



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA

ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES  
DE GÉNIE-CONSEIL | CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New conflict of interest guidelines available for consulting engineering services**

### **New ACEC document will offer consistent interpretations of conflict of interest or unfair advantage**

**(Ottawa, ON) – January 23, 2019** – The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) has published a new National Conflict of Interest Guideline to assist consulting engineering firms and their clients in addressing varying and sometimes inconsistent interpretations of conflict of interest or unfair advantage. These inconsistent interpretations often result from increasingly large-scale and complex projects with large interdisciplinary teams.

Perception of conflict of interest or unfair advantage can occur by the very nature of today's megaprojects. For example, consultants and sub-consultants who have been involved at early or previous stages of projects (i.e. planning, environmental assessment, preliminary design, and business planning stages) can be unfairly or inappropriately prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in subsequent phases of the project. Conversely, consultants and sub-consultants may also inadvertently find them in genuine conflict of interest by virtue of previous or existing relationships.

To help manage and mitigate conflict and unfair advantage situations, ACEC has adopted a national guideline based upon a very successful guideline on conflict of interest produced in 2015 by its constituent provincial association Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO) that anticipated these very scenarios. The new guideline has been adapted to address conflict of interest and unfair advantage in a national context and has been expanded to address concerns arising from recent interprovincial and international trade agreements.

Accordingly, this revised and updated national policy provides public and private organizations with a well-defined framework for making informed decisions on a sustainable basis prior to project start and considers not only the benefits to the public and private sector parties involved in infrastructure projects, but also to the community at large.

To view *Conflict of Interest Guidelines for Consulting Engineering Services in Canada - 2019* please visit the [ACEC website](http://www.acec.ca) or click [here](#).

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