

**For a successful transition toward smart green buildings:  
The Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec presents its recommendations**

**Montreal, April 1, 2021** – In support of the Quebec government’s initiative to increase its involvement in promoting smart green buildings and encourage the development of an industry in this area, the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (OIQ) is submitting seven recommendations for a consultation carried out by the Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI).

“Developing a smart green building ecosystem is crucial for sustainable development. There is still huge potential for optimizing our buildings. A large number of engineers are key players in these efforts during the entire lifecycle of buildings,” points out OIQ President Kathy Baig, Eng., MBA, ASC, DHC.

**Clear, consistent regulation**

Regulation and taxation are two levers that the government can use to boost the number of smart green buildings. The OIQ believes that the government can take the following concrete actions:

- implement a regulatory approach that allows for faster adoption of innovations;
- create regulatory or tax incentives that encourage voluntary implementation of environmental standards;
- impose performance standards or objectives.

**Example setting by the government as a project owner**

As a project owner, the Quebec government can do more to help develop a smart green building ecosystem, such as by encouraging all public project owners to follow the SQI’s example and explore other avenues for awarding contracts than the traditional lowest bidder approach.

“The lowest bidder rule is not always the best approach to awarding contracts. There are other approaches that put more emphasis on the quality of the construction and more readily incorporate innovative proposals, particularly for the environment,” explains the President of the OIQ.

**Data protection and cybersecurity: protect the public**

The OIQ also believes that certain preventive measures need to be taken to protect the public.

Conditions need to be created so that project owners can obtain the resources they need to properly manage the data and technologies used, including Building Information Modeling (BIM) and artificial intelligence tools, whenever such resources are suitable for their projects and situations. The OIQ also recommends setting standards to regulate data collection, hosting and use in connection with smart green buildings. The protection of privacy in particular needs to be guaranteed.

Furthermore, the OIQ recommends that the government ensure that smart green building managers set up robust cyberattack risk prevention and mitigation measures. Regular reviews of cybersecurity management plans would also help decrease building vulnerability.

The full version of the OIQ's brief for this consultation is [available on its Web site](#). To find out more about the OIQ's sustainable development position and commitments, [read this document](#).

### **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](http://oiq.qc.ca).

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