

# MINUTES OF THE 103<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

*\*Minutes are presented as a draft, until approved by Council*

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was held virtually via webcast on Saturday, October 15, 2022. After establishing that quorum of registrants was present, Chair, Carol Park, P.Eng. convened the meeting at 8:30 am.

The Chair acknowledged that she was joining the meeting from Burnaby, on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish, and Musqueam nations, and extended appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this territory. The Chair added that while the meeting was being hosted on a virtual platform, she would also like to acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands nationwide, that we are on today. The Chair then proceeded to ask the assembly to partake in a moment of reflection to acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and to consider how we are and can, in our own way, try to move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

The Chair noted that the legal and notification requirements for the meeting had been met and the meeting duly constituted.

The Chair addressed the assembly and advised that the AGM is an opportunity for registrants to hear from Council and senior staff on the organization's strategic progress and financial standing. She remarked that this year saw several significant milestones for the organization. We closed off our 2017 – 2022 Strategic Plan and developed a new strategic plan that will guide our work over the next five years. New programs including mandatory continuing education and the regulation of firms were introduced, along with significant work to operationalize the *Professional Governance Act*. Our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion has deepened, and work to implement our Climate Change Action Plan had begun.

### *Introduction of 2021/2022 Council*

The Chair then introduced the 2021/2022 members of Council and provided an overview of Council's role and responsibilities under Engineers and Geoscientists BC's primary mandate of protection of the public.

### *Introduction of Staff*

The Chair introduced several Engineers and Geoscientists BC staff who were actively participating in the meeting and thanked staff working behind the scenes for their efforts.

### ***Introduction of Parliamentarian***

Eli Mina, Registered Parliamentarian, was introduced as the parliamentarian for the meeting.

### **OVERVIEW OF MEETING RULES AND PROTOCOLS**

The Chair advised that Engineers and Geoscientists BC was hosting the AGM remotely for the third year in a row and informed registrants that there were some minor changes to the AGM rules with the goal of facilitating an efficient virtual meeting. The Chair informed registrants of the AGM rule changes which included: that Council has approved the agenda in advance of the AGM; and secondly, that we have amended the process to approve the minutes of this meeting. Rather than having the AGM minutes approved by the attendees of next year's AGM, we will post them on our website within 30 days of this meeting so registrants have an opportunity to review them. Following that consultation period, which will allow registrants to submit corrections, Council will approve the minutes.

The Chair also informed registrants that in order to facilitate engagement in our digital environment, we have included several question periods throughout the meeting where registrants are able to submit a question or comment. The Chair also outlined the voting procedures using the webcast platform.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 102<sup>nd</sup> (2021) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Chair advised that although we have amended this process for future years, the minutes of the 2021 AGM were made available online in advance of the meeting and were available within the webcast platform.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (2021) of Engineers and Geoscientists BC be approved.

#### **CARRIED**

Subsequently to the vote on approving the 2021 AGM minutes, a point of order was raised that these minutes had not been uploaded to the webcast platform and, as a result, it was not possible to cast an informed vote on their approval.

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were then successfully uploaded, the vote on their approval was then re-taken, and the motion was approved. The motion to approve the 2021 AGM minutes was thereby adopted.

#### **CARRIED**

### **GREETINGS FROM ENGINEERS CANADA AND GEOSCIENTISTS CANADA**

The Chair shared greetings from Engineers Canada President Kathy Baig, MBA, FIC, ing., DHC who brought greetings on behalf of our national engineering organization. The Chair advised that President Baig's remarks had been pre-recorded for the meeting.

The Chair then introduced Geoscientists Canada President Yuri Kinakin, P.Geo, who brought greetings on behalf of our national geoscience organization. President Kinakin's remarks were also pre-recorded for the meeting.

#### **Acknowledgment of Guests from Other Regulators**

The Chair welcomed representatives joining the meeting virtually from other professional regulatory bodies, and other engineering and geoscience regulators across the country.

#### **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair directed the assembly's attention to the 2021/2022 Annual Report, which included reports from the President, the Chief Executive Officer, as well as the Engineers and Geoscientists BC's financial statements. The annual report was made available on Engineers and Geoscientists BC's website.

#### ***President's Report***

The Chair then began to provide a report on the organization's activities from this past fiscal year and shared some of the highlights from the organization's work from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Some of the key highlights included: navigating changes and challenges resulting from the COVID -19 pandemic, the operationalization of new tools and requirements under the *Professional Governance Act* including the transition from serving a dual mandate to a regulatory mandate only, the launch of the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, dissolution of the Benevolent Fund and advances in climate action and equity, diversity and inclusion strategies.

The Chair then acknowledged the outstanding contributions to the professions by the 2022 Award Winners.

#### ***Chief Executive Officer's Report***

Heidi Yang, P.Eng., FEC, FGC (Hon.) Chief Executive Officer, briefed the assembly on major operational activities of the past year. One of the major activities this year was the development of a new five-year strategic plan. This plan was developed with input from many stakeholders, and focuses on modernizing our processes, collaborating with partners, agile regulation, and social impact. Other major activities were the continued implementation of the Professional Governance Act which included: the introduction of the regulation of engineering and geoscience firms and the launch of the Continuing Education Program as well as the conclusion of the multi-year investigation into the 2014 Mount Polley mine tailings pond breach.

At the conclusion of her report, Heidi Yang thanked President Park, Council, staff, volunteers, and the wider engineering and geoscience community for their efforts.

The Chair then opened the floor for questions regarding the Chief Executive Officer's Report and the President's Report.

Questions were raised related to: i) why the recently hired Chief Regulatory Officer and Registrar is not a P.Eng; ii) whether Council would consider bringing back the Life Membership designation for registrants; iii) request for a status update on the current Engineers and Geoscientists BC website outage; and iv) who owns the building located on Regent Street now that the organization is a regulator under the PGA.

All questions were addressed by the Chair and CEO.

At this point in the meeting a break was taken for 15 minutes.

As additional questions were received during the break, the Chair and CEO addressed the following questions after the break: i) are there plans to consider a form of remuneration for all volunteers in the future; ii) what action is the organization taking regarding misuse of title; iii) is the organization arranging for training for authorities having jurisdiction as some are not aware of the verification process for digitally signed documents; and iv) can registrants claim continuing education credits for attending the AGM.

#### ***Audited Financial Statements***

The Chair called upon Suky Cheema, CPA, CA, Chair of the Audit Sub-Committee, to report on the audit process and to present the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

Suky Cheema confirmed that these statements have been approved by Council and do not require a motion for approval at the AGM. They are available to registrants and the public in our Annual Report.

The Chair then opened the floor for questions regarding the audited financial statements. No questions were raised.

#### **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE REPORT**

The Chair welcomed Paul Craven, Superintendent, to present a report from the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG). The Chair advised that Mr. Craven's remarks had been pre-recorded for the meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr. Craven and informed the audience that today, Kate Haines, Director with the OSPG, was in attendance to address any questions from registrants related to this report. The Chair then opened the floor for questions.

Four questions were raised and addressed by Kate Haines. Questions included: i) what is the OSPG's stance on the interprovincial mobility of professionals; ii) are there plans for the lawyers to also be transitioned to the PGA; iii) when will the other regulatory bodies under the PGA begin regulating firms; and iv) when does the term of the current Superintendent expire, and does the next provincial election impact the appointment of the Superintendent?

## **AGM MOTIONS**

The Chair addressed the audience and stated that in accordance with the organization's bylaws and meeting rules, registrants had the opportunity to submit motions in advance of the AGM for Council's consideration. All motions must have been received no later than 5:00 PM on September 14, 2022 to allow adequate time for review and inclusion in the virtual meeting and to support fair and informed debate. At the close of the submission deadline, no motions were received.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

The Chair acknowledged registrants of the organization who had passed away over the last year. A moment of respectful silence was observed.

## **RESULTS OF THE 2022 COUNCIL ELECTION**

The Chair welcomed Heidi Yang, P.Eng., FEC, FGC (Hon.) Chief Executive Officer, in her capacity as Chief Electoral Officer, to review the results and election process.

The Engineers and Geoscientists BC election was conducted by electronic ballot. All registrants in good standing, including our more than 8,000 trainees, were eligible to vote.

The process is run through a two-tiered, secure third-party administered system, so while the organization can access an up-to-date voter list, the results are held by the third party and not released to us until the close of voting. By using this system, neither Engineers and Geoscientists BC nor the third party can connect voter to vote. As Chief Electoral Officer, I am satisfied that the election was conducted in a fair, confidential and impartial manner.

This year 14.0% of eligible voting members participated. 5,550 votes were cast.

The council election results were announced as follows:

President: Mark Adams, P.Eng.

The newly-elected Councillors were Mark Porter, P.Eng., StructEng., FEC, Mahsoo Naderi-Dasoar, P.Eng., and Karen Ling, P.Eng.

As Councillor Mark Adams was elected President, creating a vacancy on Council, Ms. Naderi-Dasoar will serve the remainder of Mr. Adams' term, which is two years.

This Fall, Council will appoint one of its elected members to serve as Vice President for a 1-year term. This governance best practice, well-established in similar organizations, enables Council to select a Vice President who can best meet the needs of the Council.

## **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCIL**

The Chair took a moment to thank the councillors who had completed their terms of service on Council for their dedication of time and energy to the organization and to the professions.

She began with thanking outgoing Past President Larry Spence for his many years of dedicated service and leadership on Council.

Councillors completing their terms at this time were:

- Kevin Turner, P.Eng., FEC, FGC (Hon.) and
- Dr. Brent Ward, P.Geo., FGC, FEC (Hon.)

On behalf of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, the Chair expressed his sincere thanks to all of the outgoing Councillors for their tremendous dedication of time and energy to the organization and to the professions.

### **INDUCTION OF PRESIDENT AND 2022/2023 COUNCIL**

Carol Park, P.Eng., then introduced Mark Adams, P.Eng. as incoming President for the 2022/2023 Council year. Chief Regulatory Officer and Registrar, David Pavan, RPh, CSC, administered the Oath of Office for the incoming President.

Mark Adams addressed the audience and spoke to several initiatives he would be focusing on over the coming year. He then proceeded to thank outgoing President, Carol Park for her leadership and then introduced the new and continuing members of the 2022/2023 Council:

- Immediate Past President is Carol Park, P.Eng.

New and returning Councillors are:

- Karen Ling, P.Eng.
- Michelle Mahovlich, P.Eng., P.Geo.
- Mahsoo Naderi-Dasoar; P.Eng
- Mark Porter, P.Eng., StructEng., FEC
- Jessica Steeves, P.Eng, and
- Jens Weber, P.Eng

Engineers and Geoscientists BC's public representatives appointed by government are:

- Suky Cheema, CPA, CA
- Leslie Hildebrandt, ICD.D, LLB
- Emily Lewis, CPA, CMA and
- David Wells, JD

### **Presidential Year in Review Video**

Heidi Yang, P.Eng., FEC, FGC (Hon.), Chief Executive Officer acknowledged Carol Park, P.Eng., outgoing President for her service and commitment over the past year and thanked her on behalf of Engineers and Geoscientists BC for her continued contributions to the professions and the public.

### **Stripped Gear Presentation**

Outgoing President Carol Park, P.Eng., was then honoured with the “Stripped Gear” medallion in a virtual ceremony presented by outgoing Past President Larry Spence, P.Eng., FEC, FGC (Hon.). Larry Spence’s presentation was pre-recorded for the AGM.

### **CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In closing, the Chair underlined the requirement for diverse experience, skills and expertise required for Council, and requested that attendees for help in identifying and recruiting candidates for next year’s Council elections, and to consider running. The Chair offered thanks to those who had organized the AGM, as well as the annual conference sessions and for all those in attendance at today’s meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.