

Country case: The Canadian Certification Program for the Federal Government Procurement and Materiel Management Communities

Description

In today's rapidly changing environment, the Canadian Federal Government's Procurement and Materiel Management Communities become a more knowledge-based profession, with an emphasis on a strategic advisory role. In an environment where accountability is foremost, it is essential that practitioners demonstrate they possess the advanced skills and knowledge required to function effectively and efficiently.

Public Procurement
Principle: **Capacity**

Procurement Stage:
All phases

Audience: **Policy Maker,
Procurig Entity**

The Program is managed by the Acquired Services and Assets Sector (ASAS) Communities Management Office (CMO) in Treasury Board Secretariat. The CMO provides strategic direction and central leadership for the collaborative development and implementation of strategies, programmes and initiatives to support capacity building, community development and the professional recognition of the Federal Government Procurement, Materiel Management and Real Property Communities.

When the Certification Program was launched in 2006, it received national and international recognition as the Federal Government's first ever Certification Program for Procurement and Materiel Management specialists. What binds together the procurement and materiel management communities is their responsibility for the lifecycle management of assets, from assessment and planning of requirements throughout acquisition until disposal. As a consequence of this shared responsibility, the communities have many common competencies, learning goals and knowledge requirements.

Certification provides the increased professional recognition for the communities and offers a professional designation to formally acknowledge a practitioner's level of achievement. Procurement specialists can acquire certification as a Certified Federal Specialist in Procurement, Level I and II, and those in materiel management can acquire certification as a Certified Federal Specialist in Materiel Management Level I. Both designations are based on the Federal Government Procurement and Materiel Management Communities Competency Suite. A competency describes an employee's proficiency in a particular job function in terms of knowledge, skills and abilities. Each competency has a definition, a proficiency level and behavioral indicator statements.



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The Certification Program is designed to evaluate a candidate's experience and knowledge in the federal government context, thereby distinguishing it from designations from external certifying bodies. In addition to developing technically proficient communities, the Program also focuses on ensuring capacity in leadership competencies.

Source: OECD (2016), [Towards Efficient Public Procurement in Colombia: Making the Difference](#), OECD Publishing, Paris