

The Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia

An Introduction to Serving on Council

Revised: February, 2011

Introduction

The following information is given to allow members contemplating allowing their names to stand for election to Council, to gain an understanding of the role of an elected representative and of the level of commitment expected to fulfill the duties of office. By providing this information at the outset, we hope that Councilors will be engaged in the activities of the Association with a full knowledge of the expectations, and will complete their terms with a feeling of satisfaction for a job well done.

Introduction to Engineers Nova Scotia

The Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia (also known as Engineers Nova Scotia) is incorporated by the Nova Scotia Engineering Profession Act of 1920. The prime purpose of Engineers Nova Scotia is the regulation of the practice of engineering to protect the public interest. Under the Act, anyone practising engineering in Nova Scotia or on projects located in Nova Scotia, must be registered with and/or licensed by the association. The association is a self-regulating, professional body.

The association is governed by a policy-making Council consisting of eleven elected members, representative of the profession in Nova Scotia. It is assisted by a number of standing committees, regional representatives, and a staff of 10 headed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Association maintains offices at 1355 Barrington Street, Halifax, N.S.

There are currently some 5,400 members, more than 70% of whom reside in the Halifax-Dartmouth metropolitan area.

The Role of a Member of Council

Council typically meets eight (8) times a year (about every six weeks between October and June and once from July through September). Several meetings are held at the association offices on Barrington Street in Halifax, and other meetings are held at various university locations throughout Nova Scotia, such as at Acadia, St. F.X. and Cape Breton universities. Meetings usually last for three hours and are held in the afternoons, and are often combined with student and /or member receptions. For the past several years, a Council meeting has been held at a resort location in August with families invited along.

Productive Council meetings are made possible by self-discipline and by comprehensive briefing books that are issued to every Councilor a week in advance of the meetings. Discussion is normally kept on point.

In addition to the regular Council meetings Councilors also attend other functions including a day-long orientation session, various awards functions, and the annual general meeting. Councilors may also serve on task forces or committees which will involve varying time commitments. There will be a need for some travel to these events.

The President or his/her designate is expected to represent the association at local events and at out-of-province meetings of our sister associations and the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers. The Vice-president is the primary designate, and depending on circumstances may be asked to attend one or more of these meetings in preparation for his/her duties as President.

Councilors are elected for 2-year terms. In summary, Councilors may expect to give approximately 80 hours of their time each year, in preparation and attendance at an orientation session, from six to eight Council meetings, policy development sessions, and various formal association events. The Vice-president and President can expect to commit additional hours. The Vice-President is expected to Chair the Nominating Committee and lead discussions concerning the strategic plan and the Council mid-year assessment, and may carry out other duties as requested by Council. The President will Chair Council meetings, provide leadership throughout the year, and represent the association at a number of out-of-province functions and other events.

Engineers Nova Scotia reimburses members of Council for reasonable expenses incurred while on approved association business.

Mission of Engineers Nova Scotia

The mission of the association, with respect to the engineering profession, is to:

- Serve and protect the public.
- Advance and promote the value and proficiency of the engineering profession.
- Support its' members in their professional practice.

Strategic Goals

1. Govern the professional practice of Engineering for the protection of society.
2. Be respected for adherence to the highest standards of ethical and professional behavior.
3. Be an Association whose members continually upgrade their professional knowledge and skills.
4. Be an active promoter of the employment of its members.
5. Be a dynamic Association leading and cooperating in the definition, adoption and adaptation of new applications of science and technology.
6. Be an active contributor to the economic, technological and social development of the Province.
7. Be a vehicle for communication and collaboration among its members.
8. Be a well-managed, responsible and open organization.