

Practice Note: Attention to Detail

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The Association has received a number of expressions of concern about the care and attention that some professional engineers are exercising in designing and supervising the engineering work for which they are responsible.

One of these cases involved the preparation of documents submitted to the Authority having Jurisdiction in support of a Building Permit to renovate a building. In this case the level of design and detail on these documents was found to be inadequate for anyone to effectively determine whether the proposed projects would be safe and in compliance with the applicable sections of the relevant statutes, regulations, standards, codes, by-laws and rules applicable to the projects.

Another case involved the supervision and inspection of a project to repair and renovate a residential building foundation. In this case inadequate care was exercised to ensure that the repair and renovation work was carried out in compliance with the drawing and specifications which had been prepared and approved for the project, and in compliance with the applicable sections of the relevant building codes and regulations.

The Association's Code of Ethics (<https://www.enggeomb.ca/pdf/CodeOfEthics.pdf>) indicates clearly that the professional practitioner shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and the protection of the environment and promote health and safety with the workplace.
2. Offer services, advice on or undertake engineering or geoscientific assignments only in areas of their competence, and practice in a careful and diligent manner and in compliance with applicable legislation
3. Act as faithful agents of their clients or employers, maintain confidentiality...

Each professional engineer is encouraged to examine his or her practices in the light of the above noted clauses of the Code of Ethics, and to act in such a way as to ensure that the engineering needs of each client or employer are satisfied in a professional manner.