



Administration

Governing Legislation

In British Columbia, the governing legislation regulating the engineering and geoscience professions is the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*. This Act:

- Defines the practice of professional engineering and professional geoscience;
- Creates the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia;
- Assigns to the Association the responsibility for examining and accepting applicants for registration;
- Restricts the practice of professional engineering and professional geoscience to Members;
- Assigns to the Association the task of enforcing the Act, including the disciplining of Members in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Act;
- Empowers the Association to make bylaws for its own management and to set forth a code of ethical behaviour for its membership.

This Act is one of the fundamental building blocks supporting a Member's professional activity.

The Act is attached as Appendix A to Section 7.

Bylaws of the Association

The Council of the Association may pass bylaws pursuant to the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*. These bylaws provide procedural guidance regarding the administration of the Act. They provide for the election of a Council, examination of applicants for membership and licensing, and a *Code of Ethics*.

The bylaws are attached as Appendix B to Section 7.

Code of Ethics

A profession assigns its highest obligation to society.

“Adherence to a code of ethics ensures an adequate standard of competence and conduct based on a relationship of responsibility and trust between the profession and the public, while maintaining respect, integrity, and

confidentiality between practitioner, employer, and client. But the highest obligation of a profession is to society, which it serves: the members of a profession shall protect the interests of society in the areas of the profession's specialized expertise. This obligation rises above all others when there are conflicting responsibilities. As part of this 'social contract', the recognized professions in Canada have been given the authority and responsibility to be self-regulating under their respective provincial or territorial legislation, and to ensure that only qualified professionals are licensed to practice.”⁵

The Association's *Code of Ethics* deals with Members' relationships with the public, colleagues, employers, employees and clients. Adherence to the Code ensures a high standard of competence by placing an obligation on Members to exercise responsibility, respect, integrity and confidentiality between themselves, the public, employer and client.

The *Code of Ethics* prescribes principles of ethical behaviour for Members. These are in addition to the obligations of the ordinary citizen and thus dictate a higher level of honourable conduct. The manual to the Code provides guidelines to the application of the principles and also offers some anecdotal examples of hypothetical failures in ethical conduct.

The *Code of Ethics* and *Code of Ethics Guidelines* are attached as Appendix C to Section 7.

Organization Charts

The Association has organized its many functions as outlined in the charts attached as Appendix D to Section 7.

Each of the many component parts of the Association and a description of their responsibilities and functions is described.

Discipline

The publication of these *Guidelines* is part of the Association's strategy to enhance its "Excellence in Engineering and Geoscience" program, focused on supervision through self-discipline. (A number of relevant Association publications have been or will be published as noted in Section 8.)

In order to carry out the intentions of the Act, Bylaws and the *Code of Ethics*, the Association developed a structure to provide for the discipline of its membership. This structure is outlined and explained in detail in Appendix E to Section 7.