- Assist member firms in developing appropriate Integrity Management Systems and Best Practices by providing access to guides, tools, training and general support, recognizing that the required level of detail and complexity may vary among firms;
- Advocate for legislation in their respective jurisdictions aimed at curbing and penalizing corrupt practices;
- Cooperate and collaborate with other organizations, industries and agencies including Engineers Canada which seek to reduce corruption; and
- Determine appropriate responses to any known criminal or unethical behaviour to the proper authorities.

These principles and policies are based in part upon *Guidelines for Integrity Management in the Consulting Industry, Part I – Policies and Principles, 1st Edition* (FIDIC, 2011)