

# Parliamentary Partners 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

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ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA

ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES  
D'INGÉNIEURS-CONSEILS | CANADA

- P**ROTECT CONSULTING ENGINEERS' INTERESTS
- A**RTICULATE CONSULTING ENGINEERS' CONCERNS
- R**EINFORCE PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONSHIPS
- T**ARGET OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INDUSTRY
- N**EUTRALIZE ANTI-BUSINESS INITIATIVES
- E**DUCATE PARLIAMENTARIANS & STAKEHOLDERS
- R**EDUCE GOVERNMENT INTRUSION & RED TAPE
- S**TRENGTHEN CONSULTING ENGINEERS' VOICE TO PARLIAMENT



## PURPOSE

The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada (ACEC) represents over 400 companies across Canada. Throughout the year, ACEC lobbies government on behalf of the industry to create a business and regulatory climate that recognizes and rewards the expertise of its members and their contributions to Canadian society. ACEC is regarded by parliamentarians as the national voice of the consulting engineering sector on business, public policy and regulatory issues.

In addition, ACEC organizes its annual Parliament Hill Day in Ottawa to raise awareness of the issues affecting the consulting engineering industry. This allows ACEC members to meet with parliamentarians of every political party from a variety of regions across the country. This advocacy day is instrumental in delivering the industry's messages to Parliament in the development of public policy. ACEC's Parliament Hill Day has greatly increased the consulting engineering sector's profile and influence with Canada's leading decision makers.

To capitalize on our success working with Parliament, we are inviting you to participate in ACEC's Parliamentary Partners program. Parliamentary Partners strengthens and supports ACEC's activities in Ottawa, by leveraging ACEC members' local connections in their communities year-round. By participating you can help educate your Member of Parliament on important issues on behalf of our industry.

October's federal election brought a tremendous amount of change to Canadian politics and opportunities for consulting engineering companies. We have a new government with open doors and a willingness to invest in priority programs and policies.

On the heels of ACEC's successful #VoteInfrastructure campaign during the federal election, the association has an opportunity to educate new parliamentarians about the importance of our industry to the social, economic and environmental quality of life of Canadians. Our new campaign, #InvestInfrastructure, will be strengthened this year through our Parliamentary Partners program.



Visit [InvestInfrastructure.ca](https://www.investinfrastructure.ca) to learn more!

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The Parliamentary Partners program supports ACEC members at a grassroots level to work and communicate with local Members of Parliament (MPs) and stakeholders in their communities. Developing a relationship is key: whether it be a face to face formal meeting or an invitation to tour your facility or project site, meeting with MPs is essential in establishing and fostering a relationship.

ACEC IS PLEASED TO INVITE ANY MEMBER INTERESTED IN ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF THE INDUSTRY TO JOIN OUR GRASSROOTS EFFORTS AND REGISTER AS AN OFFICIAL PARLIAMENTARY PARTNER.



ACEC will fully prepare Parliamentary Partners volunteers to meet with their local MP. This program will facilitate more frequent communication with MPs on important industry issues throughout the year, not just on Parliament Hill.

Constituent contacts are the most effective way to educate MPs on support for – or opposition to – an issue.

Contacts and relationships developed through the Parliamentary Partners program will become critical to the association's legislative activities and contribute to successful advocacy outcomes.

The Parliamentary Partners program is an effective way of advancing industry issues before Parliament. As a Parliamentary Partner, you will make a substantial contribution to strengthening the consulting engineering industry.

In order to assist Parliamentary Partners with their efforts under this program, the ACEC office will provide periodic updates on legislation and government activities. In addition, a member of the ACEC public affairs staff will be assigned to every Parliamentary Partner and will provide any materials or assistance needed to fulfill the Partner role. This program will continue to grow and be adapted to ensure that industry issues are at the forefront of the government's priorities. ACEC would be honoured to have your participation and we encourage suggestions.

TO JOIN THE PROGRAM, SIMPLY FILL OUT THE VOLUNTEER INFORMATION FORM LOCATED ON PAGE 5. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR INVOLVEMENT AS WE MOVE FORWARD, WORKING WITH PARLIAMENT AS ONE COLLECTIVE VOICE.

## KEY MESSAGES

ACEC will be addressing three issues with parliamentarians this year:

### 1. Consulting engineering is an important industry in Canada

- ACEC is governed by its 400+ members: independent consulting engineering companies, organized into 12 provincial and territorial Member Organizations.
- ACEC member companies collectively employ 75,000 Canadians who provide professional engineering and other related services to both the public and private sector.
- Consulting engineering services include planning, designing and implementing all types of engineering projects, and providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering-related fields.
- Consulting engineering companies directly influence virtually every aspect of quality of life in Canada.
- ACEC promotes a business and regulatory environment that recognizes and rewards our members' expertise and contributions to society.
- We have the expertise to assist the government with policies and business practices that provide value to taxpayers.

### 2. Public infrastructure is an investment in prosperity

- Public infrastructure is critical to our economic, social and environmental quality of life in Canada
- ACEC welcomes the Liberal promise of a \$125 billion investment in infrastructure over the next ten years. ACEC wishes to be part of the discussion with the Minister of Infrastructure and his department on the development of the framework for the new plan.
- ACEC believes that the use of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) of engineering services will result in the best return on infrastructure investments and provide the best value to taxpayers.
- QBS is the recommended best practice for procuring engineering services according to the National Guide for Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure developed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the National Research Council.

### 3. Responsible resource development is critical to Canada's economy

- There is an acute need to access Canada's natural resources and transport these resources to market (minerals, metals and oil/gas resources in particular).
- Lack of northern and remote infrastructure is a barrier to investment by Canada's resource sector.
- The need for resources (both domestic and global) presents an opportunity to strengthen Canada's economy and develop world leading expertise in efficient and responsible resource management and extraction – especially in remote and environmentally sensitive areas.
- ACEC collaborated with the Mining Association of Canada, Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada and NWT Chamber of Mines to study the challenges of doing business in the North and identify strategies to encourage more private investment. Exploration costs vary directly with distance from transportation infrastructure, with the most remote project costing six times that of the least remote project.



## WHAT'S NEXT

You will receive a follow-up phone call from Michael Hatch, ACEC's public affairs consultant, to confirm your participation and to answer any questions you may have. ACEC will then connect with your Member of Parliament to secure a meeting in your riding that is suitable to both of your schedules.

ACEC will provide each Parliamentary Partner with a personalized toolkit including a meeting guide on how to meet with your MP, background issue papers, a personalized MP or candidate biography, tip sheet and feedback form. These resources will properly prepare you for your meeting(s).

We thank you for helping to strengthen our industry and raise its profile and influence with the federal government. We look forward to speaking with you soon!

THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERS PROGRAM WILL ALLOW THE INDUSTRY TO QUICKLY RESPOND TO NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES WHETHER PARLIAMENT IS SITTING OR NOT.

