Engineers Canada Prospectus

Title:	Online Ethics Course(s)
Sponsor:	Stephanie Price, CEO
Initiative Lead:	Stephanie Price, COO

Purpose:

To provide an online ethics course to support regulators' pro-active ethical education.

Problem / Opportunity Statement:

Many regulators wish to offer online ethics training for their licence holders. An online ethics course could be part of a mandatory CPD program, could be mandated as a penalty in discipline cases, or could simply be a resource to the engineering profession (licence holders, educators, employers, etc.).

Currently, more than half of the regulators are considering developing (or have developed) their own online ethics course. Recreating the same (or similar) course 12 times over is not efficient.

Benefits:

- Use resources efficiently and develop one single course

- Provide access to all members of the engineering profession (and the public) across Canada

- Help Engineers Canada meet End 2 ("…engineers meet high standards, practise with competence and integrity…") and End 3.5 ("The professional, social and economic needs of licensed engineers are met.")

Vision:

- A national online ethics course is available on Engineers Canada's website

- The course is simple and interactive

- The course is available in both English and French

- The course is based on nationally accepted resources such as:

    o the National Code of Ethics

    o The Body of Knowledge articulated in the *National guideline on the professional practice examination*

    o *Canadian Professional Engineering and Geoscience: Practice & Ethics* by Gordon Andrews

    o *Practical Law of Architecture, Engineering and Geoscience* by Doug Sanders

- The course includes a back-end database which tracks participants and their completion rates

Principles:

- The course is national and does not include provincial or territorial guidelines or legislation

- Regulators and other experts (authors, educators, QB, AB) are consulted on the course content

- Development costs are minimized (no professional actors)

- Participation tracking operates on the "honour system", there is no validation regarding who actually takes the course

- Engineers Canada maintains the course to ensure ongoing operational and content quality

Stakeholders

Collaboration	Practice Officials
Consultation	CEOs Qualifications Board D&E Officials
Inform	Individual engineers

Risks

- Overlap with existing regulator courses

- Defining course content that is national and yet still useful at the provincial/territorial level

- Balancing cost and quality of the course

Consultation Results

Group	Date	Results
CEO Group	May 24, 2017	• 8 CEOs felt that an online ethics module would be useful • Most complaints are conduct related, this could help address that • Would be a good thing to have with mandatory CPD becoming more common, need to offer ways to meet that. • Some associations want to have mandatory components of the CPD program, would be good to have mandatory ethics course. • May need to be able to track completion. Would they need to host it to do this?

Practice Officials	May 17, 2017	• Would Engineers Canada's role be to host the course once it is developed or pass it on to regulators to incorporate in their own systems? • How would the module fit as part of a larger ethics toolkit? • Will the module address regional variations? • Should there be more focus on using existing resources (i.e. university level courses)? • There may be a need to track completion and not rely on an honour system if the course became part of discipline penalties or mandatory CPD • The timeline for development is a significant factor, since many regulators are already exploring how to develop their own online modules
D&E Officials	June 6, 2017	• Some regulators are already exploring online ethics modules, and a national module could offer significant savings for all jurisdictions • The module should correspond to the NPPEAC questions (and APEGA has experience developing question pools for testing knowledge) • The module content needs to be developed and vetted by appropriate subject experts • The module content needs to be refreshed on a regular basis (e.g. annually). The content could be based on current trends or have a changing theme (e.g. client relations, use of social media, "on the job conduct"). • OIQ developed a mandatory ethics and professionalism program but there was so much opposition from members that it is no longer mandatory
QB Practice Committee	July 28, 2017	• The prospectus is generally supported and it correctly identifies the potential risks, the allocation of resources and provision of access to members, and could generate national efficiencies. • The content should be linked to current ethics courses and resources offered by regulators. • The roles and responsibilities of Engineers Canada v. regulators need to be clearly determined, including data and completion tracking. • Regulators should be able to track participation in the course for CPD purposes.