



## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

*Engineers and Geoscientists BC's Board of elected registrants and public representatives meets throughout the year. The following are the highlights from the February 16, 2024, meeting.*

### **Board reviews two AGM motions; agrees not to cap fee increases**

Concerns from registrants about licencing fee increases triggered two motions at the organization's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October 2023. The Engineers and Geoscientists BC Board considered these motions at its February 16 meeting.

The first motion requested the Board consider limiting future licencing fee increases to no more than 2% per year. However, the Board heard from the Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Sub-Committee that such a constraint would limit budget flexibility and restrict the ability for the Board to meet its mandate. It would also add difficulty to addressing inflationary challenges.

Board members agreed and passed the following motion: "Having carefully considered the 2023 AGM Motion 2, and to ensure that the organization is adequately and sustainably resourced to fulfill its mandate, the Board rejects setting a numerical cap on future fee increases, and re-affirms its rigorous adherence to the budget guidelines that have been established to support a robust budgeting process."

The second motion asked the Board to consider past surpluses when setting future annual licensing fees. The FAR Sub-Committee noted that such reviews already take place, but formalized this practice by approving a motion that the Budget Guidelines "include a provision for the Board to consider past surpluses/deficits when setting future annual licensing fees for registrants and firms."

### **Extra advocacy funding motion deferred to April meeting**

A third motion from the 2023 AGM, which asked the Board to consider a larger seed fund for the newly established advocacy body, will be considered by the Board at their next meeting, April 19, 2024.

### **AGM moved to a weekday**

Historically, Engineers and Geoscientists BC's AGM has been hosted on a Saturday morning, following the Annual Conference events. This timing presented challenges for speakers and registrants, requiring attendance outside business hours and conflicting with personal obligations.

To address this, the Board agreed to set the 2024 AGM for Wednesday, October 16, at 2 pm, as recommended by the Governance Subcommittee. The AGM will fall before the events of the Annual Conference, enabling registrants to attend during business hours and supporting a smoother planning process.

The Board also agreed to continue with a hybrid format for the 2024 AGM and conference. Although there is a higher cost to include the virtual format alongside an in-person event, attendance numbers from the 2023 AGM and conference showed an increase in overall attendance and better engagement with the hybrid format.

## **Honoraria revised for Discipline Committee**

The honoraria for Discipline Committee members was last revised in 2018 to recognize committee members having to attend multi-day hearings. However, members may also be required to commit to multiple days for other proceedings in the discipline process, such as pre-hearing conferences, alternative complaint resolution processes (e.g. mediation), and extraordinary action proceedings.

The Board adjusted the policy to extend the criteria for multi-day commitments, increased the honorarium amounts and added a provision for members when multi-day discipline hearings are cancelled within five days of the scheduled date.

## **Financial update**

Engineers and Geoscientists BC finished the second quarter of fiscal year 2024 (July 2023-June 2024) with a surplus that was \$899,000 higher than forecast.

The key reasons for the higher surplus include increased revenue from academic exams and higher annual conference attendance and professional development attendance. As well, legal expenses were lower due to the timing and settlement of disciplinary files.