

Summary of Engineers Canada's 2020 Winter Meetings

Materials, reports, and presentations can be found at:

<https://engineerscanada.ca/about/governance/board-meetings/2020-02-24>

Strategic foresight workshop

On Tuesday, February 25, Engineers Canada hosted a strategic foresight workshop, which included participation by the regulator presidents, CEOs, Engineers Canada Board, and representation from the CEAB and CEQB. Participants discussed major trends, strategic risks and the vision, mission, and values of Engineers Canada. They identified proposed elements for an organizational vision and brainstormed potential strategic priorities for the 2022-2024 strategic plan.

Input will be compiled and shared, and the vision and strategic priorities list will be refined at the Engineers Canada Board June workshop. Then, a draft strategic plan will be consulted upon with regulators in the fall before being recommended by the Engineers Canada Board in February 2021 and by approved by the Members in May 2021.

President's report

David Lynch presented the President's Report to the Board, which covered topics including: Engineers Canada meetings; attending the December meeting of the APEGA council, the AGM for Engineers PEI, and an APEGA member recognition event; ABET Fall Governance Meetings; and, the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students Canadian Engineering Leadership Conference.

CEO Group

Jim Landrigan, chair of the CEO Group, presented a summary of their recent meeting. The group received presentations on: Comparative Assessment of requirements for entry into the profession; National Entry-to-Practice Examination; regulatory research sub-strategy; CBA Program update; and, the affinity program.

The CEOs discussed recent controversies with the Iron Ring ceremony. While the ceremony is not the responsibility of regulators nor of Engineers Canada, the CEOs felt there was a need to advise the Corporation of the Seven Wardens of those concerns due the impact on the reputation of the engineering profession. On behalf of the CEOs, Engineers Canada will prepare a letter articulating their collective concerns.

There is no collective position on the per capita assessment, but the CEOs agreed that a longer lead time is needed if the per capita assessment changes, to ensure associations can properly integrate the change into their budget. The CEOs also stated that greater consultation on this recommendation would have been preferable.

The CEO Group agreed to offer time for Engineering Deans Canada on the agenda of the May meeting to discuss non-accreditation issues. The president of Engineers Canada will be invited to sit in on this portion of the agenda.

The CEOs welcomed Pal Mann, P.Eng, CEO of Engineers Nova Scotia, to the group.

Presidents Group

George Eynon, chair of the Presidents' Group, presented a summary of the presidents' meeting. The group had discussions on: inconsistencies in membership categories across Canada and the confusion it can create for members of multiple associations; the adoption of CBA by most regulators; the variation in years of experience required for licensure across Canada; and, variation across regulators in nominating committees composition, or whether they even have a nominating committee.

Throughout the meeting common threads included: ensuring value from the Presidents' Group meeting and increasing the "memory" of the group; third-party governance reviews; the challenges of processing international applicants in a timely manner; and ethics training modules developed by several regulators.

Qualifications Board publications

The *Regulators guideline on the assessment of engineering work experience using competency-based assessment* was approved for publication on the Engineers Canada members-only website.

National position statements

National position statements on: *Regulating the profession in federally regulated industries; Demand-side legislation; Infrastructure*; and, *Climate change and extreme weather events* were approved for publication on the Engineers Canada public website, and to support communications with the federal government.

The national position statement on *Infrastructure on First Nations reserves and in remote communities* was deferred to the May meeting in order to confirm Indigenous populations in the north are suitably represented in the document.

Draft 2019 annual performance report

The Board reviewed the draft 2019 annual performance report. They discussed the structure of the report, how annual objectives and final outcomes are evaluated, as well as the balance between reporting on the content of the 2019-2021 Engineers Canada Strategic Plan against longer-term organizational goals (e.g. 30 by 30). The Board approved the draft 2019 Annual performance report for circulation to the Members, with minor amendments, and for information at the May 23 2020 Annual Meeting of Members.

Objectives for the chief executive officer for 2020

The Board discussed and approved the 2020 Objectives for the chief executive officer, on recommendation of the HR Committee.

Net asset planning document

The Board discussed and approved the net asset structure, on recommendation of the FAR Committee, and directed the Governance Committee to develop a net asset policy in accordance with the structure recommendations.

Response to the Funding Task Force recommendations

The Board discussed two proposed amendments to the Engineers Canada bylaw, which if recommended by the Board, would be considered by the Members at the May 23, 2020 Annual Meeting of Members.

The Board carried a motion, recommending that the Members add the following clause to the bylaw:
No later than January 1st of each year, the Board shall recommend to the Members the amount of the Per Capita Assessment that will be in effect on the second following January 1st. The Members will consider the recommendation and finalize the amount of the Per Capita Assessment no later than July 1st of each year with the decision by the Members to take effect on the second following January 1st (18 months notice).

The Board carried a motion, recommending that the Members modify bylaw 7.2, to become 7.3. If approved by the Members at the May 23, 2020 Annual Meeting of Members, the bylaw would state:
Each Member shall pay to Engineers Canada the Member-approved Per Capita Assessment per Registrant within two months of receipt of invoice for same or pursuant to payment schedule reflective of the Members registrant payment schedule.

Prior to approval, the Board discussed what would happen if the Members were unable to set a per capita assessment in a particular year. An additional clause for this section of the bylaw will be prepared and distributed to the Board for e-mail voting so that it can also be recommended to the May 23, 2020 Annual Meeting of Members.

Operational imperative 8: Sub-strategy on fostering recognition of the value of the profession to society and sparking interest in the next generation of engineering professionals

The Board approved the proposed sub-strategy for *Operational imperative 8, fostering recognition of the value of the profession to society and sparking interest in the next generation of engineering professionals*, on recommendation of the CEO.

Operational imperative 9: Sub-strategy on Indigenous access to engineering

The Board discussed an amendment to the original motion on the agenda, based on discussions among Engineering Deans Canada, CEAB, and the Engineers Canada Board and staff. The amendment removed the focus from the accreditation process, to undergraduate engineering education more generally, and put the accountability on the CEO instead of the CEAB.

The amended motion was carried, and the Engineers Canada CEO was tasked to investigate, with appropriate consultation, options for truth and reconciliation efforts to be incorporated into engineering undergraduate education in Canada.

Appointment of secretary to the Board

The Board carried a motion, on the recommendation of the HR Committee, to remove Stephanie Price as an officer of Engineers Canada, with thanks, and appoint Evelyn Spence, Legal Counsel, as Secretary to the Board. This change is effective March 1, 2020.

Board, director, and chair assessment process

The Board discussed and approved the policy for assessments directors, committee chairs, and of the Board itself, as well as the structure and content of the assessment surveys. There was some discussion on length of survey and the means by which the Board will address improvement opportunities where necessary.

Upcoming meetings

- April 8, 2020 (teleconference)
- May 21 – 23, 2020 (Winnipeg, MB)
- June 15-16, 2020 (Fredericton, NB)
- October 1-2, 2020 (Gatineau-Ottawa, QC-ON)