



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA

ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES
DE GÉNIE-CONSEIL | CANADA

ACEC-CANADA PRIMER: 2021 FEDERAL ELECTION

A guide for the consulting engineering industry

August 2021

www.acec.ca



Introduction

Election 2021 is an opportunity to further strengthen the voice of our industry. Infrastructure is a core business of government and ACEC-Canada is making sure that it continues to be a priority during and after the election.

You can help ACEC-Canada showcase the role our industry plays in bettering the lives of Canadians and the importance of leveraging infrastructure to develop a strong economic and environmental vision for Canada's recovery and resilience. To achieve this, we are launching a national campaign – ***Prosperity by Design***. The key messages, resources and tools in this primer and at www.InvestInfrastructure.ca will help you educate candidates running in your riding. We encourage you to get involved and help ACEC-Canada ensure the voice of our industry is heard during this election!





How to Get Involved

Visit [InvestInfrastructure.ca](https://investinfrastructure.ca)

- ACEC-Canada has created the [InvestInfrastructure.ca](https://investinfrastructure.ca) as your resource during the federal election. On this site you will find our key messages, industry reports, and media articles highlighting our advocacy for consulting engineering firms.

Engage your Local Candidates

- You can use the tools and resources on [InvestInfrastructure.ca](https://investinfrastructure.ca) to engage and educate all the candidates currently registered in your riding.
- Join ACEC-Canada's letter writing campaign: connect with candidates in your riding and let them know that you want Canada to be sustainable, resilient and prosperous.
- Participate in all candidate meetings: engage candidates in a discussion during all candidate/townhall meetings by asking them where they stand on ACEC-Canada's recommendations and how they would address them if elected.

Participate on Social Media

- Help amplify our industry's message! ACEC-Canada has developed social media "shareables" you can use on your social media platforms. [Click here to download](#) ACEC-Canada branded content or [click here to download](#) generic content to promote infrastructure investments. When sharing your messages online, we recommend:
 - » Staying focused on issues and recommendations – avoid partisanship
 - » Tagging ACEC-Canada on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) so we can re-share
 - » Tagging your local candidates where possible to make sure they see your post
 - » Keeping posts concise and using the hashtag #ProsperityByDesign
 - » Including a shortened link for Invest Infrastructure in your post: bit.ly/3sYZTrP

Key Messages and Recommendations

The following are the key messages that ACEC-Canada will be advocating for in the 2021 election. You can choose which messages and recommendations you would like to advocate on based on your own focus and priorities. The following messages are not ranked in order of importance.

Canada needs a long-term integrated environmental and economic vision

Key Messages

- We do not and should not have to choose between the environment and the economy. By investing wisely in infrastructure, we strengthen both.
- As we continue to navigate the pandemic recovery, Canada has a unique opportunity to rethink how we envision the future of our infrastructure with Canada's first-ever National Infrastructure Assessment.
- ACEC-Canada is prepared to work with the Federal Government and other stakeholders to build a well-governed National Infrastructure Assessment that achieves a bold environmental and economic vision for Canada.

Recommendations

- That the Assessment establishes a vision for Canada's infrastructure needs for the next 30 years, evaluates the current state of our infrastructure, and provides a roadmap forward for the next 10 years.
- That the Assessment be continually monitored, updated, and renewed with progress and results publicly reported on a regular basis.
- That the Assessment be developed with broad stakeholder engagement and involvement from industry, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and civil society.
- That a permanent, independent, and arms-length National Infrastructure Agency be established to house and support the Assessment and serve as a larger repository of best practices and industry expertise.

Canada needs to deliver infrastructure investments now

Key Messages

- Infrastructure programs should be timely, consistent, and predictable with a priority placed on the rapid delivery of funding to help Canada build back better and stronger from the pandemic.

Recommendations

- Prioritizing investments that enable economic prosperity, productivity, and competitiveness so that more transformational investments will become viable and sustainable.
- Investing in multi-year and multi-asset infrastructure programs supported by sound asset management practices, not just individual projects.
- Supporting Senate recommendations from the report Smarter Planning, Smarter Spending: Ensuring Transparency, Accountability and Predictability in Federal Infrastructure Programs.
- Using procurement best practices for quality, innovation, and long-term savings (Qualifications-Based Selection).
- "Reprofiling" investments to distribute projects more evenly over the length of the existing programs.

- Planning and renegotiating the next generation of federal infrastructure investment prior to the expiry of current programs.
- Allowing for flexible infrastructure programming to support the varying needs of communities across Canada by helping them to develop and grow their capacity and making best practices available to them – like the National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure (Infraguide).
- Ensuring a balanced infrastructure investment program that eliminates the deficits identified in the 2019 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card.

About Infrastructure in Canada

Investing in Infrastructure

- Delivers proven returns on investment that Canadians can rely on during the economic recovery ahead and beyond. Every dollar invested in public infrastructure generate a return of two to four dollars, as confirmed by the Public Policy Forum.
- Creates immediate employment opportunities but also provides the foundation for a resilient and competitive economy.
- Improves the quality of life for all Canadians, ensuring that communities across the country have access to essential assets they depend on like housing, public transportation, and clean water.

Canadian Infrastructure Programs

- The Federal Government's multi-billion-dollar commitment to infrastructure is behind schedule. As Canada recovers from COVID-19, it is more important than ever to prioritize delivering infrastructure investments.
- The majority of the investments occur in the final years of the programs.
- This “back-ended” approach makes it more challenging for owners of infrastructure and their partners that deliver projects to allocate resources and manage capacity.
- Gaps in infrastructure programs result in lost capacity and expertise in both the public and private sector.

Resources for Voting

ACEC-Canada encourages members to engage throughout the election and vote on, or before election day on September 20th, 2021, to ensure your voice is heard. To support you, please find resources below to assist you with voting. For any questions or concerns, we recommend contacting Elections Canada directly at 1-800-463-6868 or through the [online contact form here](#).

- [Information on Registering to Vote](#)
- [Ways to Vote](#)
- [Information on Voting by Mail / Special Ballot](#)
- [Find your Electoral District \(Riding\)](#)
- [Impact of COVID-19 on the Election](#)

About ACEC

[The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies](#) – Canada (ACEC-Canada) is the national voice of consulting engineering in Canada on business and public policy. Our member firms provide professional engineering and science-related services, including planning, designing, and implementing all types of projects to both the public and the private sector.

Consulting engineering in Canada is a multi-billion-dollar industry that employs nearly 60,000 Canadians. ACEC-Canada member firms are directly involved in delivering Canada's \$126 billion commitment to infrastructure.

Canada is globally recognized for its engineering services and Canadian-based firms are amongst the largest providers of engineering services in the world. Consulting engineering companies are essential to Canada's prosperity. They are instrumental in building back a stronger, more resilient, and sustainable country.

ACEC-Canada is a non-partisan, members-based organization that seeks to create awareness of issues of importance to its members. As such, ACEC does not and will endorse or oppose any candidate, party or political actor. ACEC adheres to all regulations and legal requirements as set out by [Elections Canada](#).



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA

ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES
DE GÉNIE-CONSEIL | CANADA

