

September 2015 Board Meeting Summary

Materials are on the [Board Meeting Microsite](#) and [Engineers Canada website](#), as linked in item titles.

Nominations Approved

Canadian Engineering Qualifications Board:
Usha Kurunganti, PhD, FEC, P.Eng., Member Representing
Atlantic Provinces
William Jackson, P.Eng, Member-at-Large

President's Update

President Digvir Jayas updated the Board on his attendance at the regulators' AGMs, the QB workshop, the joint meeting of the AB P&P Committee and Deans Liaison Committee, and international events.

CEO Report to the Board

CEO Kim Allen updated the Board on key activities: office relocation, assessments, Framework for Regulation, government relations, finance and administration, engineering and public policy, legal and brand protection, and community engagement.

Online Competency Assessment Project

The project prospectus and monitoring report were presented to, and approved by, the Board. The CEO Group expressed unanimous interest in seeing this project continue.

Big Picture Thinking

A discussion was held on the adoption of the National Code of Ethics in all jurisdictions. The Board confirmed general support of a national code. A key point made was that the overlapping of codes of conduct and codes of ethics in provincial legislation make a uniform code difficult to achieve in the short term. Discussion also emphasized the importance of ensuring members understand, have reference to, and follow the code of ethics in the jurisdiction where they practice. A summary of the discussion will soon be available [on the Board meeting microsite](#).

Presidents' Group Update

President Connie Parenteau, chair of the Presidents Group, presented an update to the Board. In reference to the creation of the Sustainable Profession Committee, a request was made to be more sensitive about how changes occur and how they are communicated to volunteers to ensure they are recognized for the work they are doing. The next chair will be Lesley McFarlane (MB).

CEO Group Report

Mark Flint, chair of the CEO Group, provided an update on discussions at the CEO Group meeting which included adoption of the National Code of Ethics, improving operational effectiveness, and better clarifying the role and relationship of the Qualifications Board and Accreditation Board.

Matters Impacting the Engineering Profession

The Board discussed taking proactive steps to address how standards-making bodies may be diminishing or eliminating reference to the terms engineer and professional engineer in legislation and standards. The Volkswagen emission testing scandal was identified as an example of the failure of engineers to act ethically, and how Engineers Canada could open a public discussion of "what would have happened if it occurred in Canada?"

The point was made that when issues arise, the regulators are constrained by the potential need to investigate and so cannot take positions that might show pre-judgment. Engineers Canada does not have such constraints and can communicate to the public and take positions on behalf of the regulators. Comment was also made that this agenda item could more accurately be called, "professional engineering matters affecting the public."

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee presented a report identifying several recommendations for governance improvement. The Board discussed the recommendations, including a proposal to create an additional Policy, Priority, Resource and Reporting Committee for each of AB and QB. This recommendation was not adopted by the Board.

Accreditation Board Update

Gérard Lachiver, chair of AB, presented an update on accreditation activities and a detailed explanation of the proposed modifications to the curriculum-input criteria. The Board considered and approved a consultation process.

Qualifications Board Update

Paul Blanchard, chair of QB, provided a report on current activities, updates to syllabi and the QB workplan. Comments on the QB workplan have been consolidated and the work plan will be presented to the Board for approval.

NCDEAS Update

Greg Naterer, chair of NCDEAS, expressed concern that more time and resources are being required of engineering faculties to meet accreditation requirements. Concern was also expressed that schools fear innovation because it may risk their accreditation status.

Open Forum and Special Meeting of Members

A presentation and discussion took place on the development and refinement of the Engineers Canada planning processes. Within the policy governance model, the Engineers Canada Board is responsible for developing and approving a long-term strategic plan (5-25 year horizon). This discussion explored how activities start from the long-term strategic plan and filter into operational plans and staff accountabilities.

Proposed By-law amendments to bring EC in alignment with the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* were discussed and voted upon at the special meeting of Members. The amendments were approved with the exception of the definitions of Special National Initiatives and Strategic Plan.

Upcoming Meetings

Board Meeting - February 22-24, 2016, Château Laurier, Ottawa, ON
Board and Annual Meeting of Members – May 27-28, 2016 Charlottetown, PEI