

**The five professional orders representing engineers, architects, agronomists, geologists and chemists are pleased with the beginning of the special consultations on Bill 49**

**Montreal, October 31, 2013** – The presidents of five professional orders representing over 75,000 professionals (the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, the Ordre des architectes du Québec, the Ordre des agronomes du Québec, the Ordre des géologues du Québec and the Ordre des chimistes du Québec) welcome the decision to begin modernizing their professional laws, which in some cases date back nearly half a century and are no longer in step with today's realities.

The special consultations on Bill 49, An Act to amend various legislation respecting the professions and other legislative provisions in the field of applied sciences, were called today and are scheduled to begin shortly. The fact that the parliamentary proceedings have been fast-tracked shows the importance of protecting the public for the government.

In fact, Bill 49 is intended to give professional orders the tools they need to better supervise the practice of their respective professions in order to ensure better protection of the public. Due to recent events that have shaken the public's confidence in the quality of the work that has been done, the accountability of those who perform the work and the professional orders' ability to intervene, a new legislative framework is necessary.

Now that the modernization process has begun, the five professional orders invite all members of the National Assembly to put aside their political differences and give priority to protecting the public so that the bill can be adopted soon.

**About the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec**

Founded in 1920, the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec has a membership of more than 60,000 engineering professionals in all fields, except forest engineering. The mission of the OIQ is to ensure the protection of the public by supervising the practice of the profession within the framework of its constituent laws and ensure that the profession serves the public interest.

**About the Ordre des architectes du Québec**

The Ordre des architectes du Québec strives to contribute to the well-being and development of Québec society by promoting quality in architectural design and production. Its primary mission is to protect the public, and it uses an open, dialogue-based approach to achieve this.

**About the Ordre des agronomes du Québec**

The mission of the Ordre des agronomes du Québec is to protect the public in relation to the practice of agronomy. Its membership includes some 3,300 agronomists who work in all areas of the agriculture and agri-food sectors in Québec.

**About the Ordre des géologues du Québec**

The mission of the Ordre des géologues du Québec is to protect the public by supervising practicing geologists and geology practice. To fulfil its mission, the Order uses the tools set out by the Professional Code to control the competence and practice of geologists, as well as unlawful practice of agronomy.

**About the Ordre des chimistes du Québec**

With over 3,000 members, the main function of the Ordre des chimistes du Québec is to ensure protection of the public. To this end, it must, among other things, monitor the exclusive practice of professional chemistry by its members and control unlawful practice. The Ordre des chimistes du Québec was established under the Professional Chemists Act.