

Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC

Building progress through innovation every day

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September 14, 2015

Via Email: climateleadershipplan@gov.bc.ca

Climate Leadership Discussion Paper
Ministry of Environment
Climate Action Secretariat
P.O. Box 9486, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9W6

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: British Columbia's July 2015 Discussion Paper on Climate Leadership Plan
– Comments from the Association of Professional Engineers and
Geoscientists of British Columbia**

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC) is pleased to provide input on the Climate Leadership Plan (CLP) process. APEGBC has the mandated responsibility under the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act* to uphold and protect the public interest with respect to the practice of professional engineering and geoscience.

APEGBC is supportive of the leadership demonstrated by the Provincial Government with respect to adaptation to a changing climate and a strategic approach towards greenhouse gas mitigation while considering societal and economic impacts. APEGBC has published a Climate Change Position Paper (www.apeg.bc.ca/climatechange), which states that the Association recognizes that climate is changing and APEGBC professionals must keep themselves informed about climate change and consider its potential impacts on their professional activities.

In 2011 APEGBC Council established a Climate Change Advisory Group (CCAG) to advise Council on a range of topics related to climate change, including government policy development and improvement, and the development of key messages to APEGBC members and other stakeholders on the subject of climate change. Presently, CCAG, in consultation with other APEGBC Committees and Divisions, is formulating a new position paper that will consider the impacts of the practice of APEGBC professionals on the climate, with emphasis on greenhouse gas mitigation.

APEGBC publishes Professional Practice Guidelines for engineers and geoscientists. To ensure that these guidelines accurately reflect the standard of care that would be expected of APEGBC professionals related to climate change, the Association is actively engaged in reviewing and revising, where applicable, all of its current

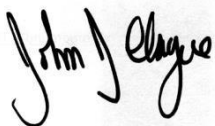
Professional Practice Guidelines (www.apeg.bc.ca/guidelines). Efforts are currently underway, with funding and support from the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, to create a new set of guidelines, *"Incorporating Climate Resilience in the Design of Public Infrastructure in British Columbia"*. Although APEGBC's review of its guidelines has primarily been through the lens of climate change adaptation, APEGBC is also developing guidelines on energy modelling in buildings that will assist APEGBC professionals design buildings that have a low-carbon footprint. APEGBC intends to continue to assist its members stay current on the topic of climate change and its implications by providing links to relevant resources and tools on an information portal, which is currently under development.

APEGBC is acutely aware that increasing the resilience of infrastructure in BC is critical for public safety and wellbeing, while it works to improve infrastructure that brings jobs and other economic benefits to both companies and individuals. APEGBC and its members play an essential role in communicating climate change risks to stakeholders and clients, and ultimately they are responsible for the technical work needed to adapt infrastructure to a changing climate and to reduce emissions. Leadership from the Province on climate change policy will bolster APEGBC's efforts to provide its members and licensees with professional practice guidelines that demonstrate best practice on climate change adaptation and mitigation and that align with provincial plans and objectives. The Association is supportive of BC's current climate change legislation and GHG reduction targets, and is encouraged that the Province continues to refine its plan on how these targets will be achieved.

APEGBC is the regulatory body with over 33,000 professional members, licensees, members-in-training and registrants in British Columbia, many of whom are building infrastructure, developing technologies and managing projects and people throughout the Province. Through its members, APEGBC has a very substantial impact on the resilience of our communities and industries. Therefore, the Association requests that the Climate Action Secretariat actively consult with APEGBC throughout the remainder of the Climate Leadership Plan process on topics that could influence and be influenced by engineers and geoscientists in BC.

Should you have any comments or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Harshan Radhakrishnan, P.Eng., M.A.Sc., Practice Advisor, Professional Practice, Standards and Development directly at 604-412-6054 or hrad@apeg.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Clague". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Clague, P.Geo., PhD
President