ACEC Public Policy:
Licensure of Technicians and Technologists
Adopted: March 18, 2013

The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) represents the commercial interests of businesses that provide professional engineering services, to both the public and the private sector. Our members' 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. ACEC is a federation of twelve provincial and territorial associations.

Our Position

- ACEC believes that technicians and technologists are important contributors to the consulting engineering industry
- ACEC believes that allowing appropriately qualified technicians and technologists to perform Professional Engineering within defined scopes of practice can strengthen the consulting engineering sector
- ACEC believes that the regulation of engineering by all practitioners must fall within the same provincial/territorial legislation that defines and regulates the practice of Professional Engineering
- ACEC supports and endorses the process adopted by the Canadian Framework for Licensure, an initiative by engineering regulators to enhance national and international mobility of engineers through adoption of uniform qualifications recognition, admissions and discipline procedures throughout Canada.

Issue

- In some provinces, technicians and technologists are seeking standalone legislation that effectively seeks to licence technicians and technologists to practice some elements of Professional Engineering outside of existing statutes regulating the practice of Professional Engineering.
- The concern with separate legislation allowing technicians and technologists to practice Professional Engineering (even under limited scopes of work) are:
  - Confusion in marketplace and in the public over what is Professional Engineering and by whom it may be practiced
  - Inconsistent scopes of practice among regions may have implications for labour mobility within Canada
  - Inconsistent accountability and enforcement provisions between different legislation may cause inequitable liability between Professional Engineers and technicians and technologists
Background

- ACEC member firms are major employers of engineering technicians and technologists
- Technicians and technologists are important contributors to the consulting engineering industry
- Technicians and technologists have right to title legislation in many Canadian jurisdictions
- Technicians and technologists in some jurisdictions are seeking right to practice legislation for defined scopes of practice that currently fall under the definition of Professional Engineering
- In some provinces, statutes regulating the practice of Professional Engineering allow for technologists to be eligible for Limited Licences that allow them to practice Professional Engineering within a scope defined by the regulator of Professional Engineering in the province. Generally, this appears to be acceptable and perhaps advantageous to the industry.
- Jurisdictions where the licensing body for Professional Engineering has offered technicians and technologists Limited Licences to practice within scopes of practice defined by the licensing body appear to be successful.
- Engineers Canada and the 12 provincial and territorial organizations that regulate Professional Engineering in Canada have developed a policy referred to as the Canadian Framework for Licensure

For more information

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