

Women's education and employment in STEM: The Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec salutes the government's action plan to counteract the pandemic's impact

Montreal, March 8, 2021 – The Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (OIQ) welcomes the tabling of the action plan to counteract the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on women that was made public today by the Minister for Education and Minister responsible for the Status of Women. This plan specifically states the government's desire to find solutions that will speed up education and access to employment for women in the area of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

"To fully contribute to society's growth, Quebec engineering has to rely on its top talent. That is why we are proud of the many initiatives we have developed in the last few years to increase the place of women in the profession. We will fully cooperate to find additional solutions to enable more women to join the ranks of the profession," commented OIQ President Kathy Baig, Eng., MBA, ASC, DHC.

At a time when the construction industry at large has a key role to play in the economic recovery, the OIQ hopes to work with all actors concerned to improve the inclusion and advancement of women in these work environments.

Women currently account for 15% of the profession's members. In recent years, the OIQ has rolled out programs that promote engineering to girls (Women Ambassadors of the Profession at secondary schools; Du grand génie at CEGEPs) and a mentoring program for women engineering students. In addition, a working committee was created to develop tools that will help advance women in engineering. All of these actions by the OIQ are meant to support the nationwide "30 by 30" campaign, which aims to raise the percentage of women among new engineers to 30% by 2030.

About the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec

The Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec turned 100 years old in 2020. It has a membership of some 65,000 engineering professionals in all fields, except forest engineering. Its mission is to regulate the practice of engineers and support the development of the profession in the interest of protecting the public. For more information, go to oiq.qc.ca.

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