



TERMS OF REFERENCE

ENGINEERING, FORESTRY, AND GEOSCIENCE JOINT PRACTICE PANEL (JPP)

2022-03-31

1. Preamble

The Engineering, Forestry, and Geoscience Joint Practice Panel (JPP) between the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCFP) and Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC) exists by virtue of and pursuant to the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ABCFP and the EGBC first signed in 1994, modified in 2005, 2013, and 2022.

Section 22 (1) of *the Professional Governance Act* (PGA) states:

It is the general duty of a regulatory body at all times to:

serve and protect the public interest with respect to the exercise of a profession, professional governance and the conduct of registrants' regulates practice, and exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities in the public interest.

Section 22 (2) of *the Professional Governance Act* (PGA) states:

The regulatory body has the following responsibilities:

- (a) to superintend the regulated practice
- (f) to establish, monitor and enforce standards of practice to enhance the quality of practice
- (k) to promote and enhance the following:
 - (ii) interprofessional collaborative practice between its registrants and persons practising another profession

2. Type

Joint regulatory practice panel

3. Purpose

To consider and make recommendations within the regulatory mandate under the *Professional Governance Act* regarding:

- a) Areas of joint practice between engineering, forestry, and/or geoscience;
- b) The matters set out in the MoU; and/or
- c) other matters referred to the JPP by either council.

4. Function

1. The JPP may produce guidance products and other descriptive materials as set out in the MoU.
2. The JPP may produce periodic reports to the CEOs of ABCFP and EGBC, when requested, on issues of interprofessional collaborative practice.
3. The JPP may establish task forces comprising of JPP members and others and may delegate tasks to them. Any task force established by the JPP will be chaired by a JPP member.
 - a) For each task force, the JPP shall approve policies in accordance with the JPP's overall administrative policy.
 - b) All task forces must include individuals with expertise in the matters under consideration.
4. When the JPP is producing guidance products and other descriptive materials for registrants (including but not limited to, guidelines, advisories, webinars, and articles) regarding any area of relevant regulatory practice, it shall appoint a task force with representation from both organizations. Recommendations as to who to appoint to such task forces shall be sought from EGBC's Engineers and Geoscientists in the Resource Sector Division (EGIRSD) and the ABCFP Practice Stewards. The JPP may choose any additional person(s) to be on a task force who may be considered appropriate due to their area of expertise.
5. In the event minority opinions emerge within a task force established by the JPP regarding substantive matters associated with proposed recommendations to the JPP, and these differences of opinion cannot be resolved despite the sincere efforts by the task force to do so, the areas of disagreement and the principal arguments shall be described in a report by the task force along with the recommendations from the task force to the JPP.

5. Composition

Eight voting members, four registrants from each organization, appointed by each respective organization's Director of Professional Practice. In addition, one non-voting staff person from each organization will be appointed by the CEOs to provide staff support.

Although the voting members may be registrants of one or both organizations, each voting member will be appointed by one organization to serve as that organization's representative.

6. Revocation

Each organization's CEO may revoke the appointment of one or more of its appointees at any time.

7. Terms of Office

Appointments are for two years but JPP members may be reappointed for up to three terms.

8. Selection of Officers

The JPP shall elect a Chair from among its members annually. The Chair shall alternate between the two organizations annually. The Chair may make motions.

9. Quorum

1. Quorum will be fifty per cent plus one of the JPP, provided at least two members from each organization are present.
2. In order for recommendations to be referred to the two councils, they will be as per the MoU. A clear majority of the respective organization's representatives means approval of three out of four members from each organization.

10. Frequency of Meetings

Meetings shall be held every two months, unless the JPP decides otherwise at the call of the Chair.

11. Conduct of Meetings

1. The hosting of meetings shall alternate between the two organizations unless the JPP decides otherwise. The JPP may meet in person and/or by telephone conference, webcast or other electronic communications media where all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.
2. The JPP may also discuss issues by e-mail or other electronic media where communication may not be simultaneous, provided all members of the JPP have access to the medium chosen and all communication to and from one member is broadcast to all other members of the JPP.
3. At least one in person meeting shall be held each year, subject to organizational policies.

12. Communications and Confidentiality

The JPP members may not undertake any public communications except through the appointed Officers of the ABCFP and/or EGBC. JPP meeting minutes and discussions are confidential.

13. Budget and Expenses

Sufficient funding shall be provided by the two organizations to cover JPP expenses. Expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with each organization's official reimbursement policy.