

MINUTES OF THE 102ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Minutes are presented as a draft, until approved at the following AGM*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was held virtually via webcast on Saturday, October 30, 2021. After establishing that quorum of registrants was present, Chair, President Larry Spence, P.Eng. convened the meeting at 8:30 am.

The Chair acknowledged that he was joining the meeting from Burnaby, on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hə́nqə́mihə́n [Halkomelem] and Skwxwú7mesh [Skohomish] speaking peoples, and he extend 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, he would also like to acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today and to take a moment to recognize the importance of the land, which we each call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures. 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 each, 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. He remarked that this has been a milestone year for the organization. We have navigated the organization's transition to new governing legislation and oversight, the COVID-19 pandemic, and senior leadership changes. In addition, we've advanced key initiatives, including the introduction of our Climate Change Action Plan, harmonizing regulatory processes with other Canadian jurisdictions, and prioritizing equity, diversity, and inclusion within engineering and geoscience.

Introduction of 2020/2021 Council

The Chair introduced the 2020/2021 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 participating in the meeting.

Introduction of Government Guest(s)

The Chair shared a video greeting from Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, the Honourable David Eby and thanked him for those greetings.

He also acknowledged the following representatives from the BC Legislative Assembly who were attending the meeting: the Honourable George Chow, P.Eng., Minister of State for Trade and MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview, and the Honourable Bowinn Ma, P.Eng., Minister of State for Infrastructure and MLA for North Vancouver.

The Chair also welcomed staff from the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance and thanked everyone for joining the meeting virtually.

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 second year in a row and informed registrants that the rules were available for viewing within the webinar platform. The Chair informed registrants that they were invited to submit motions in advance of the AGM. We will not be accepting motions from the floor at the meeting under our meeting rules; however, 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 advised that professional engineers, professional geoscientists, and engineering and geoscience licensees were entitled to vote and shared that this year was the first time that our more than 8,000 engineering and geoscience trainees are eligible to vote in the Council election and at our AGM. The request to extend voting rights to trainees originated through a motion at our 2017 AGM. Following consultation, this change was included in the updated bylaws that support the *Professional Governance Act* this past year. We very much look forward to this new way for trainees to participate in the self-regulation of our professions. He invited the assembly to please join him in extending a very warm welcome to the trainees in attendance at the meeting.

The Chair then proceeded to review the meeting rules and voting procedures using the webcast platform.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Before the Chair moved to approve the agenda, he informed the audience that there were some changes resulting from the *Professional Governance Act* that mean some items registrants have voted on in the past will no longer be voted on. These include a motion to destroy the election ballots and a motion to appoint the organization's auditors.

Registrants will continue to receive a report on the election process and the audited financials, but a vote of registrants on these two items is no longer required. Under our new bylaws, following the Council election, the CEO is responsible for determining when the election ballots are to be deleted. Also, Council is responsible for appointing the external auditor for the organization.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the agenda of the 102nd Annual General Meeting of Engineers and Geoscientists BC be approved.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 101st (2020) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chair advised that the minutes of the 2020 AGM were made available online in advance of the meeting and available within the webcast platform.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 101st Annual General Meeting (2020) of Engineers and Geoscientists BC be approved.

CARRIED

GREETINGS FROM ENGINEERS CANADA AND GEOSCIENTISTS CANADA

The Chair shared greetings from Engineers Canada President Danny Chui, P.Eng., FEC who brought greetings on behalf of our national engineering organization. He advised that President Chui's remarks have been pre-recorded for the meeting.

He then introduced Geoscientists Canada President, Dr. Kevin Ansdell, P.Geo., FGC, who brought greetings on behalf of our national geoscience organization. President Ansdell's remarks were also pre-recorded for the meeting.

Acknowledgment of Sister Associations

The Chair welcomed representatives joining the meeting virtually from other regulatory bodies, and from the sister Engineering and Geoscience associations across Canada.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair directed the assembly's attention to the 2020/2021 Annual Report, which included reports from the President, the Chief Executive Officer, and Engineers and Geoscientists BC's financial statements. The annual report was made available on Engineers and Geoscientists BC's website. It was also available to download from the webinar platform.

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, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Some of the key highlights included: navigating changes related to operating in a virtual world due to COVID -19, the implementation of the *Professional Governance Act*, and changes in Engineers and Geoscientists BC senior staff during the last fiscal year.

The Chair then acknowledged the outstanding contributions to the professions by the 2021 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. At the conclusion of her report, Heidi Yang thanked President Spence, 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.

Two questions were raised related to regulation of firms; one in reference to the process for submitting documentation and the other related to the impact of firm regulation on sole practitioners.

Other questions included consideration of a wording change in the recently released Climate Change Action Plan to reflect the criticality of climate change, and whether Engineers and Geoscientists BC will mandate regulated firms in BC to fully support registrants in CE programs.

All questions were addressed by the Chair and senior staff.

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

Government Appointees' Report

David Wells, JD, Government Appointee, presented the report of the public representatives to Council as published in the Annual Report.

The Chair opened the floor for questions regarding the Government Appointees Report. There were no questions.

Audited Financial Statements

The Chair called upon Suky Cheema, CPA, CA, Chair of the Audit Sub-Committee, to explain the auditing process and to present the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, as provided in the Annual Report.

Suky Cheema confirmed that Council received and approved the Audited Financial Statements, accepted the Auditors' Report to the Registrants, and the report of the Audit Sub-Committee. Council also appointed PriceWaterhouseCoopers as Engineers and Geoscientists BC's external auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

As required by our bylaws, Council made the Auditors' report, the Financial Statements, and the annual reports of the CEO and President available on the Engineers and Geoscientists BC's website at least 15 days in advance of this meeting. The annual report was also available for download in the webinar platform.

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

REPORT ON ADVOCACY REVIEW

Action Taken on 2019 AGM Motions

The Chair introduced Past President Lianna Mah, P.Eng., FEC to provide a review of the 2019 AGM motion and the results. At the 2019 AGM, a registrant made the following motion:

That Council consider reviewing and presenting to members on the pros and cons of establishing a sister body of members to focus on member advocacy to allow Engineers and Geoscientists BC to focus on regulatory responsibilities.

The Chair advised that Past President Lianna Mah's presentation had been pre-recorded for the AGM and a detailed report on this topic was available on the Engineers and Geoscientists BC website.

The Chair then asked if there were any questions from registrants related to this report. No questions were raised.

AGM MOTIONS

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 29, 2021 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 this year.

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 2021 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.

Heidi Yang advised that due to changes under the *Professional Governance Act*, we no longer have a scrutineer for Council elections as in previous years.

The Engineers and Geoscientists BC election was conducted by electronic ballot. All registrants in good standing, including, for the first time ever, 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 15.6% of eligible voting members participated. 5,896 votes were cast.

The council election results were announced as follows:

President: Carol Park, P.Eng.

The newly-elected Councillors were Mark Adams, P.Eng. and Jens Weber, P.Eng.

Beginning 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, while also increasing the number of Councillor positions available each year by one seat.

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.

He began with thanking outgoing Past President Lianna Mah for her many years of dedicated service and leadership on Council.

Councillors completing their terms at this time were:

- Tomer Curiel, P.Eng., FEC
- Christine Lambert, P.Geo.
- Nathan Ozog, P.Eng., FEC
- Dr. Tom Tiedje, P.Eng. and
- Jeremy Vincent, P.Geo.

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 2021/2022 COUNCIL

Larry Spence, P.Eng., then introduced Carol Park, P.Eng. as incoming President for the 2021/2022 Council year. Acting Chief Regulatory Officer and Registrar, Mark Rigolo, P.Eng., administered the Oath of Office for the incoming President and councillors.

Carol Park addressed the audience and spoke to several initiatives she would be focusing on over the coming year. She then proceeded to introduce the new and continuing members of the 2021/2022 Council:

- Immediate Past President is Larry Spence, P.Eng.

New and returning Councillors are:

- Mark Adams, P.Eng.
- Michelle Mahovich, P.Eng., P.Geo.
- Jessica Steeves, P.Eng.
- Kevin Turner, P.Eng., FEC, FGC (Hon.)
- Dr. Brent Ward, P.Geo., FGC, FEC (Hon.) 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

Carol Park then thanked outgoing President Larry Spence for his commitment and efforts over the past year.

Presidential Year in Review Video

Carol Park, P.Eng. then shared a video highlighting Larry Spence's accomplishments as President over the last year.

Stripped Gear Presentation

Outgoing President Larry Spence, P.Eng., was then honoured with the "Stripped Gear" medallion in a virtual ceremony presented by outgoing Past President Lianna Mah, P.Eng., FEC. Lianna Mah's presentation was pre-recorded for the AGM.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that the 2022 Annual General Meeting will be held on October 15, 2022. At this time it is uncertain as to whether it will be held in person or virtually but we will follow the guidance of our public health officials in the months ahead.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:29 am.

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