



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

City of Charlottetown  
199 Queen Street  
Charlottetown, PE  
C1A 7K2  
Attention: Peter Kelly, CAO

Dear Mr. Kelly,

On behalf of our members, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of Prince Edward Island (ACEC-PEI) wishes to share our concerns in regard to the City of Charlottetown's awarding of the contract for consultant services for Fire Station #3.

We support and echo Mr. Chandler's concerns on how the successful firm was chosen by the City of Charlottetown (City) for the Fire Station project in the article published in the Guardian on January 4, 2021 entitled *Architectural firm may legally challenge Charlottetown council decision on fire hall design*. It is apparent that the City did not adhere to the selection process outlined in their Request for Proposals (RFP) issued for this project.

The proposals were supposed to be evaluated on 8 specific technical criteria with a total of 90 points and 10 points for the fee. Page 9 of the RFP states that the "Proposals will be evaluated against the mandatory criteria". It also states that "The City's intent is to enter into a contract with the proponent who has the highest overall ranking". The firm with the highest combined score should be awarded the work.

For the Fire Station RFP, the City of Charlottetown's own technical scoring recognized that Chandler Architecture was the most qualified firm to complete this project and their highest total score indicates they would provide the "best value" to the project and the taxpayers of the City. Yet, the City decided not to hire them, instead awarding the project based on low fee which was not the criteria laid out in the RFP. This undermines the taxpayer's confidence in the public procurement process and provides no transparency on the decision-making process.

We feel all levels of government should use open and transparent procurement best practices to achieve quality, innovation and long-term savings. Our concern is that this is extremely unfair to consultants, both architects and engineers, who have invested their time and money into assembling teams and writing proposals with the objective of getting the most points to win the contract. If the decision was to be made only based on lowest fee then thousands of dollars would have been saved preparing proposals.

ACEC-PEI believes that infrastructure is a core business of all levels of government and an investment in our social, economic and environmental quality of life, not a cost to be minimized! In closing, ACEC-PEI is of the opinion that the City should ensure their procurement process properly follows its own criteria, thereby ensuring transparency, in all future Request for Proposals and Tender closings.



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Sincerely,

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cc. Mayor Phillip Brown