

PTech Framework Development Group Presents Interim Report

In June 2011, the Councils of APEGBC and the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) appointed a PTech Framework Development Group, composed of equal members of both association Councils, to advise on the options and preferred alternative for the development and regulation of the designation “PTech” (Professional Technologist) in BC.

The Group met six times between July and November 2011 to develop a concept for a Professional Technologist that would contribute to public interest and safety, while fulfilling a role that:

- a. is clearly not the role of a Professional Engineer or Engineering Licensee;
- b. will clearly enhance public safety and health;
- c. will be created through 3rd party legislation and regulation; and
- d. is easily understood by the public.

In developing and considering options for models, members of the Group consulted with their respective Councils to determine their positions on a number of attributes of the PTech concept. Development of a recommended model that meets the criteria above was the focus of the majority of their meetings. The Group made progress, but has not yet completed all of its six deliverables.

At the December meeting of Council, an interim report was presented that summarized the work of this Group to date and made three recommendations to the Joint Executive Committees of APEGBC and ASTTBC. The group recommended: 1) a concept for the development and regulation of PTech; 2) that a formal stakeholder consultation plan be undertaken to advise the Group; and 3) that the Minister of Advanced Education be advised on progress to date and timing for stakeholder consultation.

Following stakeholder consultation, the final report of this Group is intended to be submitted to both association Councils by April 15, 2012.

For more information, contact Gillian Pichler PEng, Director, Registration at gpichler@apeg.bc.ca.

COUNCIL ISSUES

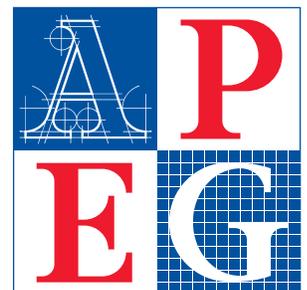
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Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC

Canadian Framework for Licensure: Fairness and Service Level Norms

The CEO/Executive Director Group of Engineers Canada's constituent members is leading the initiative to develop a Canadian Framework for Licensure in order to create national consistency and enhance equity, fairness and timeliness of services. The group has identified twelve essential elements of the regulated engineering profession in Canada, which will be developed collaboratively by engineering regulators with extensive consultation to identify best practices. APEGBC Council has directed that feedback on each element be sought from appropriate committees.

At their September meeting, Council discussed the fourth element put forward by Engineers Canada, Fairness and Service Level Norms. Five key considerations were presented:

1. Provide regulatory practices that are **timely, transparent, objective, impartial and fair**.
(These terms are defined as follows: Timely: assessments made in less than one year after receipt of documentation, with a goal of 85% of assessments completed in 120 days or less; Transparent- practices that are clear, understandable and open to public scrutiny; Objective- practices that are not influenced by feelings or personal bias; Impartial- practices that are applied to all applicants without prejudice; Fair- practices that are just and provide an equal opportunity to all)
2. Make transparent, objective, impartial and fair assessments of qualifications, assessments of public complaints and practice reviews.
3. Demonstrate accountability through public reporting.
4. Meet or exceed current minimum standards - this maintains or improves protection of the public interest.
5. Review practices on an ongoing basis.

Under the federal Pan-Canadian Framework for the assessment and recognition of international qualifications, engineering regulators have committed to generally carry out assessments of foreign qualifications within 120 calendar days; however, no Canadian engineering regulators have established explicit timelines other than APEGBC through its Balanced Score Card. Fairness legislation has been enacted in Nova Scotia, Ontario and Manitoba that applies to all regulated professions. APEGBC has established an internal Fairness Panel to examine appeals from the Registration Committee and where the panel's recommendations are not accepted by the Registration Committee, the matter is referred to Council.

Council supported the five key considerations (above) and added that item #1 also include that timelines are formally monitored. Additional feedback has been gathered from the Registration Committee.

For more information, contact Derek Doyle, CEO and Registrar at ddoyle@apeg.bc.ca.

Follow APEGBC on Twitter

APEGBC recently launched its official twitter feed as a way to communicate and engage with members online. Follow us on Twitter [@APEGBC](https://twitter.com/APEGBC) or www.twitter.com/apegbc and join the conversation.



PEER Implementation Plan Approved

Established in 2008, the Professional Renewal Task Force (PRTF) brought forward 38 recommendations to Council for the renewal of association programs and processes. One of the recommendations was that the association establish the Professional Education, Enhancement and Renewal (PEER) program: a proactive quality assurance program focused on the professional development of members through a knowledge management process. The PRTF recognized that the concept of learning and continuously improving professional practice should be a renewed focus for APEGBC, and that a need exists for members to be able to access the vast amount of practice information amassed by colleagues.

The Professional Practice Committee was charged with the responsibility to develop a strategy and oversee its implementation. The committee will oversee the establishment of a knowledge management process that will be spearheaded by the Association's Leadership Team, who support most committees and task forces. Through this support work, the Leadership Team will help identify problems, gaps and opportunities for consideration that will be relevant to building a comprehensive knowledge base for members, and will communicate these to the Professional Practice Committee.

The Leadership Team developed an initial list for committee consideration over the next two years. The committee recommended to Council that six items be pursued at this time:

1. Complete the six new quality management guidelines, which support the new quality management bylaws that came into effect in December 2010, and offer training on them to members;
2. Promote the use of Organizational Quality Management (OQM) as the major thrust in advancing quality management in professional practice;
3. Develop tools to support new members so they are trained on guidelines published by the council and relevant to the practice of the applicant;
4. Provide CPD seminars on the Code of Ethics and associated guidelines;
5. Develop a discussion paper on establishing a fund to review designs that are at risk of being unsafe to workers, clients or the public where the member responsible for design could learn and improve their understanding of good professional practice; and
6. Semi-annually receive and review a report presented by the Leadership Team for the consideration of the Professional Practice Committee.

At their September meeting, Council approved the overall approach for implementing the PEER program and the six initial items for implementation.

For more information contact Peter Mitchell, P.Eng., Director, Professional Practice, Standards and Development at pmitchell@apeg.bc.ca.

Enforcement Procedure Revised

The *Engineers and Geoscientists Act* establishes prohibitions on the use of certain titles and the practice of professional engineering and professional geoscience by persons who are not members or licensees of the Association; however, the Act does not contain any information on what steps the Association should take in investigating and resolving such cases. The APEGBC Enforcement Procedure lays out the process of how complaints are investigated and resolved, including when certain decisions are to be made and by whom. Due to its prescriptive nature, the existing Procedure limits the flexibility that is sometimes required in order to reach an appropriate and acceptable outcome.

Council approved revisions to this Procedure that clarify the enforcement process and the decisions to be made along the way, allow greater discretion to achieve appropriate outcomes, and indicate when to take legal action.

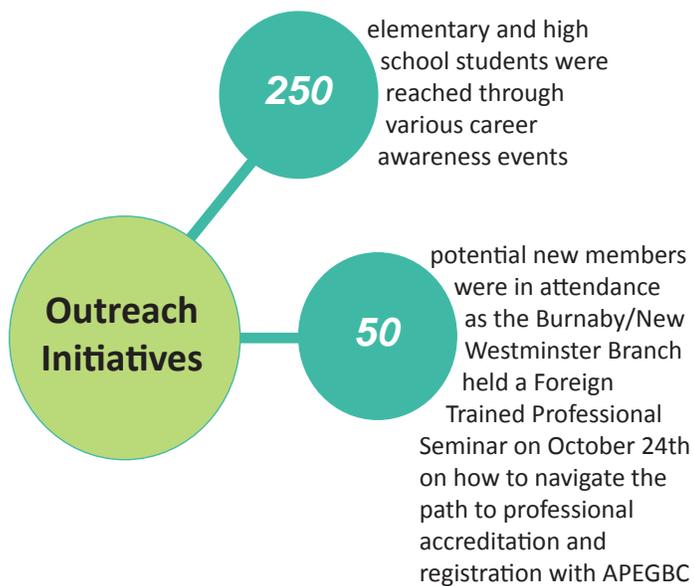
The Enforcement Procedure can be found at: www.apeg.bc.ca/enforcement/complaint.html#enf.

Branch Engagement by the Numbers

Reporting Period: September – December 2011

Branches play a fundamental role in increasing member engagement, supporting and driving this initiative in many ways. To illuminate the work of the branches in this area, a **Branch Engagement Report** is presented to Council for information at each meeting.

Take a closer look at some of the highlights from the most recent report:



Registration Process Reengineering Review

A Council policy adopted in 2007 establishes a bi-annual review of the Association's registration policies, guidelines and procedures to evaluate changes that could be made to process and performance. This is the sixth consecutive year that the Registration Committee has undertaken a major review of its policies and procedures in accordance with this policy. Rather than a general policy review this year, the Registration Committee appointed a Registration Process Reengineering Task Force to advise it, at a minimum, on an improved and more effective experience review process for new P.Eng. applicants.

Research was undertaken over the summer and considered Council's Strategic Plan objectives, service quality, administrative law, natural justice, fairness and access legislation, related precedent, and best practices of regulatory bodies locally, nationally and internationally. Eight of the recommendations put forward by the Task Force for process or policy change were approved by the Registration Committee. Three recommendations for policy change were approved by Council at their September meeting. These recommendations support allowing graduates from reputable non-accredited engineering programs to gain academic qualification without an examination or interview; promote clarity of the decision-making process and uniformity in assessing the academic qualifications of candidates who graduated from an engineering program/institution that is not covered by a mutual recognition agreement recognized by the Association; and revise the Professional Practice Examination Policy to allow EITs and GITs to write the examination prior to applying for their professional designation.

Implementation of the Task Force recommendations is expected to decrease total number of interviews needed, decrease the number of Applications Committee reviews, and provide resource savings in terms of both volunteer and staff hours utilized.

The Task Force brought additional recommendations to Council in December, intended to provide a more effective experience review process for new P.Eng. applicants. The recommendations address the Looking-to-Exempt process, out-of-discipline applicants, and the Limited License qualification process.

For more information contact Gillian Pichler, P.Eng., Director, Registration at gpichler@apeg.bc.ca.

Council Approves Consultative Bylaw Development Process

Currently, very little member consultation takes place on proposed bylaws or amendments to existing bylaws. Once Council approves a bylaw and puts it before the members for ratification, there are no established methods for members to participate and provide feedback, other than using their vote to do so.

Council recognized that engaging with members on a deeper discussion of the policy objectives and the proposed wording of the bylaw would be extremely beneficial and would support a stronger understanding of the regulatory process.

At their December meeting, Council approved a Bylaw Consultation Policy that establishes a consistent approach to gaining member feedback on proposed bylaws prior to the membership vote. While consultation should take place consistently for all bylaws, the consultation process itself will remain fluid and responsive to best support the individual nature of each bylaw.

Members can expect this process to commence early in 2012 with consultation on a bylaw for Alternative Complaint Resolution. In 2008, the Engineers and Geoscientists Act was amended to permit Alternative Complaint Resolution (ACR) of discipline cases. While the Act envisaged and authorized an ACR bylaw, as yet no bylaw exists. Mediation processes to date have been very successful as an efficient and effective means of resolving discipline cases and protecting the public interest. The Discipline Committee supports the continued use of ACR.

The bylaw will address common issues and considerations that are not covered by the Act. These include the form of the ACR (mediation, negotiation, other), the Association's involvement in the mediation, payment for the process, and publication of the Consent Order.

At their December meeting, Council approved the proposed ACR bylaw in principle and referred it back to the Discipline Committee to determine the methods for consultation, in accordance with the Bylaw Consultation Policy.

For more information, contact Geoff Thiele, Director, Legislation, Ethics & Compliance at gthiele@apeg.bc.ca.

Task Force on Building the Engineering and Geoscience Community Presents Interim Report

APEGBC is currently undertaking a strategy to engage members in disciplines outside of the five major practice areas of civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical, and structural engineering, and has established a Task Force to carry out this work. The purpose of the Building the Engineering and Geoscience Community Task Force is to develop a strategy to engage and earn the respect of current and potential members outside of these main practice areas, so that the public interest is best served with respect to assuring public safety in the practice of engineering and geoscience.

Since beginning work in early 2010, the Task Force has targeted seven groups for study: pioneering engineers in R&D fields; public sector non-member engineers/geoscientists; industrial non-member engineers; electrical/software engineers; project management engineers/geoscientists; geoscience educators; and members in disciplines that are new or have few members. Leaders and practitioners in each group were interviewed to identify areas for opportunity and engagement. Based on information gathered from these groups, as well as from other regulators, the Task Force developed a list of potential initiatives to engage each group.

The Task Force will be finalizing their work over the next three months and will be bringing a report and final recommendations to Council in March 2012.

Agreement Signed with Engineers Without Borders

A new partnership between APEGBC and Engineers Without Borders Canada (EWB) was announced at APEGBC's Annual Conference. EWB CEO and co-founder George Roter and APEGBC Immediate Past President Frank Denton, P.Eng., FEC, signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the shared goals and guiding principles of the APEGBC-EWB relationship, as well as actions for the near-term and future opportunities. Through the newly established APEGBC-EWB relationship, EWB will promote and articulate the value of licensure to chapter members who are trained as engineers or geoscientists, or who are engineering or geoscience students. APEGBC, in turn, will support EWB in their efforts to develop and deliver initiatives intended to address the root causes of extreme poverty in developing countries. The organizations will work together to promote the engineering and geoscience professions, and enhance the public's understanding of the roles of the professions within society.

Annual General Meeting Motions From the Floor

The AGM is the forum in which members may bring motions forward for debate, and to provide advice to Council on what is of concern to the members present at the meeting. The following motion was passed by the members in attendance at the 2011 AGM.

Motion 2. That Council consider publishing in the current Annual Report all audit changes, with explanations and/or notes, to the unaudited statements approved by the AGM in the previous year. *Moved by Norm Johnson PEng, seconded by Roy Bartholomew PEng. The motion was **carried**.*

Action on this motion was referred to the Director of Finance and Administration to bring a recommendation to the Finance and Audit committees as part of the budget and audit process. It should be noted that as per the Bylaws, the audited financial statements are received by members, not approved.

Sustainability Initiatives Gather Momentum

After considering input from the Association's Sustainability and Environment Committees, Council approved a motion to endorse Engineers Canada's National Guideline on Environment and Sustainability. The National Guideline was prepared by the Environment and Sustainability Committee of the Canadian Engineering Qualifications Board in consultation with Engineers Canada's constituent members, and was created to provide guidance and encourage professional engineers to be proactive in environmental stewardship and in following the principles of sustainability.

The APEGBC Sustainability Committee also provided an update to Council on the progress of revising APEGBC's 1995 Sustainability Guidelines. The Committee has received initial feedback on their revised guidelines that indicate additional work and consultation with the membership would be beneficial. The committee will submit an implementation plan to Council in January 2012.

APEGBC's staff led Green Team has been working to reduce the Association's carbon footprint. APEGBC is participating in the Climate Smart program to measure the Association's CO₂ emissions. A report has been submitted to Climate Smart for review. The Green Team will be discussing reduction strategies and targets for the coming year.

COUNCIL NOTES

Council Work Plan Updated

The Council Work Plan guides the work of task forces, working groups, committees, divisions and staff in delivering on the goals and objectives of the association's Strategic Plan, which follows a three-year cycle. The last major rewrite of the Strategic Plan took place in the Fall of 2010.

At the December meeting of Council, work was reported to be on schedule for most items with only minor adjustments. One item was added; the Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Group. Work on this item is expected to begin in early 2012 with the first report to Council scheduled for May 2012.

The Council Work Plan is available online at: <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/about/documents/councilworkplan2011-2013.pdf>.

Council Joined by Four New Members

Council welcomed four new members to the Council table this Fall: Herb Hawson, P.Eng., FEC, Donna Howes, P.Eng., Dr. Michael Wrinch, P.Eng., and Sheila Wynn, PhD (government appointee). New and returning Council members were sworn in at the association's annual conference in October, and those not able to attend that event took their oath of office at the December Council meeting.

Biographies of Council members are available at: www.apeg.bc.ca/about/council/councilmembers.html.

Value for Money Steering Committee Update

The Value for Money Steering Committee was established to act on behalf of Council to oversee the conduct of the annual review process of the efficiency and effectiveness of expenditures. The review process will be based on a four-year cycle in which different association programs are reviewed each year.

The committee has retained a consultant with extensive experience in this area and worked with him to create a work plan, timeline and scope for the review. The final report to Council will be presented in early 2012.

GOVERNANCE NOTES

Terms of Reference Updated

The following Terms of Reference (TOR) and policy revisions were recently approved by Council:

Registration Committee

Revisions were made to adopt a recommendation of the Limited License Renewal Task Force that the TOR of association committees include Engineering and Geoscience Licensees, including those committees that affect the entry and practice of Engineering and Geoscience Licensees.

Audit Committee

Revisions addressed the composition of the committee, financial knowledge of members, and date of election of the Chair.

Value for Money Steering Committee

A review of policy setting procedures of the association was added to the purpose of this Committee, so that the governance of the association is included as part of the review process.

Registration Fairness Panel

The TOR was adjusted to add a third member to the Panel. This will ensure appropriate succession planning can take place and will assist in maintaining quorum.

Legislative Review Task Force Stood Down with Thanks

The Legislative Review Task Force was established in March 2009, and acted as a consultative and advisory resource reviewing recommendations from the Registration Committee, Governance Committee and Professional Renewal Task Force. In addition, the Task Force provided consultation during the research, review and recommendation phases of legislative reform. The Task Force completed its work in September 2009 and has since been inactive. Council formally stood down this Task Force with an expression of thanks to its members.

NATIONAL ISSUES

Geoscientists Canada Report

Geoscientists Canada directors met in Toronto on November 4-5th. Discussion focused on the facilitation of inter-provincial mobility for geoscience professionals across Canada, and evaluation and registration criteria for internationally trained geoscientists. There was significant progress on both items, and co-operation between the various associations is strong.

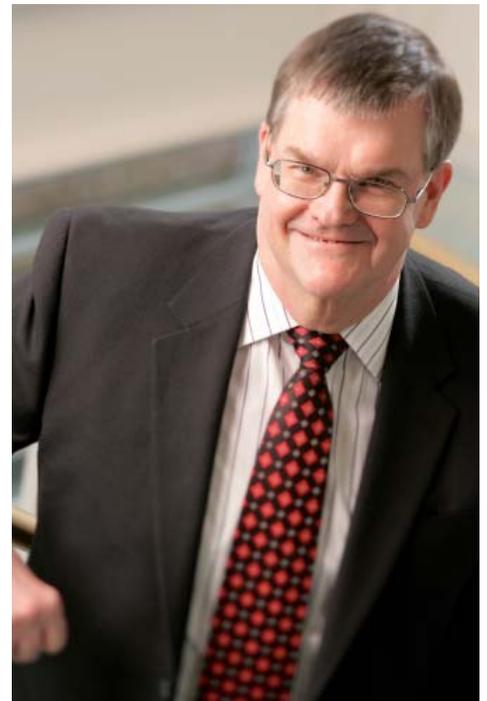
The 4th International Professional Geology Conference will be held in Vancouver from January 22-24, 2012 in conjunction with AMEBC's Mineral Exploration RoundUp. APEGBC is a sponsor of this event. All major organizational items are now in place, and the final program and speakers are being fine-tuned. More details are available at www.4ipgc.ca.

Engineers Canada Report

Engineers Canada's 2011-2016 Strategic Plan was approved at their board meeting in October. The plan includes 14 broad issues and opportunities. Two surveys were also recently completed. The Membership Survey compiled demographic data about the engineering profession across the country, including information on membership composition, geographic distribution, trends and growth, and women in engineering. The Licensure Application Survey was prepared for the use of the 12 constituent associations and collected information on the applications for licensure received by all constituent associations, including the use of both the inter-association mobility agreement and the international mutual recognition agreements.

Council Thanks Fred Wylie, CGA, CMA, CHRP for 11 Years of Service

Throughout his tenure at APEGBC as Director, Internal Affairs, Fred Wylie was responsible for years of successful audits and was the chief architect of the Association's Sustainable Financial Management Policy. Fred has served the professions of engineering and geoscience capably for the last 11 years. In 2009 he was named an honorary Fellow of Engineers Canada. Council would like to express sincere appreciation to Fred for his years of dedicated service and leadership to APEGBC and wish him all the best in retired life.



APPOINTMENTS

INTERNAL

BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

Tim Brown PEng
Andy Teasell PEng
Leonard Pianalto PEng

BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE CITY OF SURREY REPRESENTATIVE

Mehran Mazeman PEng

BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE CITY OF VANCOUVER REPRESENTATIVE

Tim Ryce PEng

CONSULTING PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Bill Alcock PEng
Bill Donald PEng
Todd Stewart PEng

CPD COMMITTEE

David Harvey PEng/StructEng FEC
Robert Ito PEng FEC
Leonard Pianalto PEng

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Darryl Chambers PEng
Dave Ricketts PEng

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Gerry O'Hara PEng

GEOSCIENCE COMMITTEE

Bob Gerath PGeo FEC (Hon)

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

Allan Dakin PEng
Troy Issigonis PEng
Brian Nakai PEng
Alan Rampton FCA

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mike Bapty PEng FEC
Lindsay Bottomer PGeo FEC (Hon)
Angus English PEng

OQM COMMITTEE

Don Shaw PEng

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Glenn Pellegrin PEng
Keith Trulson EngL

REGISTRATION FAIRNESS PANEL

Phil Sunderland PEng FEC

REGISTRATION LIMITED LICENCE SUB COMMITTEE

Don Delcourt EngL
Doug Falkins EngL
Tom Hunt EngL
Andy Mill PEng StructEng FEC
Ross Rettie PEng FEC
Keith Trulson EngL

STANDING AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bob Cowan PEng
Doug VanDine PEng/PGeo FEC (Chair)

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Corey Aurala PEng
Canisius Chan PEng
Chad Larson PEng (Chair)
Terry Molstad PEng

TEMPORARY STRUCTURES TASK FORCE

Jack Bogdonov PEng

EXTERNAL

APEGBC DIRECTOR TO GEOSCIENTISTS CANADA

Lindsay Bottomer PGeo FEC (Hon)

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER ADVISORY DESIGN PANEL

Bob Heikkila PEng

VANCOUVER AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD

Kenneth Goosen PEng