



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC
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RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION UNDER SUSPENSION

Section 33(4) of the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act* (the *Act*) states that if a member is suspended from practice, that person “*is not entitled to any of the rights or privileges of membership and must not be considered a member while the suspension continues*”. The primary rights and privileges of membership are right to practice and right to title. Hence, a suspended member may not practice engineering or geoscience or use the titles professional engineer (P.Eng.) or professional geoscientist (P.Ge.).

If warranted, the commencement of the suspension period can be delayed in order to allow the member facing suspension to arrange for an orderly handover of professional responsibilities to another member of the Association. This delay is allowed so uninvolved parties, including clients and professional colleagues, are not unduly inconvenienced or subject to financial loss because of the suspension of a member of the Association.

The member subject to suspension must take immediate steps to arrange for takeover of professional responsibility for projects in progress by another registered member. It is the responsibility of the suspended member to contact owners, clients and municipalities, if appropriate, for all current projects for which the member is the professional of record, and to advise any other concerned parties of the change in membership status, as a matter of urgency.

During the period of suspension, the suspended member must not violate the *Act* or the *Code of Ethics* by practicing as a registered professional. The description of the practice of the member’s professional discipline in Section 1 of the *Act* should be reviewed carefully to avoid even an inadvertent breach of the *Act*.

Although the suspended member may accept work, or join an organization to work as a sub professional, it is the member’s responsibility to see that the registered professional with overall responsibility for the work is fully aware of the member’s status with the Association. Although the member may assist other registered professionals in the performance of professional duties, the member must not take nor be perceived to take, a position of professional responsibility.

While under suspension, the suspended member must guard against the possibility that new or former clients misunderstand the member’s status or position. The member should not, for instance, be the chief technical advisor to the client concerning professional recommendations of solutions to problems encountered on projects. Guidance as to behaviour while under suspension can be found in Section 22 of the *Act*.

In summary, it is the responsibility of the member under suspension to ensure that others with whom the member works are aware of the change in membership status. Failure to take appropriate steps to transfer professional responsibility, or failure to fully disclose the change in membership status, will be viewed as a breach of the order of suspension and could lead to further disciplinary action.

For further information, please contact Geoff Thiele, Associate Director, Regulatory Compliance, APEGBC at (604) 412-4852 or 1-888-430-8035 ext 233 or at gthiele@apeg.bc.ca.