



ADVISORY GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Name

- 1.1. High Technology Advisory Group

2. Reporting Relationship

- 2.1. The members of this advisory group are appointed by the Director, Professional Practice, Standards and Development (PPSD), or their delegate.
- 2.2. This advisory group reports to the Director, PPSD, or their delegate.
- 2.3. This advisory group provides advice and may make recommendations for discussion and consideration to the Professional Practice Advisory Group.

3. Purpose

- 3.1. To support Engineers and Geoscientists BC in its regulatory function to establish, monitor and enforce standards of practice to enhance the quality of professional practice in the best interest of the public.

4. Authority

- 4.1. To provide advice to PPSD staff on matters related to its purpose. This could include providing advice that would assist other departments, for example developing recommendations for policies related to registration, enforcement, or continuing education sessions.
- 4.2. The advisory group is not permitted to take positions or make statements on behalf of Engineers and Geoscientists BC unless approved by the Director, PPSD.

5. Function

- 5.1. To bring issues facing industry to the attention of Engineers and Geoscientists BC for discussion and consideration.
- 5.2. To assist with practice advice questions and practice boundary issues related to their area of practice when they arise.
- 5.3. To recommend topics for professional practice guidance development.
- 5.4. To recommend topics for continuing education sessions.
- 5.5. To review applicable professional practice guidelines, quality management standards, and guides and provide suggestions for amendments, updates, and revisions as requested.
- 5.6. When requested, to provide professional and industry specific feedback on the drafting of codes, legislation, and policies as applicable.
- 5.7. When requested, to assist Engineers and Geoscientists BC with strategic initiatives.
- 5.8. When requested, to assist Engineers and Geoscientists BC to respond to consultation on external initiatives or documents from related industry groups and organizations.
- 5.9. With approval from the Director, PPSD or their delegate, initiate the formation of working groups on specialized matters including but not limited to development of professional practice guidelines.
- 5.10. To nominate a minimum of one and maximum of two members to sit on the Professional Practice Advisory Group. This will help communicate the concerns and priorities of this group to the Professional Practice Advisory Group for discussion and consideration.
- 5.11. See Attachment A for further guidance on advisory group function.

6. Budget

- 6.1. Except as allocated in Engineers and Geoscientists BC's annual budget, the advisory group has no budget authority beyond reasonable and pre-approved expenses for travel, teleconference, or ancillary expenses.

7. Membership

- 7.1. Membership to be comprised of a minimum of 11 and maximum of 15 members.
- 7.2. At any time, the number of non-registrants cannot exceed the number of registrants.
- 7.3. Prospective members, after applying, may attend up to three meetings as a guest.
- 7.4. Advisory group members may make a motion recommending the approval of a prospective member to join the group.
- 7.5. Consideration shall be given to having appropriate representation from registrant firms.
- 7.6. See Attachment B for further guidance on advisory group membership.

8. Term of Office

- 8.1. Appointments are normally three years and renewable twice, unless the Director, PPSD or their delegate deems it appropriate to extend beyond the normal terms, in accordance with the Engineers and Geoscientists BC approved term length policy.
- 8.2. Any advisory group member who has three or more unexcused absences from consecutive advisory group meetings may be removed from the advisory group, at the discretion of the Director, PPSD or their delegate.

9. Selection of Officers

- 9.1. The Chair position is selected by the advisory group, annually.
- 9.2. The Vice-Chair position is selected by the advisory group, annually.
- 9.3. If the Chair and Vice-Chair positions are not identified by the Advisory Group or are unable to attend, Engineers and Geoscientists BC staff support will act as the Chair of the advisory group.

10. Quorum

- 10.1. The majority of the members of the advisory group.

11. Frequency of Meetings

- 11.1. Meetings at least 6 times per annum, or more often if required at the call of the Chair.

12. Conduct of Meetings

- 12.1. The advisory group meets in a manner it sees fit, including meeting by any combination of in person and electronic means.
- 12.2. On occasion, the Chair and/or the staff support may communicate with all members by e-mail and, with supporting information, propose and call for a consent resolution. Advisory group members have the option of responding by moving, seconding or supporting the motion, or requesting that it be considered further at a meeting of the advisory group. A consent resolution is deemed to have been achieved if:
 - a) there are no negative votes,
 - b) there are no calls for in person or virtual discussion, and
 - c) the number of support votes is equal to or greater than the number required for a quorum.
- 12.3. In the case where a member so requests, the motion is not carried, but instead brought forward for consideration at a subsequent meeting of the advisory group. In the case of an urgent matter, this may occur at a special meeting conducted by electronic means where the normal requirements for a quorum will prevail. Any motion so carried is considered to take effect immediately and is recorded in the minutes of the subsequent meeting.

13. Minutes

- 13.1. Minutes of the advisory group are the responsibility of Engineers and Geoscientists BC staff.

14. Periodic Reporting and Review of Terms of Reference

- 14.1. The advisory group shall review its Terms of Reference on an annual basis and as requested by the Director, PPSD or their delegate, submit verification of its review to the Director, PPSD.

15. Staff Support

15.1. Staff lead – Practice Advisor, PPSD

15.2. Staff support – Administrative Assistant, PPSD

APPROVED BY DIRECTOR PPSD: NOVEMBER 27, 2023

ATTACHMENT A

Function Requirements Specific to High Technology Advisory Group

No additional functions are required for this advisory group, beyond what is included in Section 5.

The following examples are provided to improve clarity on the functions listed in Section 5; they are based on activities of previous advisory and working groups.

- To assist in prioritization, authoring/drafting, and/or reviewing of professional practice guidelines and advisories related to software engineering and other areas of high technology.
- To review applicable quality management standards and guides from a practical industry perspective, and provide suggestions for amendments, updates, and revisions as requested. For example:
 - Creating parameters to conduct risk assessments and define high-risk professional activities or work, as well as expectations for independent review of high-risk professional activities or work.
 - Advising on practical processes for authentication of documents.
 - Interpreting and applying field review requirements to various industries and areas of practice.
- To recommend and help prioritize topics for continuing education sessions to Engineers and Geoscientists BC's Programs and Continuing Education department, or other appropriate industry organization (e.g., IEEE) to organize and host.
- To assist with practice advice questions and practice boundary issues related to their area of practice when they arise. For example:
 - Helping Engineers and Geoscientists BC understand and communicate the implications of various applicable regulatory frameworks that refer to the use of professionals.
 - Helping to resolve issues or conflicting priorities between regulatory authority requirements and professional obligations.
 - Advising on appropriate reviewers, or qualifications for reviewers, for registration or investigation purposes.
- When requested, to provide professional and industry specific feedback on the drafting of codes, legislation, and policies as applicable. For example:
 - Participating in public review processes for federal or provincial regulatory requirements related to software engineering, safety-critical systems, security-

critical systems, artificial intelligence, biomedical engineering, bioengineering, robotics, telecommunications etc.

- Participating in Engineers and Geoscientists BC- or industry-hosted discussion on current issues.
- Assist Engineers and Geoscientists BC to respond to consultation on external initiatives or documents from related industry groups and organizations. For example:
 - Reviewing syllabi for new post-secondary certifications or degree programs.

ATTACHMENT B

Membership Requirements Specific to High Technology Advisory Group

- Members of this advisory group will be drawn from registrants of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, representatives of registrant firms, registrants of other regulatory bodies, employees of local or provincial government, or individuals in academia, with consideration given to those with the following declared areas of practice:
 - Software
 - Instrumentation/Controls
 - Aviation/Aerospace
 - Computer
 - Electrical/Electronics
 - Biomedical
 - Bioengineering
 - Automation/Robotics
 - Engineering Physics
 - Telecommunications
- Membership priority may be given to those with ties to, or a working relationship with, one or more of the following organizations:
 - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
 - Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Society
 - Canadian Society for Bioengineering
 - Technical Safety BC
- The advisory group may invite representatives of other advisory groups, industry groups, or organizations to participate as guests or non-voting members.