



July 8, 2023

Corporate Policy Secretariat  
Ministry of Northern Development  
99 Wellesley St W B-312  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1W3  
Canada

Also submitted through the Environmental Registry of Ontario

**ERO 019-7196 Proposal to Update the Statement of Environmental Values (SEV)**

The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) is the advocacy body and voice of the engineering profession. Ontario currently has over 85,000 professional engineers, 250,000 engineering graduates, 6,600 engineering post-graduate students and 37,000 engineering undergraduate students. OSPE is pleased to respond to the Open Call for Written Submissions for the **Proposal to Update the Statement of Environmental Values (SEV)**.

To enhance the statement of environmental values prepared by the ministry, we recommend addressing and expanding on the following subjects:

1. **Identification and Elaboration of Right to a Healthy Environment:** Clearly define and elaborate on the elements of the right to a healthy environment, similar to the classifications identified by the United Nations. This will provide a comprehensive framework for understanding and protecting environmental rights.
2. **Private Sector Responsibilities:** Identify the private sector's responsibility for environmental matters. Encourage collaboration between the public and private sectors to achieve sustainable development goals.
3. **Legal Basis for Environmental Cases:** Specify the legal basis and references for environment-related cases in courts and tribunals. This will provide clarity and guidance for legal proceedings related to environmental protection and ensure consistent and effective application of environmental laws.
4. **Strengthening Provincial Capacity:** Strengthen the province's capacities to fulfill its environmental obligations. This may include investments in infrastructure, resources, and expertise, as well as the development of effective governance and coordination mechanisms.

5. **Inclusive Decision-Making and Access to Information:** Ensure meaningful participation of all communities in environmental decision-making processes. Promote transparency and accessibility of information to empower individuals and communities to engage in environmental decision-making.
6. **Integration into Cross-Disciplinary Decision-Making and Policies:** Make environmental considerations a fundamental component of cross-disciplinary decision-making and policy formulation. This includes integrating environmental considerations into development, conservation, education, training, and economic policies.
7. **Collaboration and Capacity Building:** Encourage all stakeholders, including organizations and business enterprises, to adopt policies that enhance cooperation, strengthen capacity, and promote good practices for environmental health. Foster partnerships and knowledge-sharing to achieve collective environmental goals.
8. **Role of Non-Profit Organizations:** Acknowledge the crucial role of non-profit organizations in representing those affected by environmental issues. Support these organizations in raising awareness, providing technical and advisory services, and advocating for emerging environmental issues to ensure their concerns are addressed effectively.

By addressing and elaborating on these subjects, the statement of environmental values will become more comprehensive, inclusive, and effective in guiding environmental protection and sustainable development efforts.

\*\*\*

We look forward to working with you to further develop these recommendations. If you have any additional questions, please contact Paola Cetares, OSPE Public Affairs Manager, at [pcetares@ospe.on.ca](mailto:pcetares@ospe.on.ca) or 416-223-9961 ext. 225.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Holko, P.Eng., MBA  
President and Chair  
Ontario Society of Professional Engineers



Sandro Perruzza  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ontario Society of Professional Engineers