

Linkages Committee Report to the Board  
Presented by Russ Kinghorn, Chair  
*February 2017*

The members of the 2016-2017 Linkages Committee are Tara Zyrmiaik, George Comrie, Ann English, Len White, Kathy Baig, Nazmi Lawen and myself as Chair. The Committee is supported by Engineers Canada staff Daphne Smith and Kathryn Sutherland.

The committee met by teleconference on January 31, 2017 and plan to meet again for a full day face-to-face meeting in April 2017.

### **1. Board Member Orientation**

R. Kinghorn, on behalf of the Linkages Committee, conducted an orientation session for new Board members on Monday, February 27, 2017. Topics included the structure of Engineers Canada, national officials groups, Accreditation Board, Qualifications Board, international partners and the National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science.

The session was attended by new Board members, existing Board members, a regulator President and Engineers Canada staff.

Going forward, the intention is to conduct an introductory orientation session at the AGM and a second orientation session at the September Board meeting.

The Linkages Committee has requested that Engineers Canada consider developing an online orientation module that would be available to all stakeholders.

### **2. Engineers Canada Planning Process**

The Linkages Committee has had significant discussions about the planning processes used to develop the Strategic Plan, Business Plan and Annual Operating Plan at Engineers Canada.

The Committee feels very strongly that clarity and transparency around planning, from initial consideration of activities through to implementation is critically important.

The Committee views that the planning process as a key linkage activity. In order to take ownership, the Linkages Committee has requested additional information from staff regarding the internal planning processes including, in particular, the use of the project prospectus. The Committee will consider this information at its April face-to-face meeting with a view to reporting

The new "Our Plans" section of the Engineers Canada website is helpful and a good step forward to provide clarity and transparency. The Committee requests that everyone review the draft plans that are posted with a view to providing feedback. Note that the Committee has requested that the draft prospectuses be posted to the website.

The Linkages Committee, through its Chair, provided an update on development of the Strategic Plan at the Open Forum on February 28, 2017.

### **3. 2017 Linkages Questions**

The 2017 Linkages questions have been sent to the regulators for response. We thank all of you for your responses which we will consider at the April face-to-face meeting. The 2017 questions are:

- What do you believe will be the most significant challenges facing the profession in the next 5-10 years?
- What threats do you see that could have an impact on the profession?
- What are the greatest opportunities for Engineers Canada to provide the engineering community with value?

### **4. Other Topics of Discussion**

Other topics discussed by the Linkages Committee included the accreditation system and the Framework for Regulation.

The Linkages Committee will meet for a face-to-face meeting in April and expects to deliver its final report in May 2017.

*Russ Kinghorn, Chair of the Linkages Committee*