



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA

ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES  
DE GÉNIE-CONSEIL | CANADA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Federal Government recognized for modernizing procurement of engineers and architects**

**Qualifications-Based Selection improves quality, innovation and value for money**

**(OTTAWA) October 23, 2018** – The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies (ACEC) is pleased to announce that its 2018 ACEC Chair’s Award has been presented to Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) for spearheading and developing a Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) pilot program for the procurement of engineering and architecture services. This initiative was led by Assistant Deputy Minister of Procurement, Arianne Reza who accepted the award with Michael Mills, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Real Property Services, on behalf of PSPC.

PSPC is evaluating the effectiveness of QBS in achieving better outcomes, more innovation and increased life-cycle savings from its engineering and architectural projects. In July 2018, PSPC issued its first QBS-based Request for Proposal (RFP) which represents a major step forward in the federal government efforts to modernize procurement and provide value to taxpayers.

ACEC applauds PSPC’s leadership and its openness to QBS and its willingness to work with the engineering and architecture sectors. ACEC along with the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada (RAIC) and other stakeholders have been working with PSPC for many months to familiarize key leaders within the federal government on the many benefits of QBS.

“The team at PSPC, led by ADM Arianne Reza, recognized early on the benefits of QBS as a means of procuring engineering and architectural services in the public sector. They made the connection that investing in the right team for the right project at the right price is the first and most crucial step to higher quality, more innovation and increased value for the public sector and for taxpayers,” said ACEC President and CEO John Gamble, P.Eng. “Their pilot project is a great step in the right direction for QBS and shows great leadership by PSPC. We look forward to continuing to work with them and support this initiative.”

This Award is presented each year by the outgoing ACEC Chair to an individual, individuals or organizations who have made an important difference to the consulting engineering industry. This year’s outgoing Chair, Todd Smith, P.Eng., presented the award on Tuesday night in Ottawa at the 2018 Canadian Consulting Engineering (CCE) Awards gala. This gala is the culminating event of the ACEC national leadership conference and industry’s night to award the highest honours for achievements in consulting engineering in Canada.

“PSPC’s willingness to pilot QBS represents a major breakthrough after years of effort by ACEC and its provincial and territorial Member Organizations across Canada,” added outgoing ACEC Chair Todd Smith. This was a team effort and ACEC would also like to thank Toon Dreessen of the RAIC/Ontario Association of Architects, Cal Harrison of QBS Canada and Mark Steiner of the American Council of Engineering Companies for their important roles in achieving this important QBS milestone. ACEC also

thanks its many members and stakeholders that participated in very important consultations by PSPC earlier this year. The strong show of support from the industry was critical to the QBS pilot proceeding.

### **About Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS)**

In accordance with the InfraGuide best-practices document titled Selecting a Professional Consultant, developed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the National Research Council in 2006, QBS is a competitive process for the procurement of professional consulting services based on professional qualifications. Qualifications are submitted to an owner, who evaluates and selects the best-qualified firm or individual(s) for the proposed design, based on its understanding of the assignment and the client's requirements along with its technical qualifications. The selected firm and the owner then jointly refine the final scope of work for the procurement. The consultant's fee and schedule is then negotiated based on the agreed-upon scope of work that will best meet the client's objectives.

### **About PSPC**

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) plays an important role in the daily operations of the Government of Canada as a key provider of services and manager of buildings and physical assets for federal departments and agencies. The department's vision is to excel in government operations, and its mission is to deliver high-quality, central programs and services that ensure sound stewardship on behalf of Canadians and meet the program needs of federal institutions.

### **About ACEC**

ACEC represents companies in Canada that provide professional engineering services to both public and private sector clients. These services include the planning, design and execution of all types of engineering projects, as well as providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering and engineering-related fields. For more information about ACEC and the 2018 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards, please visit [www.acec.ca](http://www.acec.ca).

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