

Canadian Engineering and Geomatic Professionals, and CSR Overseas

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Abstract

Canadian engineering and geomatic professional associations' engagement with respect to some form of corporate social responsibility (CSR) within their various codes of ethics (or similar) are detailed. Many Canadian engineering and geomatic professionals (particularly in Alberta) undertake work or assignments for the oil industry overseas and this is used as a means to focus the discussion. Relevant background information on international and Canadian CSR efforts are provided.

Introduction and Background

The Canadian and US oil and gas exploration and production sectors are increasingly keen to peruse objectives outside of North America. This is not only because of the mature prospects in North America, but also after spending the last few years concentrating on cost-cutting and acquisitions, the super majors and super independents are beginning to focus more on growth opportunities overseas.¹ North American consumers, with 7% of the world's population but consumes 30% of its energy, will continue to regard gasoline, electricity, heating oil and natural gas as "entitlements" in North America.² Hence it is only more likely that Canadian oil and gas corporations will be operating overseas to enhance shareholder value and meet the demands for their products at home.

Canadian oil and gas exploration and production companies have been working overseas for many years. As society has changed over time, so have the expectations of how these companies carry out their overseas operations. Regardless of where oil and gas exploration and production companies operate they influence the quality of life for individuals and communities. This is especially true in developing and conflict-torn countries.³

In 2001, Industry Canada through a "letter of consultation" to 1,700 Canadian corporations, corporate associations, lawyers, and citizen groups attempted to identify the level of interest in changing the Canada Business Corporations Act (CBCA) to reflect some form of corporate social responsibility (CSR). Only 71 responses were received. Of 66 respondents who expressed a view on corporate accountability, a majority supported the idea of changing the Act to expressly recognize the right of directors to take outside interests into account when making corporate decisions.⁴ Unfortunately, the statistical bias of the data set provides little meaningful input on how the issue of CSR is viewed by corporate Canada.

The CBCA was revised on 24 November 2001 but the discussions with respect to CSR and the Act were only in the early stages, and were not included in the revisions. Possibly there could be some reference to disclosure in future revisions of the Act, as outlined in the Broadbent Panel Report for charitable organizations some of which may be relevant to public corporations.⁵ Sources within Industry Canada indicated that CSR issues are to be included in the ongoing consultative process discussions. The next round of scheduled changes to the Act will be sometime in 2006.⁶

Over time, oil and gas exploration and production companies have become increasingly involved in providing support to the countries they have been operating, including Canada. This has taken the form of better roads and other infrastructure improvements such as providing access to fresh water, building schools and other permanent structures, improving the local health care system, as well as hiring more local personnel to work at and manage the overseas operations. At the same time, it would appear that public dialogue on Third World issues has moved steadily away from addressing the basic physical and social infrastructure needs of the Third World and focused instead more on human rights.⁷ This is perhaps an easier concept to understand from a North American or European cultural background.

Some companies, in an effort to be able to justify their operations in countries where human rights violations or social injustice are regular events, are attempting to verify that they have endeavored to engage constructively in the improvement of the lives of local people. Such verification can occur through using international standards as basic benchmarks, reinforcing codes of ethics, communicating on social issues, and measuring progress.⁸

Some appropriate basic benchmarks would be the United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 which outlines basic human rights, including civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights. Another would be the International Labour Organization's* (ILO) Fundamental Principles on Rights at Work adopted in 1998, which are international standards for equal remuneration for work of equal value, minimum age for admission to employment, occupational health and safety, and setting the working hours and schedules.

In 1976 the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) adopted a set of guidelines for multinational enterprises. These provided voluntary principles, and standards of responsible business conduct in areas such as environmental stewardship, labour relations and human rights.

In 1994 the Caux Round Table (CRT) published its Principles for Business. These Principles seek to express a worldwide standard for ethical and responsible corporate behavior and are offered as a foundation for dialogue and action by business and leaders worldwide. The Financial Times stated at the time that the Principles were "thought to be the first document of this kind to have attracted influential supporters from Europe, Japan and the United States".⁹

Since 1997, Canadian corporations have had an International Code of Ethics for Canadian Business available covering community participation, environmental protection, human rights, corruption and bribery, and employee rights including health and safety. In 1999 the Global Sullivan Principles were published. These are similar to the Canadian Code, but were developed in the United States. In 2000 the United Nations (UN) Global Compact was adopted by the UN as another statement of principles, and the OECD Guidelines were updated.

Corresponding with these international efforts were the measures taken by international and Canadian professional groups to address how their members act towards other professionals and society as a whole.

* Note: The spelling used was the official version for all entities, e.g., the International Labour Organization, not Labor, and US Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, not Labour.

In June 2001 there were a total of 116 public Canadian oil and gas exploration and production companies, which had land holdings in 60 foreign countries.¹⁰ Of these, 34% (40 out of 116) were only involved in United States land holdings. The sector has been very dynamic as companies buy others, trade or sell their international assets, and there are mergers and company acquisitions by other companies, both Canadian based and multinational. Consequently by June 2002, there were only 58 (down from 76) Canadian oil and gas exploration and production companies that had overseas holdings. These totals did not include companies operating only within the United States.

Of the Canadian oil and gas exploration and production companies which had international land holdings, only 9 (nine) were not the actual operator of some or all of their international holdings. Of the remaining 49 (forty-nine), only 3 (three) operated international holdings that were not in developing and conflict-torn countries where there was a possibility of human rights abuses could go undetected or unreported. How these companies, employees, sub-contractors and consultants could deal professionally and ethically with human rights issues in such countries is discussed.

International CSR Efforts

There are a number of international platforms and code of ethics to promote CSR. The United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted on 10 December 1948.¹¹ After World War II the then 56 UN members wanted to set out a framework for protecting human rights. There were 48 votes in favour, with 8 abstentions from the old Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its then client states, South Africa (then under apartheid), and Saudi Arabia. Canada voted in favour.¹² On 12 December 1997 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in support of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration without a vote.¹³ As of September 2002 there were 191 UN member countries. The declaration is not legally binding.¹⁴ See *Appendix 1* for the complete Declaration text, a listing of how countries voted, and the 1997 resolution wording.

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles on Rights at Work was adopted in June 1998. These Principles are international standards for equal remuneration for work of equal value, minimum age for admission to employment, occupational health and safety, and setting the working hours and schedules.¹⁵ Canada was automatically registered once the Declaration was adopted, and is liable to voluntarily abide by the declaration.¹⁶ See *Appendix 2* for the complete Declaration text.

The Caux Round Table (CRT) is a network of senior business leaders from both industrialized and developing nations. These individuals recognize that business must take a leadership role in developing a fairer, more free and transparent society, which would lead they believe to greater world prosperity and sustainability of resources. The CRT seeks to motivate and mobilize business leaders to be a force for positive change based upon the CRT Principles for Business, which were published in 1994. The Principles for Business have been widely utilized, not only by companies and business organizations, but also in schools around the world, and have been included in numerous books and other publications. The Principles for Business have been offered as a guide for companies to develop, re-examine, implement and monitor their own principles.¹⁷ See *Appendix 3* for the complete CRT Principles for Business text.

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The CRT does not require companies to register if they have adopted the Principles. Hence it is not possible to ascertain if any Canadian oil and gas exploration and production companies have adopted these Principles.¹⁸

The Global Sullivan Principles of Social Responsibility were formulated by the late Rev. Leon H. Sullivan and published on 1 February 1999. Each company that adopts these Principles agrees to develop and implement company policies, procedures, training and internal reporting structures to ensure commitment to the Principles throughout its organization. See *Appendix 4* for the complete Principles text.

As of 1 July 2002 these Principles have been adopted by the following oil and gas exploration and production companies: ChevronTexaco Corporation, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Shell International, Statoil, and Unocal Corporation.¹⁹ ChevronTexaco, Occidental and Unocal are headquartered in the United States, whilst the other two are headquartered in Europe. Consequently, to date, it would appear that there have been no Canadian oil and gas exploration and production companies, which have adopted the Global Sullivan Principles.

Each endorser of the Global Sullivan Principles makes a commitment to work towards the aspiration that all of the Principles represent, including the implementation of internal policies, procedures, training and reporting structures. Endorsing companies and organizations are asked to take part in an annual reporting process to document and share their experiences in bringing social responsibility to life. The reporting format has been designed to be flexible, transparent and easy to complete. All reports submitted are made available on the Global Sullivan Principles web site.²⁰

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) adopted in 1976 a set of guidelines for multinational enterprises, which provide voluntary principles, and standards of responsible business conduct in areas such as environmental stewardship, labour relations and human rights. Canada endorsed the Revision 2000 of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on 27 June 2000. The new guidelines cover the activities of multinational enterprises operating in or from the OECD's 29 member countries. These countries account for about 90% of multinational enterprises' foreign direct investment.²¹ See *Appendix 5* for the complete OECD Revision 2000 text.

The UN Global Compact was initiated at the World Economic Forum, Davos, in January 1999 and was adopted by the UN on 26 July 2000. The Global Compact challenges business leaders to promote and apply within their corporate domains nine principles in the field of human rights, labour standards and the environment. The aim is to help strengthen the social pillars within which any market, including the global market, must be embedded if it is to survive and thrive. The principles derive from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ILO's Fundamental Principles of Rights at Work, and the Rio Principles on environment and development.²² See *Appendix 6* for the complete text.

As of January 2002 the Global Compact had been adopted by the following oil and gas exploration and production companies: Indian Oil Corporation, Nexen, Shell International, and Statoil.²³ Consequently to date, it would appear that the only Canadian oil and gas exploration and production company, which has adopted the United Nations Global Compact, would be Nexen.

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The Anglo-American Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights was adopted on 20 December 2000 by the following oil and gas exploration and production companies, amongst other: BP, Chevron, Conoco, Royal Dutch/Shell, and Texaco.²⁴ See *Appendix 7* for the complete Voluntary Principles text.

Chevron and Texaco signed separately, and have since merged on 9 October 2001 to form ChevronTexaco Corp.²⁵ As of 27 March 2002 the new entity had agreed to continue to adopt these Voluntary Principles.²⁶ Conoco has since merged with Phillips Petroleum to form ConocoPhillips. This merger was approved by the shareholders on 12 March 2002, and is awaiting final approval by various US regulatory agencies.²⁷ The new entity has not yet had time to address the issue of whether to continue with the adoption of these Voluntary Principles.²⁸

These Principles were part of an ongoing effort to ensure that corporate security arrangements fully respect human rights. In the past, companies were criticized because their security providers committed human rights violations. Notable examples over the last few years included BP in Colombia, and Shell and Chevron in Nigeria.²⁹ At present these companies are attempting to implement these principles before enlarging their group.³⁰

The process of developing these Principles was begun in February 2000. They were formulated as a result of discussions between the US Department of State (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor), the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, multinational oil and mining companies, and human rights organizations. Also involved was the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, and General Worker's Union, as the representative for trade unions. The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum and Business for Social Responsibility were the participating business organizations.³¹

In July 2001 the European Commission published a Green Paper on CSR to start the European level debate.³² See *Appendix 8* for the complete Green Paper text. The Commission launched the European Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR EMS Forum) in October 2002, to act as a framework to promote CSR in Europe.³³

Governments see these guidelines as positive steps towards better cooperation with respect to CSR, although all of these Codes and Principles are voluntary, there is no legally enforceable standard and there is a lack of a monitoring and enforcement mechanism.³⁴

Canadian CSR Efforts for Overseas Operations

On 5 September 1997, a group of Canadian companies, which were active internationally, announced the release of an International Code of Ethics for Canadian Business. The purpose of the Code was to provide an appropriate standard of conduct for Canadian companies operating in a wide variety of systems and cultures throughout the world. While the Code was in the nature of general principles, it was meant to be a catalyst to create a basis for ongoing implementation and evaluation initiatives related to ethics in international business.³⁵ See *Appendix 9* for the complete Code text.

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Canadian Occidental Petroleum was the driving force behind this initiative. Other oil and gas exploration and production companies that adopted the Code were Chauvco Resources, Profco Resources, and Shell Canada.³⁶ On 3 November 2000 Canadian Occidental Petroleum was renamed Nexen.³⁷ Talisman Energy adopted the Code in December 1999.³⁸

On 18 December 1997 the Chauvco Resources Argentine and Canadian units, were bought by Pioneer Natural Resources. The control of the Argentine assets was transferred to the US headquarters while Pioneer Natural Resources Canada controlled the Canadian assets. The other Chauvco assets in Gabon and South Africa were controlled by a new entity, Chauvco Resources International, which went into bankruptcy sometime in 1998.³⁹

In September 1998 GHP Exploration Corporation based in the USA merged with Profco Resources. On 1 December 1998 GHP was acquired by TransAtlantic Petroleum and the operational control of all of the international assets were transferred to the US headquarters.⁴⁰

The University of Ottawa, which provides the administration for the Code, does not require companies that have adopted the Code to register. In any event, the list of companies which have adopted the Code is confidential, unless a company chooses to make the information public.⁴¹ Hence it was not possible to ascertain which other companies had adopted the Code. During March and April 1999, a number of workshops across Canada were held by the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Canada, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce which focused on the Code and international business ethics.⁴² These were repeated during April and May 2002. Generally attendance by Canadian oil and gas exploration and production companies operating overseas was not significant.⁴³

On 14 February 1999 Parliament enacted the Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act, to put into effect in Canada the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials. The Act criminalized the bribery by Canadians of foreign public officials for the purposes of obtaining or retaining business. Canada' s ratification triggered the Convention' s entry into force on February 15, 1999, 60 days after the deposit of Canada' s instrument of ratification. To date, 34 states have signed the Convention, including all of the original members of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions ('the Working Group').⁴⁴

In early 2000 the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) sponsored a series of cross Canada international business ethics workshops. The workshops provided information on the Act, the issues and evolution of codes of conduct, and to discuss the challenges facing Canadian business operating overseas.

In May 2000 the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) Canada generated a Discussion Paper on CSR which was updated on 7 November 2000. The Paper gave the background on CSR and the government's activities in this regard, and asked for Canadian input on the issues.⁴⁵ See *Appendix 10* for the completed Discussion Paper text.

Canadian Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Companies with Overseas Holdings

As stated previously in June 2001 there were a total of 76 public Canadian oil and gas exploration and production companies with land holdings overseas outside of the USA, but a year later this number had decreased to 58 companies. Most of the consolidation in the Canadian upstream has come from US companies taking over their northern rivals.⁴⁶ In the past three and a half years 105 petroleum companies have been listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange while 175 have disappeared.⁴⁷ A long list of Canadian intermediate and senior oil and gas companies has been incorporated into the growth strategies of other Canadian and US companies.⁴⁸ As of June 2002, forty-six (46) Canadian oil and gas exploration and production companies operated overseas in developing and conflict-torn countries. See *Appendix 11* for details.

The involvement of Talisman Energy as operator in Sudan in the Greater Nile Oil Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC) is one of the most noticed Canadian oil and gas company endeavors overseas due to the ongoing conflict in the country. The partners in the project are Malaysia's Petronas (25% interest), the China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) (40% interest), and the Sudanese state oil company Sudaped (5% interest).

On 8 November 2001 a class action lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York against Talisman Energy. The suit was on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Sudan and the Nuer Community Development Services in the USA, a charitable organization who's members include more than 10,000 Sudanese refugees currently living in the US. It alleged various human rights abuses and other acts by the Sudanese government in which the company is complicit, and which the company denies.⁴⁹

On 13 June 2002 the Indian cabinet formally approved a request to purchase Talisman Energy's 25% interest in Sudan to India's state owned oil and gas company Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).⁵⁰ This offer was eventually accepted on 30 October 2002.⁵¹

Also of interest are the oil and gas exploration and production companies with overseas holdings, which have a subsidiary office in Canada, particularly in light of the numerous recent acquisitions. These would include companies controlled from the USA such as follows: Anadarko Canada, Burlington Resources, Canadian Forest Oil, Chevron Canada Resources, Conoco Canada, Devon Energy Canada, Dominion Energy, Duke Energy, El Paso Energy, ExxonMobil Canada, Hunt Oil Company of Canada, Marathon Canada and Murphy Oil Canada; and from the UK such as BP Canada Energy. Imperial Oil Resources will continue to be used as a separate company in Canada although affiliated to Exxon. Imperial Oil Resources does not have any international assets to refrain from competing with its global affiliates.⁵²

Although not yet operating in Canada both TotalFinaElf and Unocal have been the subject of lawsuits and investigations with respect to their operations in Burma. On 8 May 2002 a Belgian judge began investigating TotalFinaElf and its chief executive Thierry Desmaret for allegedly helping the Burma military to commit human rights abuses.⁵³ On 13 June 2002 a Los Angeles Superior Court judge, in a tentative decision, cleared the way for a suit to proceed for vicarious liability against Unocal for human rights abuses committed by the Burma military.⁵⁴ A previous case involving Unocal and its activities in Burma was dismissed in September 2000.⁵⁵

Canadian Oil and Gas Trade Associations and CSR

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) represents 150 companies that explore for, develop and produce over 97 per cent of Canada's natural gas and crude oil. CAPP also has 120 associate members that provide a wide range of services that support the upstream oil and natural gas industry. CAPP has mostly a domestic focus that is well developed. CAPP's CSR domestic initiatives have been in place since 1999. CAPP is giving consideration to CSR overseas initiatives, but these are only in the early stages of discussion.⁵⁶

The Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) is the national association of approximately 250 Canadian oilfield service, supply and manufacturing companies. The Association's mission, through effective presentation to government, industry and the public, is to protect, promote and pursue the interests of its members and to advocate standards, training, information dissemination and a code of practice.⁵⁷ PSAC does not have any international focus, although it offers via its' web page members who have international experience.⁵⁸

There are a number of Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are concerned with CSR. Among these would be the Canadian Business for Social Responsibility based in Vancouver, and the Centre for Innovation in Corporate Responsibility based in Ottawa, amongst others. Also there would be such international NGOs as Amnesty International and Development and Peace. Amongst the academic institutions with an interest in CSR are the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa, and the Canadian Institute of Resource Law at the University of Calgary.

There are a number of NGOs in the US that are concerned with CSR such as the Center for Ethical Business Cultures based in Minneapolis, the Center for Corporate Citizenship based at Boston College, and the international Human Rights Watch, amongst many others.

Verification of CSR

There is considerable literature to support the view that the adoption of CSR principles, and the implementation of management systems to uphold ethical standards, can confer competitive advantage on firms operating internationally. Nonetheless, the dearth of analytical work (in 2000) on the impact and effectiveness of corporate codes of conduct has led to debate over the utility of such codes in the absence of strong monitoring and implementation mechanisms, and the role of third parties in this process⁵⁹. However, there seems to be a level of consensus developing that "all codes, all the standards, and all the instruments are valid and that anything that can be done to make a difference today" is worthwhile.⁶⁰

As the 1st CSR Round Table on Codes of Conduct held by the European Commission in Brussels on 22 April 2002 concluded that "codes are innovative and important instruments...and recent years have shown an evolution in the way codes make reference to internationally agreed principles, and involved trade unions and NGOs in their drafting and monitoring. [However] the transparency and effectiveness of implementation and verification processes needs to be improved, i.e., through the development of specific reference methodologies and tools."⁶¹ The OECD has published similar view points.⁶²

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Many oil and gas exploration and production companies have mission and vision statements that they are proud to display on their web pages. Whether it is simply “window dressing” is another matter.⁶³ Some oil and gas exploration and production companies employ auditors such as PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Ernst & Young to vet their overseas operations within the scope approved by the exploration and production company. However these are generally qualified in some manner with disclaimers and other limitations.⁶⁴ In addition they can be seen by other third parties as totally inadequate.⁶⁵ As has been observed in the recent Enron (November 2001) and WorldCom (June 2002) and other accountancy debacles,⁶⁶ it would seem perhaps best to seek outside independent accountability.

The Institute of Social and Ethical AccountAbility in the UK have published the AA1000 Framework: Standard, Guidelines and Professional Qualification. Launched in 1999, the Series provided the first systematic stakeholder-based approach to organizational accountability and performance improvement. It has been used worldwide by leading businesses, non-profit organizations and public bodies in framing corporate responsibility policies, stakeholder dialogue, social, ethical and environmental accounting auditing and reporting, professional training, and research and related standards work.

The new AA1000 Series builds on the AA1000 AccountAbility Framework. The Series will consist of the core Framework plus an on-going programme of specialised modules for accountability practitioners, and other supporting documents launched through 2002 and 2003. This will offer all users a set of accessible standards and guidelines and an evolving platform upon which to build effective stakeholder engagement and social, ethical and environmental accountability systems. The first module will be the AA1000S Assurance Standard: Guiding Principles (released in consultation form in June 2002).⁶⁷

The Caux Round Table has a Self-Assessment and Improvement Process available via its web site.⁶⁸ There may be other verification process applicable to oil and gas exploration and production companies. In all cases their relevance needs to be carefully examined to ensure compatibility with the oil companies culture and the overseas area of operations.⁶⁹

Canadian Engineering and Geomatic Professional Associations and CSR

Codes of ethics adopted by Canadian engineering and geomatic professional associations in the provinces and territories tend to relate to business dealings, but some elements in each relate to Corporate Social Responsibility, or CSR.⁷⁰ For instance, under Alberta statute the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) registers, sets practice standards and determines disciplinary action, when necessary, for its approximately 37,000 professional members, members-in-training, licensees and permit holders. Many of these members work in the oil and gas industry in Alberta as well as overseas.

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The APEGGA Code of Ethics states it should be used to guide professional engineer, geologist and geophysicist conduct at all times. The first Rule of Conduct states that “professional engineers, geologists and geophysicists shall have proper regard in all their work for the safety and welfare of all persons and for the physical environment affected by their work”. Under section 43 of the Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Act, a contravention of this Code may constitute unprofessional conduct or unskilled practice, which is subject to disciplinary action.⁷¹ The Code applies to all members of APEGGA and permit holders wherever they are.⁷² See *Appendix 12* for the complete APEGGA Code of Ethics text.

The Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA) represents the business interests of consulting engineers and geoscientists firms in Alberta, and has approximately 75 member firms. Many of these member firms work in the oil and gas industry in Alberta as well as overseas. The APEGGA Code of Ethics binds member companies.⁷³ See *Appendix 13* for the completed CEA Code of Ethics text.

In addition the CEA developed in 2000 a chief executive officer (CEO) charter as a means of establishing solidarity between the members for a strong industry voice, and a reaffirmation of the CEA Code of Consulting Engineering Ethics. The Charter was signed by then member companies’ CEO of the day, in a public ceremony at the Annual General Meeting on 25 May 2000, and any new members also sign the Charter. The Charter exerts strong peer pressure to “do the right thing”.⁷⁴ Over the years, provincial and territorial consulting engineering associations have developed Codes of Consulting Practice to set higher standards for their members in the fulfillment of their duties towards society, clients, other consulting engineers and employees.⁷⁵

The business interests of the CEA members are also represented at the national level by the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC) which includes both engineering and geomatics, as well as other sector disciplines. The ACEC Code of Consulting Practice instructs members to “fulfill their duties with honesty, justice and courtesy towards society”. It also instructs that the “members shall practice their profession with concern for the health, safety and social and economic well-being of society.”⁷⁶ Should the need arise the ACEC can choose to remove a company’s membership as the disciplinary measure available.⁷⁷ See *Appendix 14* for the complete ACEC Code text.

The ACEC is in turn a member of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC). The FIDIC is committed to promoting the values promulgated in the United Nations Global Compact,⁷⁸ which was discussed previously. The FIDIC operates as a separate entity and the ACEC has not articulated a position on the stand taken by the FIDIC on the Global Compact.⁷⁹ See *Appendix 15* for the complete FIDIC Code of Ethics text.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association (ALSA) is a self-governing professional association in Alberta legislated under the Land Surveyors Act. The ALSA regulates the practice of land surveying for the protection of the public and administration of the profession. The ALSA is legally concerned with the land boundaries and other geomatic issues within Alberta.⁸⁰ The ALSA Code of Ethics stresses that the land surveyor shall “serve society” and maintain the “public interest”.⁸¹ The Code applies to all members of the ALSA wherever they are.⁸² See *Appendix 16* for the complete ALSA Code text.

In other provincial jurisdictions there are similar self-governing professional land survey associations. The code of ethics of these associations generally encourage integrity and dignity of the profession while, as with the ALSA code of ethics, the main focus is on business, training and inter-professional conduct issues.⁸³

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) is a federally enacted professional Association governed by the Act respecting Canada Lands Surveyors. The ACLS has 540 members located across Canada who have expertise in surveying, photogrammetry, geodesy, hydrography and land information systems. Canada Lands Surveyor commissions are granted to those who meet specific standards of geomatics training and education and successfully pass a set of rigorous examinations. Many CLSs also hold a provincial commission, allowing them to practice in more than one jurisdiction. All of the land surveyors in the territories of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are members of the ACLS.

Only licensed members of the Association may perform cadastral surveys on Canada Lands or private lands in one of the Canadian territories. Canada Lands includes most of the offshore from coast to coast to coast.⁸⁴ The ACLS Code of Ethics requires Members to ensure that “to the best of their ability that their names are not used in association with persons or enterprises of dubious or doubtful ethics”. The Code applies to all members of the ACLS and permit holders wherever they are.⁸⁵ See *Appendix 17* for the complete Code text.

All of these Canadian engineering and geomatic professional associations have disciplinary powers that could be invoked if their code of ethics was not upheld.

The Canadian Council of Land Surveyors (CCLS) is the governing body for the provincial survey organizations. The CCLS International Trade Committee is mainly concerned with trade issues and has not addressed CSR, leaving this to the jurisdiction of each province.⁸⁶

RICS Canada is a national grouping for the members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Canada. With 110 000 members in 120 countries, RICS is the world' s leading professional body addressing all aspects of land, property, construction and the associated environmental issues. An independent, not-for-profit organization, RICS acts in the public interest, upholding standards of competence and integrity among its members and providing impartial, authoritative advice on major issues affecting business and society worldwide. RICS's main responsibilities are twofold: to regulate and steer the profession in the public interest; and to provide information and services to the members.⁸⁷ See *Appendix 18* for the complete RICS Guidance Notes on Professional Ethics text, which includes examples and discussion.

The RICS Guidance Notes provides advice to members of the RICS worldwide on aspects of the rules of professional conduct. The Notes embody “best practices” which in the opinion of the RICS meet a high standard of professional competence and ethical behaviour. Members are not required to follow the Notes, but they should be used for guidance. However, by not using the Notes where appropriate, in the event of litigation, the member could be required to explain why they decided to depart from the recommended practice.

As has been demonstrated above, the elements of CSR in these codes and guidance notes are generally limited. One of the reasons the engineering and geomatic professional associations believe that they are sufficient is because only very rarely (and never with most associations) has a member been disciplined for their breach.

Conclusions

The real value of any set of principles is in its use and implementation in day to day business activities. Codes and principles applied ethically and morally in real situations, need engineering and geomatic professionals who have a strong ethical and moral basis of their own.

The Canadian oil industry and the engineering and geomatic professionals, which support it overseas, have codes of ethics to follow or for guidance, which if not upheld could have implications for their dealings with their peers, as well as repercussions with the professional associations to which they belong.

The message is becoming increasingly clear that organizations that work in partnership with communities are more attractive to customers and employees, and therefore, ultimately, investors⁸⁸.

About the Author

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Appendix 1A. United Nations - Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Online at <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

Appendix 1B. United Nations – Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Voting Record

Appendix 1C. United Nations – Resolution: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/52/117)

Online at <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/a52r117.htm>

Appendix 2. International Labour Organization's - Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

Online at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/decl/declaration/text/index.htm>

Appendix 3. Caux Round Table - Principles for Business

Online at <http://www.cauxroundtable.org/ENGLISH.htm>

Appendix 4. Global Sullivan Principles of Social Responsibility

Online at <http://www.globalsullivanprinciples.org/principles.htm>

Appendix 5. OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, Revision 2000

Online at <http://www.oecd.org/pdf/M000015000/M00015419.pdf>

Appendix 6. United Nations - Global Compact

Online at <http://65.214.34.30/un/gc/unweb.nsf/content/thenine.htm>

Appendix 7. Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

Online at http://www.state.gov/www/global/human_rights/001220_fsdl_principles.html

Appendix 8. European Commission – Promoting a European Framework for Corporate Social Responsibility, Green Paper

Online at http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-dial/csr/greenpaper_en.pdf

Appendix 9. International Code of Ethics for Canadian Business

Online at <http://www.cdp-hrc.uottawa.ca/globalization/busethics/codeint.html>

Appendix 10. Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Corporate Social Responsibility - Discussion Paper

Online at http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/Corporate_discussion-e.asp

Appendix 11. Canadian Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Companies with Overseas Holdings (does not include USA)

Appendix 12. Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta – Code of Ethics

Online at <http://www.apegga.com/members/registration/documents/code.htm>

Appendix 13. Consulting Engineers of Alberta – Code of Ethics

Online at <http://www.cea.ca/aboutusframe.htm>

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Appendix 14. Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada – Code of Consulting Practice
Online at <http://www.acec.ca/en/about/code.html>

Appendix 15. International Federation of Consulting Engineers – Code of Ethics
Online at <http://www.fidic.org/about/ethics.asp>

Appendix 16. Alberta Land Surveyor’s Association – Code of Ethics
Online at <http://www.alsa.ab.ca/pdf/msp2002.pdf> Part B, Section 1

Appendix 17. Association of Canada Lands Surveyors – Code of Ethics
Online at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/L-5.8/SOR-99-142/34203.html#rid-34217>

Appendix 18. Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors – A Guide to Professional Ethics
Online at http://www.rics.org/resources/standards/profn_ethics.shtml

Appendix 1B. United Nations - Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Voting Record

The following countries voted in favour (in alphabetical order): Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Siam, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

The following countries abstained (in alphabetical order): Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

Source: UN GA, 183rd Plen. Mtg., Minutes for 10 December 1948, page 59A.

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Appendix 12. Canadian Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Companies with Overseas Holdings (does not include USA)

Sources:

2002Per Personal communications with company in 2002

Web From company web site and Upstream Online/Archive site at online:
<http://www.upstream.tm/news> (date accessed: April 2002)

Land holdings in the various countries are provided. The actual operator, if not the Company, is in brackets, if known. The right hand column provides details of the countries in which the company are the operator.

Canadian Public Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Companies based in Canada

Company	Source	Land Holdings in Countries	Operator in Countries
Antrim Energy	Web	Argentina – Puesto Guardian (Tripetrol), Tunisia (Bligh)	Australia, Argentina – Capricorn, Tanzania (force majeure lifted 17 April 2002), UK
Aventura Energy	Web	Trinidad & Tobago (Vintage Petroleum)	Argentina
BelAir Energy (amalgamated with Tikal Resources, December 2001)	2002Per		UK (to be sold)
Bow Valley Energy	Web	Iran (Elf), UK offshore (CNRI and Shell)	France, UK
Calvalley Petroleum	Web		Yemen
Canadian Natural Resources (bought Ranger Oil July 2000)	2002 Per	South Africa (not specified)	Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, France, UKCS
Canoro Resources	Web	India (not specified)	
Centurion Energy International	Web		Egypt, Tunisia
CGX Energy	Web		Guyana (international boundary dispute)
Cubacan Exploration	2002Per		Cuba (not active)
Denison Energy	2002Per		Greece (force majeure)
Encana (merger of PanCanadian and AEC, April 2002)	2002Per	Azerbaijan (BP), Ghana (not specified)	Australia, Brazil, Ecuador, Libya, UKCS, Yemen
Epic Energy	2001		Ukraine

Canadian Engineering and Geomatic Professionals, and CSR Overseas

Company	Source	Land Holdings in Countries	Operator in Countries
Equatorial Energy	Web		Indonesia
Eurogas Corporation	Web		Spain, Tunisia
First Calgary Petroleum	Web	Yemen (DNO ASA based in Norway))	Algeria
Fortune Oil and Gas	Web		Indonesia
Gentry Resources (via subsidiary Stratic Energy)	2002Per	Côte d'Ivoire (Ranger Oil Côte d'Ivoire SARL), Gabon (Energy Africa)	
Geocan Energy	Web		Czech Republic
Geodyne Energy	2002Per	Bolivia (Matpertrol S.A.)	Argentina (to be finalized)
Heritage Oil	Web	Angola (Ranger Oil West Africa), Oman (Eagle Energy (Oman))	Republic of Congo, Uganda
Husky Energy	2002Per	China (Wenchang 13-1, 13-2), Indonesia (ExxonMobil), Libya (not specified)	China (Wenchang 39-05)
International Frontier Resources	Web	Australia (Genting Oil and Gas)	
International Seine River Resources (controlled by Trinity Plumas Capital)	Web		Guatemala
Ivanhoe Energy (via subsidiary Sunwing Energy)	2002Per		China
Jerez Energy International	2002Per	Nigeria (abandoned)	
Kroes Energy	2002Per	Cuba (Sherritt International), Trinidad & Tobago (Primera Oil and Gas), Ukraine (Ukranafta)	
Mera Petroleum	2002Per		Colombia (to be farmed out)
Millennium Energy	2002Per	Colombia (to be farmed out)	
Nexen (formerly Canadian Occidental Petroleum, changed November 2001)	Web	Colombia (PetroBras), Nigeria (TotalFinaElf)	Australia, Colombia, Indonesia, Yemen
Niko Resources	2002Per		India

Canadian Engineering and Geomatic Professionals, and CSR Overseas

Company	Source	Land Holdings in Countries	Operator in Countries
Oilexco	2002Per		Bolivia, Iraq (under UN sanctions)
Oracle Energy	Web	Yemen (Mayfair Petroleum)	
Patria Resources	2002Per		UK
Pebercan	2002Per	Cuba (not specified)	
Petrobank Energy and Resources	Web	Guinea-Bissau (Premier Oil)	Colombia (bought AEC Colombia April 2002)
Petro Canada	2002Per	Denmark, Faroes, Libya (National Oil Company), Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, Venezuela (others not specified)	Algeria, Netherlands, Tunisia, UKCS
Quadra Resources	2002Per		Colombia
Rally Energy (merged with Scimitar Hydrocarbons, May 2002)	2002Per		Egypt, Pakistan
Redeco Energy	Web	Moldova (Tahmah Energy), Romania (Hunt Exploration and Mining)	
Rio Alto International	Web		Argentina, Ecuador
Sheer Energy	Web		Iran
Sherrit International	Web	Pakistan, Spain (both not specified)	Cuba
Solona Petroleum	2002Per	Colombia (not specified)	
Sterling Resources	2002Per	Denmark (not specified), Romania offshore (Paladin Resources PLC), UK (not specified)	Denmark (2/01), Romania (South Craiova), UK (Cleveland Basin)
Talisman Energy	2002Per	Algeria (not specified), Trinidad and Tobago (BHP Billiton), Malaysia and Vietnam (Petronas Carigali)	Colombia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, UKCS
Tanganyika Oil Company	2002Per	Tanzania (not specified)	Egypt
Tartan Energy	Web		Kazakhstan
TG World Energy	2002Per	Myanmar (China National Petroleum Company)	Niger (to be farmed out)
Tracer Petroleum	2002Per	Indonesia (not specified)	

Canadian Engineering and Geomatic Professionals, and CSR Overseas

Company	Source	Land Holdings in Countries	Operator in Countries
TransAtlantic Petroleum Corp.	2002Per	Nigeria (Nexen)	
TransGlobe Energy	Web	Yemen (Conoco and Vintage Petroleum)	
Vermilion Resources	Web	France offshore (ExxonMobil)	France onshore

Canadian Public Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Companies based in UK

Company	Source	Land Holdings in Countries	Operator in Countries
Hurricane Hydrocarbons	Web		Kazakhstan
Mart Resources	2002Per		Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Zaire (in abeyance)
PanOcean (formerly PanAfrican Energy name changed Aug 2001)	Web		Gabon, Tanzania

Canadian Private Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Companies Based in Canada

Company	Source	Land Holdings in Countries	Operator in Countries
Archean Energy	2001 Per		Benin, UK
Momentum Energy International	2002Per		Ukraine

Canadian Private Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Companies Based in UK

Company	Source	Land Holdings in Countries	Operator in Countries
CanArgo Energy Corporation (acquired Lateral Vector Resources April 2001)	Web		Dagestan (offshore), Georgia, Ukraine

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