



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES
ONTARIO

ONTARIO ENGINEERING PROJECT AWARDS 2025 GUIDEBOOK

Index

- **About the OEPA**
- **What are the benefits of submitting a project?**
- **Who We Are**
- **Award Categories**
- **OEPA Selection Process**
- **Rules of Eligibility**
- **Checklist**
- **Specifications**

About the OEPA

The Ontario Engineering Project Awards (OEPA) is dedicated to celebrating excellence within the consulting engineering profession. We honour projects from all ACEC-Ontario member companies, regardless of size or budget. Whether your company has 5, 50, or 500 employees, and whether your project was valued at \$10,000 or \$100,000,000, if it's innovative and impactful, it deserves recognition.

ACEC-Ontario is committed to evolving the awards program and its categories, guided by feedback from judges and member firms. Our goal is to reduce barriers to entry and recognize a broader range of firms.

Additional awards were introduced for Sustainable Development Impact, Small Firm – Big Impact, and Internal Innovation (which focuses on internal corporate programs of philanthropy, community engagement, plus recruitment and retention).

This year we have brought back the option of completing an intent to submit, however, a simplified version.

The OEPA categories are meticulously designed to recognize consulting engineering excellence, celebrate the impact ACEC-Ontario member companies have on their clients and society, and honour those who have demonstrated outstanding efforts over the past two years.

We invite our member companies to showcase their exceptional projects by entering the 2025 OEPA program. This is your opportunity to shine a spotlight on your hard work and innovation. Winners will be revealed at the prestigious OEPA Gala, where their projects will be highlighted in professional videos for company use. Additionally, winners will be publicly announced via press release, amplifying their achievements to a broader audience.

What are the benefits of submitting a project?

Submitting your projects for the Ontario Engineering Project Awards (OEPA) offers a prime opportunity for your firm to gain recognition and credibility within the consulting engineering field. It highlights your firm's innovative solutions and successful outcomes to a wider professional audience, potentially attracting new clients and partners.

ACEC-Ontario promotes award winners through various channels, elevating your reputation and positioning your company as an industry leader. Feedback from our member firms underscores the comprehensive benefits of participating in the program, including:

- Building firm status within RFP submissions
- Enhancing brand visibility through media channels
- Securing valuable partnerships
- Fostering team spirit and pride at the event

Submit your projects and take advantage of this prestigious platform to showcase your firm's excellence and drive your success forward.

Who We Are

Founded in 1975, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Ontario (ACEC-Ontario) is the organization that represents engineering companies across the province. We promote the business interests of our 140 member companies, who employ 25,000 Ontarians. The work of our members support Ontario's economic growth and improves the quality of life of communities across the province.

We offer value through advocacy efforts, learning and networking opportunities, along with cost savings programs. Annually, we host the Ontario Engineering Project Awards, our flag-ship event, that celebrates the work of our member companies.

Award Categories

The OEPA aspires to celebrate the consulting engineering profession by honouring all projects submitted to the program by ACEC-Ontario member companies. The OEPA categories were designed to recognize consulting engineering excellence and award ACEC-Ontario member companies who put forth the strongest efforts over the year. The breakdown of the categories is described below.

The Willis Chipman Award

The Willis Chipman award, named after the first engineer in Canada who pioneered the industry in Ontario, grants the highest honour. It is awarded to the project that best demonstrates the value and importance of consulting engineering plays to improve the economic, social and environmental quality of life in Ontario. The Willis Chipman award is the most prestigious award and given independently, with no extra submission required.

Sustainable Development Impact Award

The Sustainable Award recognizes the project that best demonstrates the three pillars of sustainable development: society, environment, and economy. The project must support the goals of society and incorporate environmental sustainability elements, while strengthening economic development in Ontario or beyond. Like Willis Chipman, this award is given independently from the category in which it was submitted in, no extra submission is required.

Examples of projects that would be eligible are, EV infrastructure projects, conservation research and initiatives, water/wastewater conservation and innovation, public transport, etc.

Small Firm, Big Impact Award

Further evolved this year after consideration of insightful feedback, the Small Firm, Big Impact award recognizes the significant impact and importance of the work our smaller

companies do. There will be two award categories presented for this award, firms with 1-49 total staff and firms with 50-99 total staff.

We understand that our member firms, which are smaller in size, may not have teams to support complex project submissions. With this in mind, we have created a one-page submission form covering the most important details: the project objective, how you addressed it, and the results. Please be sure to include at least three project images.

Note: the one-page submission awarded recognition will only be considered for the Small Firm, Big Impact award. You may add more information if you would like the judges to review. However, it should be no longer than 4-5 pages

Awards of Internal Innovation

1) **Philanthropy / Community Engagement** includes all charity and community activities with impact at a local level, from fund raising initiatives for any cause impacting Ontarians, to hands-on community involvement with environmental initiatives.

Examples: community games night led by staff for a cancer fighting cause or tree planting along a local watershed.

2) **Innovation in Recruitment and Retention** includes all member company programs designed to attract and retain talent.

Examples: Education debt repayment support program, flexible working arrangements dependent on member company staff needs.

Awards of Distinction

The Awards of Distinction may be presented to the top 10 projects in any of the categories below:

1) **Industrial, commercial, institutional buildings/building science** includes all engineering projects related to industrial/commercial/institutional buildings electrical, mechanical, structural, foundations, acoustics, ergonomics, fire protection/prevention, preliminary/final design, repair/restoration, roofing and waterproofing, walls and cladding, and heating systems including transportation terminals and service centers.

2) **Environment** includes all engineering projects related to air quality management, environmental assessments, groundwater resources/hydrogeology, noise and vibration, solid/hazardous waste management, and surface water resources.

3) **Municipal Infrastructure** includes all engineering projects related to the conveyance of drinking water, sanitary and storm sewage, combined sewage, and related infrastructure including stormwater management, Low Impact Development techniques, and CSO storage and treatment.

4) **Industry, energy and resources** includes all engineering projects related to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, electrical power generation, geophysics, geotechnical, mining, metallurgy, oil and gas production/storage, petrochemical, solar energy, steam power generation and wind energy.

5) **Project management**: includes all engineering projects related to construction management, construction quality control, contract administration, management of design, procurement management, project control and risk management, related management services, and value engineering.

6) **Studies and research** include all engineering projects related to planning and feasibility studies.

7) **Transit / transportation** includes all traffic engineering and control, transportation planning, urban public transit, active transportation, airports, roads, bridges and highways, rail, pavement design and ports and harbors.

8) **Housing, community and sustainability** includes all refurbishment of older housing and community buildings/structures. Evidence to exist on advantages of refurbishments over demolition proving reduce carbon footprint, providing a social benefit to reducing energy use in the built environment exists.

OEPA Selection Process

Our Jury is comprised of seasoned qualified professionals representing leading associations, client groups and academia in the industry who are not currently engaged in the consulting practice. The jury volunteers their time and expertise to examine each project and determine the winners of each award category. Projects are reviewed independently and deliberated upon collectively.

Projects are evaluated based on the four criteria listed below. Details are provided under the Executive Summary of the Specifications section of this document.

- Project objectives, solutions, and achievements
- Level of complexity and project challenges
- Technical excellence and innovation
- Contribution to economic, social and/or environmental quality of life (as applicable)

The OEPA Jury is an independent group. They participate in the OEPA by lending their skills and knowledge to select the award winners playing an important role in recognizing the significance of the consulting engineering profession.

Rules of Eligibility

The OEPA has implemented rules of eligibility to create a fair and orderly program for its participants. Please ensure your entry meets the following requirements:

- 1) Only ACEC-Ontario member companies are eligible to enter the OEPA program by entering a project submission their company has worked on.
 - Joint submissions between ACEC-Ontario member companies are acceptable.
 - Joint submissions involving non-ACEC-Ontario members are acceptable only if the ACEC-Ontario member companies(s) did more than 50 per cent of the work and submit it in their name.
 - Company size will be based on the combined number of employees for joint submissions.

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- 2) Company size is based on the number of employees in Ontario that was provided on the 2023 ACEC-Ontario membership renewal or application form.
 - 3) A member company may submit a maximum of five entries per year, including joint submissions.
 - 4) Project completion:
 - Projects entered must have been completed to the owner/client's satisfaction in the period from September 30, 2022 to September 30, 2024.
 - Completed design portions may be submitted, even if the project's still undergoing construction, if the owner/client of the project approves its submission.
 - Project was completed within budget.
 - 5) Projects outside of Ontario are eligible for the Awards of Distinction provided that they have been managed out of an office in Ontario.
 - 6) Only Ontario-based projects are eligible for the Willis Chipman Award.
 - 7) No additions or modifications to the entry are allowed after submission deadline.
 - 8) ACEC-ONTARIO maintains the right to reject submissions that are incomplete or do not meet the outlined specifications.

Checklist

Please package your files and send via WeTransfer to **Priyanka Anand** at **panand@acecontario.ca** by **Thursday, 4:00 PM** on **December 12th, 2024**. Please follow-up with an email confirming receipt to **Priyanka Anand** at **panand@acecontario.ca**.

To be considered for the **Small Firm, Big Impact Award**.
A digital copy of the Small Firm, Big Impact Award OEPA Project Submission containing:

- Small Firm, Big Impact Award OEPA Project Submission sheet (does not require a client letter)

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- Project images (minimum 3, no maximum)
 - High-resolution vector logo (.ai, .eps formats) and white background logo in jpeg formats

To be considered for all other awards, your application should include:

- Submitted in a Combined PDF document:
- OEPA Project Submission sheet (no longer requires a client letter)
- Project Details (up to 4 pages)
- Project images (minimum 3, no maximum) (zipped in folder)
- High-resolution vector logo (.ai, .eps formats) and white background logo in jpeg formats

Please have your submission package delivered via WeTransfer no later than **December 12th, 2024, by 4:00 PM.**

Specifications for all Awards (except Small Firm, Big Impact)

Project Submission Sheet (1 page)

Project name, location, year completed, entering company (or companies), contact names, and 130-word summary. Use plain language and avoid technical jargon where possible. The summary may be used for publication and/or video production purposes. The summary should include:

- The owner/client and the owner/client's objective
- Your role in the project
- Project complexity and/or use of innovation
- The project's social, economic and/or environmental benefits

Example: The National Capital Commission retained ABC Consulting to develop an innovative signalization layout to provide pedestrians and cyclists a safe crossing to the Rideau Canal and downtown area. High speeds and large traffic volumes made crossing difficult and potentially dangerous without a creative crossing solution. The configuration uses new features to improve the safety and connectivity of the crossing

for active transportation users at this important node, creating an increase in cycling and pedestrian usage.

Project Details (up to 4 pages)

The project details report should be a detailed report expanding on the 130-word summary submitted in the Project Sheet and include the bolded headings below. The Jury will be scoring projects based on the detailed items below. Each criterion may not be applicable to every project and is a guideline for information that should be included where possible.

Project objectives, solutions and achievements

- Owner/Client's objectives for the project
- Solutions that were applied to meet the objectives
- Project management used to complete the project
- Project impact on the community
- Outstanding engineering achievements

Level of complexity and project challenges

- Site problems
- Scheduling difficulties

- Obstacles to be overcome

○ **Technical excellence and innovation**

- Innovative approach to design
- Unique use of materials or combination and/or equipment
- Internal resources, experience and expertise

○ **Contribution to economic, social and/or environmental quality of life**

- Beneficial effects the project had on the community
- Promotes sustainability
- Illustrates the engineer's role in society

Project Images/Video

All images must be provided in a separate folder entitled "Images" via WeTransfer. A minimum of three (3) images must be submitted but there is no maximum to how many images a company may submit.

Electronic images/video must comply with the following specifications:

- Only JPEG images will be accepted.
- Images must be provided in high resolution and at the original size.
- All image file names are composed of a number followed by a title e.g. "01title.jpg", "02title.jpg", "03title.jpg". Do not use punctuation or symbols.
- Compressed archive files will not be accepted.
- Action shots are encouraged.
- Videos of under 3 minutes are also encourage in mp4 format.

Documents

Guidelines and Project Sheet can be found online [here](#).

Disclaimer

ACEC-Ontario may utilize all submitted materials for the purposes of promoting the award program; publicizing winning entries and other participants; promoting and enhancing the image and prestige of ACEC-Ontario members and the consulting engineering sector as whole; and otherwise advocating on behalf of ACEC-Ontario and its members. By submitting required materials, you agree to these conditions.

Award winners will be notified prior to the OEPA gala. Winners will not be notified about which award they have been recognized for in advance, only that they will be receiving an award. Winners are asked NOT to disclose details until they are presented with their award on the night of the gala.