



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | NL

February 14, 2020

St. John's Board of Trade
34 Harvey Road,
PO Box 5127,
St. John's, NL
A1C 2G1
Attention: Andrew Wadden, Chair
Via email: mail@bot.nf.ca

Dear Mr. Wadden,

On behalf of our members representing 20 consulting engineering companies which employ approximately 1,000 personnel, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of Newfoundland and Labrador (ACEC-NL) wishes to express our concerns over a recent article in The Telegram, in a supplementary business section that appeared to be supported by the St. John's Board of Trade.

ACEC-NL is the voice of consulting engineering in Newfoundland and Labrador and represents firms 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.

The article states that:

"... the traditional model in the construction sector, in which owners often find themselves in an adversarial relationship with the design consultant and contractor."

For over a century engineering firms have offered project management services along with design services to their clients.

The article goes on to quote Vigilant's CEO as saying:

"This industry can be very predatory on an owner who doesn't know what he is walking into..."

We take exception to professional engineers offering specialized expertise and skills as predatory, engineers bring highly innovative solutions for construction problems.

While we agree that there are specific instances where a separate project management firm may be applicable, we take exception to the blanket statement that this is a "conflict of interest". All our members are professionals which requires licensing and engineers are held to a code of ethics in which they must act with honesty, fairness, equity and are dedicated to the protection of public health, safety and welfare and are regulated by Professional Engineers of Newfoundland and Labrador (PEGNL).



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We appreciate the right of Vigilant to promote their business and the services they offer however we do not believe it should be at the detriment of other businesses. On behalf of ACEC-NL, we appreciate your consideration of this item and ask that you print a retraction of these statements.

It should be noted that half of our membership are members of the St. John's Board of Trade. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Christy Cunningham
Executive Director, ACEC-NL
ccunningham@acecnl.ca
506.651-6562