



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA

ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES  
DE GÉNIE-CONSEIL | CANADA



# ACEC Parliamentary Partners

Fall 2020 & Winter 2021



# Parliamentary Partners

**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  
**R**educe red tape  
**S**trengthen consulting engineers' voice  
before Parliament





# Purpose



The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada (ACEC) represents over 400 companies across Canada that provide professional engineering services to both public and private sector clients. 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. ACEC’s Parliament Hill Day has greatly increased the consulting engineering sector’s profile and influence with Canada’s leading decision makers.

While ACEC advocacy efforts have strengthened the organization’s position in Ottawa, meaningful connections at the local level are critical to further grow our political influence. The federal election in October, 2019, brought many new voices to Parliament Hill and created a new dynamic with a minority government in place. Working with MPs from every party is critical in this political environment, and local concerns will be even more influential in the day-to-day workings of Ottawa.

Further, the COVID-19 crisis has forced many Parliamentarians to place an even higher priority on the concerns of businesses in their local communities. ACEC’s Parliamentary Partners program directly engages members in ACEC’s advocacy to demonstrate the effects of government decisions on projects and in communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

Unlike our Parliament Hill Day where participants need to be in Ottawa, the program allows the association to leverage ACEC members’ local connections in their ridings and communities year-round, engaging them in advocacy on an ongoing basis and creating a pool of experienced “citizen lobbyists” on behalf of the industry.

This activity is critical to ensuring infrastructure projects are a major component of Canada’s economic recovery.

Learn more about ACEC’s successful and comprehensive advocacy program at [acec.ca/advocacy](https://acec.ca/advocacy)

# What to Expect

The Parliamentary Partners program supports ACEC members at a grassroots level to work and communicate with local Members of Parliament (MPs) in their riding. Developing a relationship is key: we will help you succeed in leveraging video conference meetings, or a face-to-face meeting or project tour when it is safe to do so.

**ACEC is pleased to invite past participants of Parliament Hill Day, and others interested in advocating on behalf of the industry, to join our grassroots efforts by registering as an official Parliamentary Partner.**

ACEC will engage and prepare you to advocate with your local MP and build a relationship that will support consulting engineering priorities today and for years to come.

This program will facilitate more frequent communication with MPs on legislative, regulatory, and funding issues that will help our sector adjust to the COVID-19 crisis and emerge stronger from it. Constituent contacts are still the most effective way to educate MPs on support for – or opposition to – an issue.

ACEC firmly believes that the contacts and relationships developed through the Parliamentary Partners program support the association's legislative activities and contribute to successful advocacy outcomes.

ACEC considers the Parliamentary Partners program important for the advancement of industry issues before Parliament. By agreeing to serve as a Parliamentary Partner, you will make a substantial contribution to strengthening the consulting engineering industry. The program has great potential to achieve more effective communication with our federal legislators and greater success in the legislative arena.

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. We are excited to reintroduce this program and ACEC would be honoured to have your participation and we encourage suggestions.

**To join the program, simply fill out the volunteer information form located at the end of this document. We look forward to your involvement as we move forward, working with Parliament as one collective voice.**



# Key Messages

ACEC will be addressing three key messages 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 and can play an instrumental role in rebuilding in the era of COVID-19.

## 2. Public infrastructure will fuel a resilient economic recovery

- Canada has set ambitious public infrastructure goals through the Investing in Canada Plan, increased Gas Tax funding to municipalities, and the establishment of the Canada Infrastructure Bank, but investments need to be delivered more quickly.
- Public infrastructure is critical to our economic, social and environmental quality of life in Canada.
- Public infrastructure investments will stimulate the economy as a response to the current economic downturn resulting from COVID-19 while providing increased productivity and quality of life as legacy pieces.
- Governments at all levels, as well as project financiers, need to be seen to be staying the course on, if not accelerating, current infrastructure projects, plans and commitments.
- Consulting engineering firms need to continue working through this “new normal” to ensure that they retain the capacity to deliver on projects during the recovery.
- Clear and timely decisions on projects allows for informed decision making by consulting engineering firms, contractors and the entire supply chain already under financial duress through this crisis. This will also strengthen industry's ability to respond to immediate demands, retain capacity and to effectively contribute to the recovery. 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 energy use 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), both for our domestic economies and Canada's global trading relationships.
- Lack of northern and remote infrastructure is a barrier to investment by Canada's resource sector.
- The demand 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.
- Canada's economic recovery will benefit from major national projects that assist in the transition to a low-carbon economy, including through enhanced public transit, improved electricity grids, and major renewable energy projects that ACEC members will play a key role in advancing.

# Volunteer Information

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Member of Parliament** (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

**Political Party** (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Twitter handle** (corporate): \_\_\_\_\_

**Briefly describe your past involvement and level of interest in ACEC or your provincial/territorial Member Organization's advocacy efforts:**

**Submit**