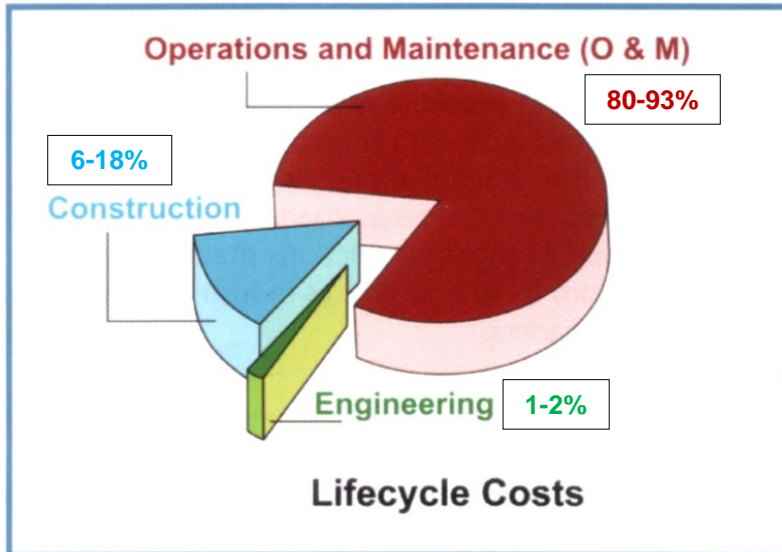


## Selecting a Consulting Engineer

Selecting a consulting engineer is one of the most important project decisions a client makes. **Consulting Engineers Nova Scotia (CENS)** suggest clients consider the life-cycle cost of a project including design, construction, and operations and maintenance costs, as well as the reliability of the sustainability of the end product.



For example, Figure 1 shows the total relative costs for design, construction and operations and maintenance over the life-cycle of the project. The Engineering design component, while only in the range of **1 to 2% of total costs**, has a significant impact on both construction costs and operations and maintenance costs, as well as the overall reliability of the project itself.

Figure 1: Typical breakdown of project life cycle costs

Although the design costs are minimal, it must be noted the real additional cost to the client for choosing the best design is the difference between it and the lowest price, in effect, **a fraction of 1%**.

There are additional business reasons for selecting the “best design”, for example:

- Extensive studies have shown that “low price” design results in approximately **10% extras** on the project, whereas selection of the best technical solution results in extra costs of **less than 5%**.
- Clients have experienced **less staff monitoring** of the project is required when the best engineering design is selected.
- **Productivity** by both client and engineering staff is enhanced.
- Best design will result in a **better quality product** for the end user.

CENS has created a document entitled **“Guidelines for Procuring Consulting Engineering Services in Nova Scotia”**. This Guideline, prepared by CENS and endorsed by Engineers Nova Scotia, is intended to assist our clients in getting “best value” for their financial reserves when procuring engineering design services.