

# Ethics: Practical Aspects



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# Working Outside Canada



<https://www.morganmckinley.com.cn/en/article/expect-and-embrace-challenges-working-abroad>

# Context: Engineers Outside Canada

- Canada is the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest exporter of engineering services. Canadian engineering expertise is recognized internationally.
- Engineers Canada strives to promote rigorous international engineering standards and qualifications, and to facilitate international mobility for Canadian engineers.
- Many engineers end up spending at least part of their careers working abroad.
- Experience working internationally, e.g. with *Engineers without Borders*, can be a transformative experience.

# Mutual Recognition

- Engineers Canada has signed mutual recognition agreements with a number of organizations that represent engineers in foreign jurisdictions.  
(<https://engineerscanada.ca/become-an-engineer/agreements-on-international-mobility>)
- The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), negotiated between Canada and the European Union, speaks directly to engineering services and the mobility of engineers as professionals.  
(<https://www.opencanada.org/features/three-ways-make-most-ceta/>)
- There is a mutual recognition agreement between the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the US accreditation board, and Engineers Canada.  
(<https://www.abet.org/global-presence/mutual-recognition-agreements/>)
- Canada is a signatory of an APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) mutual recognition accord.
- Canada is also part of the 1989 Washington Accord that recognizes the equivalence of engineering education in a number of jurisdictions.  
(<https://engineerscanada.ca/accreditation/the-washington-accord>)

# Reasons for Working Abroad

- You have special skills needed for the job.
- You speak the local language.
- Job availability.
- Higher salary and benefits.
- International development motivation.
- Experience.
- Travel lust.
- Opportunity for cultural experience.
- Personal reasons, e.g. partner's work.
- “Someone needs to go.”



# Possible Issues Working Abroad

- Cross-cultural differences, even culture shock.
- Inability to speak the language.
- Prejudice in either direction.
- Lack of familiarity with local laws and rules.
- Different health care standards and practices.
- Unfamiliar foods.
- Unsatisfactory schooling for children.
- Exposure to poverty, war and/or exploitation on scales not previously experienced.
- Unhappy spouse and/or family.

# Why Do Companies Work Abroad?

- Lower labour costs.
- Access to markets.
- Demand for unique services or expertise.
- Access to resources not available at home.
- Inducements, e.g. subsidies, favoured status.
- Weaker environmental and safety regulations.

Last one may have significant legal and ethical implications.

# Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act

This Canadian CFPOA Act features three offences:

1. **Bribing** a foreign public official.
2. **Laundering** property and proceeds; and
3. **Possession** of property and proceeds.

To be subject to the jurisdiction of Canadian courts, a significant portion of the activities must have taken place in Canada.



# Convictions under CFPOA

- Griffiths Energy International Inc., based in Calgary, pleaded guilty on Jan. 22, 2013 to a charge under the CFPOA related to securing an oil and gas contract in Chad. Griffiths and will pay a penalty of \$10.35M.
- Niko Resources Ltd., a publicly traded company based in Calgary, entered a guilty plea for bribery on June 24, 2011, was fined \$9.5M and placed under a probation order.
- Hydro-Kleen Group Inc., based in Red Deer, entered a guilty plea on Jan. 10, 2005, to bribery and was ordered to pay a fine of \$25,000.
- SNC Lavalin: The investigation is on-going and the matter is currently before a Canadian court.

# Examples

- 2011: **Mabey and Johnson**, a large British company, admitted that it had systemically paid bribes around the world to secure export orders. It was ordered to pay > £6.5m in penalties.
- 2010: Arms manufacturer **BAE** agreed to pay almost £300m in penalties for wrongdoing after years of investigations into alleged kickbacks.
- Canadian Engineering company **SNC Lavalin** is currently being investigated for bribery in Libya and Mexico.

# Environmental Ethics



# Environmental Ethics



*Environmental ethics is the part of environmental philosophy which considers:*

*Extending the traditional boundaries of ethics from solely including humans to including the non-human world.*

# Approaches to Ethics and the Environment

**Bio-centric Ethics:** views all life, not just humans, as having intrinsic value; i.e. there is reverence for life, and all individual living creatures are important.

**Eco-centric Ethics:** considers ecological communities, not individual organisms, trying to preserve the ecological integrity of whole regions.

**Industrial Ecology:** studies industrial systems with the goal of finding ways to lessen their environmental impact

**Sustainable Development:** considers social, economic and environmental aspects; development must not compromise the well-being of future generations.



# Precautionary Principle

If an action or policy has the risk of causing harm to the public or the environment, the burden of proof that it is not harmful falls on those taking the action or making the policy in the absence of expert consensus regarding whether or not harm will result.

This principle is widely regarded as a basis for environmental and public health policy.