
Date: January 30, 2015

Report to: **Council for Decision**

From: Standing Awards Committee

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Director, Communications & Stakeholder Engagement

Subject: Guidelines for Awarding Honorary Membership in APEGBC

Background

At the October 2014 Annual General Meeting the following motion was passed:

“That Council consider granting Honorary Professional Engineer status to Col. Chris Hadfield to recognize his outstanding contribution as a Canadian-trained engineer.”

Council referred this motion to the Standing Awards Committee. Under their Terms of Reference, the Standing Awards Committee holds responsibility for identifying and nominating candidates for Honorary Membership in the association.

The attached current criteria for Honorary Membership were approved by Council in 2002, and state:

APEGBC Honorary Membership in the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists is awarded at Council's discretion to non-members who have made outstanding contributions to the professions of engineering and/or geoscience. Contributions will include service, leadership, and dedication to the Association or to other societies related to the professions over a sustained period of time.

Discussion

The Standing Awards Committee reviewed the motion at their December 2014 meeting and identified a need to update the existing criteria for Honorary Membership in order to provide increased guidance and specificity. The committee felt that this should happen separately and prior to making a decision on the AGM motion.

At their January 2015 meeting, the committee drafted revised criteria for Honorary Membership, taking into consideration the current criteria, bylaw wording, the criteria of constituent associations, and the history of how Honorary Membership has typically been awarded. Gillian Pichler, Director, Registration, also reviewed and provided advice on the proposed criteria.

To date, Honorary Membership has been awarded to nonmembers who have provided exceptional service to APEGBC. The committee feels there is an opportunity to also recognize those exceptional individuals who aren't practicing engineering or geoscience, but who contribute significantly to industry, or who demonstrate an impact on raising awareness of the professions of engineering and/or geoscience or the association.

Recommendation(s)

The committee passed a motion approving the attached draft Guidelines for Awarding Honorary Membership in APEGBC and recommends that Council approve these Guidelines which provide eligibility considerations and evaluation criteria.

Motion: That Council approve the draft Guidelines for Awarding Honorary Membership in APEGBC.

Megan Archibald
Director, Communications & Stakeholder Engagement

Guidelines for Awarding Honorary Membership in APEGBC

Council, in its discretion, by unanimous vote, may confer honorary membership in the association, without payment of fees, on nonmembers who have made outstanding contributions to the professions of engineering or geoscience. (Bylaw 10(d))

APEGBC Council may award Honorary Membership in the association to individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the professions, as outlined in Bylaw 10 (d). This document provides parameters for consideration of this significant honour.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Honorary Members are nonmembers of the association.
2. Honorary Members are exempt from payment of fees, but cannot vote, run for office, practice as, or be called a Professional Engineer, Professional Geoscientist or Licensee.
3. Honorary Membership may not be conferred posthumously, unless Council has approved Honorary Membership prior to the death of the honoree.
4. Honorary Membership is an extraordinary recognition, and should be reserved for unique and significant contributions. It is not required to be awarded annually.
5. Candidates may be proposed by the Standing Awards Committee, Council, or by members. All nominations must be reviewed by the Standing Awards Committee.
6. Honorary Membership may not be awarded to anyone who is, when nominated:
 - a. a member of the staff of the association;
 - b. being paid for services rendered to or for the association;
 - c. a member of Council; or
 - d. a politician currently in office.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Candidates must have demonstrated distinguished service and/or outstanding contributions to the professions that has taken place in British Columbia or is directly connected to British Columbia.
 - a. Such service should have:
 - i. an impact on association activities or the professions, either directly (e.g. through participation on Council or other APEGBC groups) or indirectly (e.g. through contributions to engineering or geoscience education);
 - ii. a demonstrated impact on raising awareness of the professions of engineering and/or geoscience or the association; or
 - iii. demonstrated individual initiative and leadership in business, innovation, philosophy or management that has resulted in the betterment of the association, the professions or the protection of the public interest.