Benchmarking Task Force Final Report

Mandate: to prepare a benchmarking report comparing the Canadian undergraduate engineering accreditation system to others nationally and internationally, and to provide a report to the steering committee regarding the key considerations from the research.

Seven comparator accreditation systems were compared across 41 benchmarking metrics:

Canadian professions:
 Information technology
 Social work
 Nursing
Engineering accreditation internationally:
 Australia
 France
 Malaysia
 Poland

Benchmarking metric categories:
1. Accreditation processes and measures,
2. Impacts on pathways to graduate licensure,
3. Roles and responsibilities of accreditation players,
4. Strategies for quality consistency and evaluation processes, and
5. The purpose of accreditation

Key finding: the Canadian undergraduate engineering accreditation system is very similar to the selected comparators.

Key similarities and considerations:

All accreditation systems rely on outcomes
 Consideration: continue reliance on outcomes-based accreditation

Most comparators do not employ discipline-specific criterion.
 Consideration: investigate whether the current approach of using the expertise of program visitors to assess discipline quality is adequate.

Key differences and considerations:

The Canadian engineering education accreditation is extensively granular relative to comparators
 Consideration: Re-evaluate time-based input measures and minimum path requirement

Comparators place higher importance on integration of industry/practical experience in programs, including clear standards or outcomes as to the purpose of such experience.
 Consideration: Revisit expectations for professional experiences without prescribing process or methods

Other systems are less restrictive regarding licensure requirements of faculty.
    Consideration: Review the necessity and reasoning for faculty licensure

The purpose statement of comparators include more stakeholders and/or multiple objectives
    Consideration: Review and consider breadth of current statement of purpose

Comparators have a defined role for industry within the accreditation process (eg. industry advisory panels).
    Consideration: Review the role of industry in the accreditation system