

Canadian Engineering Competition Report:

Dear Student Experience Enhancement Fund Committee Members,

On February 24th - 27th, our team made up of Malik Cherrat, Julian Russell, Benjamin Reny and Gabriel Tausch represented McGill MacDonal campus at the Canadian Engineering Competition. In this report we would like to thoroughly thank the SEEF for the funds allotted to our team. What follows is a description of the competition, its outcome and the knowledge acquired through it.



We had previously qualified within Quebec at the Quebec Engineering Competition. To prepare for this competition, we put in countless hours in research, meetings with consultants, and preparation of needed material such as presentation and report templates. CEC was held at the University of Waterloo this year and so we traveled there on February 24th. Throughout the competition our team got to meet professionals and students alike, allowing us to make numerous professional connections. Companies such as WSP, CIMA+, Shell, BBA and HATCH were present at the events, presenting us with potential career opportunities at their companies. After a presentation and a report on the consulting case given to us (reducing industrial pollution of a PVC extrusion process) our team unfortunately did not achieve a podium. Yet this does not mean our time at the Canadian Engineering Competition was a failure, in fact, we feel it was a massive success. In addition to a number of professional connections, we left this competition with valuable experience and lessons. Our team came together as a result of each of our personal interest in consulting, the consulting competition allowed us to explore and galvanize these professional interests. Each member of our team enjoyed utilizing our academic tools to solve real world problems in a holistic manner, accounting for technical requirements, social and environmental considerations and financial constraints. One of our biggest take aways was that this competition demonstrated our love for problem solving in the engineering world and how consulting may be our desired path to practice this love professionally. Moreover, we came away with numerous lessons specific to consulting itself, most notably, how difficult it can be! With big expectations from the client and tight constraints to work within, solving a difficult engineering problem, such as reducing industrial pollution from a plastics manufacturer, becomes far more daunting. With that said, it is this challenge that makes engineering consulting so fascinating and enjoyable for our team. We also learned some of the ins and outs of consulting through the competition as well as through interacting with professionals of the field. Some of these tricks of the trade that we acquired were the importance of having clear expectations with your client, having reliable communication with relevant professionals (the client's team, other engineers, etc.), and preparing a number of potential solutions and then narrowing them down based on the client's preference.

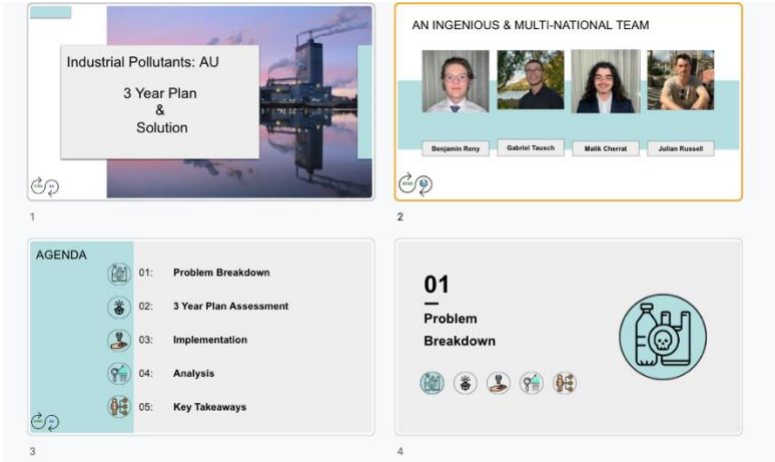
Attending the CEC was made possible through the funds from the SEEF and as such, the entire team would like to express their gratitude to both the committee members and the donors for their generosity that has allowed us to learn so much. The experience was unforgettable.



The team: Malik Cherrat, Gabriel Tausch, Benjamin Reny and Julian Russell (from left to right)



The entire McGill Delegation (3 teams)



The first slides of our consulting presentation on ways to control, reduce and handle industrial pollutants in a PVC molding factory