

– September 2014 Board Meeting Summary –

The full Board meeting agenda book is available on the [Board Meeting Microsite](#)

Policy Governance Training

Engineers Canada uses *Policy Governance* as its system for organizational governance. It is designed to ensure accountability of the Board to the owners and of the CEO to the Board. Directors set policy for Ends (results to be achieved, for who and at what worth) and for Executive Limitations (constraints on the administration of day-to-day matters). The Board monitors CEO performance by comparing performance against a reasonable interpretation of Ends and Executive Limitations policies. The Board also monitors its own performance by monitoring Governance Process policies (how the Board operates) and Board-Management Delegation policies (delegation of executive authority and how that authority will be monitored).

As part of the September 2014 Board meeting, 22 staff and volunteers from Engineers Canada and the constituent associations attended an “Introduction to Policy Governance®” workshop delivered by the Governance Coach. The advanced session will be held on February 22, 2015.

Governance

Monitoring reports are used to confirm that Ends are being achieved, that the Board is in compliance with the Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation policies, and that the CEO is operating within the Executive Limitations.

The Board adopted a revised monitoring schedule to achieve a more equitable distribution of monitoring reports throughout the year.

The following reports were accepted as compliant:

E-1 Consistency in Regulatory Standards and Practices

E-2 Public Confidence in the Profession

EL-3 Financial Condition

EL-6 Compensation and Benefits

The following reports were accepted as partially compliant, with suggestion that future reports be enhanced by additional evidence and rationale:

E Engineers Canada Purpose

E-3 Sustainability of the Profession

E-4 Protection of the Engineering Term

EL General Executive Constraint:

EL-1 Treatment of Staff and Volunteers

EL-2 Treatment of Constituent Associations

EL-5 Planning

EL-7 Communication and Support to the Board

Ends statements E-1 and E-2 were also referred to the Governance Committee for review as the CEO cannot be held accountable for constituent associations’ regulatory standards and practices or public confidence in the profession

The Governance Committee reported on minor and non-material changes made to governance policies at their August 5, 2014 meeting.

The following policy decisions were made by the Board:

GP-9.6 – Qualifications Board Terms of Reference:

Updated, and edited to use the broader term ‘engineering’ in replacement of ‘professional engineering’.

GP-14 Tracking and reporting of Volunteer Time: Policy was removed.

[All policies are available in Engineers Canada’s Board Policy Governance Manual.](#)

Open Forum

Engineers Canada instituted an Open Forum at its Board meetings to discuss issues of importance to the profession and to interact with key stakeholders and decision makers.

At the Open Forum, discussion focused on the overlap between nationally regulated industries and regulated professions, with the consensus being that the practice of engineering in nationally-regulated industries requires licensure. Barriers to national mobility and the Educational Credential Assessment Project were also discussed.

Engineers Canada was pleased to welcome Costas Menegakis, the member of Parliament for Richmond Hill, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, who discussed how Express Entry is intended to improve the alignment between the selection of candidates for immigration and the labour market needs of Canadian businesses.

Big Picture Thinking

[Big Picture Thinking](#) sessions focus on specific topics to enable the Board to think about the future that the organization should create.

The session focused on three questions:

1. What role should the regulators play in supporting federal initiatives that help international graduates integrate and find employment in Canada?
2. What role should Engineers Canada play in bridging the government’s immigration agenda and the public interest role of the regulators?

3. What societal benefits may accrue *if* a full assessment of eligibility for licensure were required for the purposes of immigration where the internationally trained professional has a job offer?

Discussion concluded that Canada requires immigrants for the good of the economy, and that the constituent associations need to have consistent assessment standards.

The Big Picture Thinking concept has been adopted by the Board of PEGNL, which had a session on an envisioning process at their August Board retreat.

Linkages Task Force

Stemming from a previous Big Picture Thinking session, the Task Force was established to enhance the Board's efficiency by creating a program of Board dialogue and deliberation with constituent associations to inform Board policy development – with particular emphasis on Ends policies.

The Task Force's inaugural meeting was held on August 28, where the terms of reference and associated policies were reviewed. A Task Force work plan was developed, and the Task Force will report at the February 2015 Board meeting.

Presidents Group Report

The Group met after the Board meeting to discuss issues including the admission administration process, nationally-regulated industries, the Framework for Regulation, whether there is alignment between CEOs, presidents, constituent associations and staff, and continuing to leverage the Open Forum.

CEO Group Report

The Group reported on their August meeting, where they welcomed Kimberley King in her new role as Executive Director of APEY. The Group discussed credential recognition, aboriginal engagement strategies, unlicensed engineers working in the aviation industry, and online competency assessment tools.

Engineers Canada CEO Report

Engineers Canada will conduct an environmental scan to identify current and future internal and external factors that may impact the profession. Data collected will be used to inform strategic planning.

Significant progress has been made regarding public affairs, notably:

- The CEO has been appointed to expert panels to identify and report on successes, innovative approaches, and best practices – notably on licensing, hiring and retention related to the labour market integration of recent immigrants.
- Engineers Canada provided input at the policy development stage for proposed changes to the Railway Safety Act.
- An update was provided regarding Engineers Canada involvement with trade deals: Canada-European Union and the TransPacific Partnership.
- The engineering profession is viewed as a big success in terms of national mobility.

Engineers Canada and Engineers Without Borders will initiate a social lab on *Ethics and Professionalism: A Roadmap for a New Engineering Culture*, to be launched at EWB's January 2015 conference in Montreal. A social lab is a multi-stakeholder platform through which a diverse team work together to solve problems in a way that is systemic, participative, creative and experimental.

Engineers Canada's Career Action Program will launch in October 2014. It will help potential engineers gain awareness and direction, and connect with the profession.

Accreditation Board Report

The [Accreditation Board](#) made accreditation decisions on 50 programs at 16 higher education institutions at its May/June meeting, and on 10 programs at seven institutions at its September meeting. Decisions regarding one substantial equivalency visit to three programs at a university outside of Canada were also made at the September meeting.

Engineers Canada is subject to a Washington Accord Monitoring Visit this year. The monitoring decision report will be presented in June 2015. The Accreditation Board anticipates a successful visit.

Qualifications Board report

The [Qualifications Board](#) has experienced turmoil over the past 18 months, trying to understand relationships, reporting structures and priorities.

A working group made up of Engineers Canada Board representatives Nazmi Lawen, FEC, P.Eng., and Dick Walters, FEC, P.Eng., and the Qualifications Board executive was established to consider the following issues:

1. Relationship between QB and the Board
2. Communications
3. Responsibility
4. Authority
5. Relationship with Engineers Canada staff
6. Relationship with CAs and the CEO group
7. Deliverables

The working group is to report back to the Engineers Canada Board in February 2015.

Framework for Regulation

Work on [the Framework](#) will recommence with an all-day meeting of the Framework working group scheduled to take place in November.

Meeting Evaluation

The Board meeting provided good discussion, debate and interaction with the owners. Monitoring reports were well reviewed, and the Chair and directors fulfilled their roles well. The value of Engineers Canada and the appropriate use of Board meeting time were raised at the meeting. The Executive Committee took these issues under advisement. Operational issues will be addressed by the CEO, and policy issues will be addressed by the Board.

Scholarships Ceremony

Six recipients received Engineers Canada Scholarships at a ceremony held at the Fairmont Château Laurier. Board members Annette Bergeron, FEC, P.Eng., and Stéphane Bilodeau, ing., emceed the event, which was attended by Senator Joseph A. Day, B.Eng., FEC, and the Honourable Steven Fletcher, Member of Parliament for Charleswood–St. James–Assiniboia (Manitoba). [More information on the recipients.](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Board Teleconference (TBD)

To discuss if the Board wishes to consider Engineers Canada owning its building and the criteria information it requires to make that decision. Engineers Canada's lease at its current location expires in December 2014.

Open Forum and Board Meeting

February 23-24, 2015

Fairmont Château Laurier, Ottawa, ON.

Open Forum, Board Meeting and Annual Meeting of

Members

May 21-23, 2015

Hotel Arts, Calgary, AB.

[Complete Calendar of Events](#)