



# City of Port Moody

## Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: October 18, 2021  
Submitted by: Engineering and Operations Department – Infrastructure Engineering Services Division  
Subject: Provincial *Professional Governance Act* and City of Port Moody Permit to Practice

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### Purpose

To present information on the Provincial *Professional Governance Act* as it regards the City of Port Moody's Permit to Practice, including the registration of the City of Port Moody as an engineering firm.

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### Recommended Resolution(s)

**THAT the report dated October 18, 2021 from the Engineering and Operations Department – Infrastructure Engineering Services Division regarding Provincial *Professional Governance Act* and City of Port Moody Permit to Practice be received for information.**

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### Background

The practice of professional engineering and geoscience work is regulated in British Columbia under Provincial Law in order to provide a high level of accountability and public safety.

On February 5, 2021, the *Professional Governance Act (PGA)* came into force, replacing the Engineers and Geoscientists Act. The *PGA* regulates the professions of engineering and geoscience through the existing professional regulatory body, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists BC, which is commonly known as Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC). In addition to regulating the professions of engineering and geoscience, the *PGA* encompasses an additional four professional regulatory bodies and their associated professions. These are:

- Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP),
- Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC),
- BC Institute of Agrologists (BCIA), and
- College of Applied Biology (CAB).

Additional professions may be added in the future.

The *PGA* was developed in response to key recommendations from the Provincial Government's 2017 professional reliance review, which evaluated (then) current legislation governing professionals engaged in the natural resource sector and the role of professional regulators in upholding the public interest. The *PGA* is intended to improve public safety and confidence in the regulated professions across British Columbia.

The *PGA* establishes a new, consolidated framework for professional regulators working in the natural and built environment and a new oversight body for this legislation – the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG), which reports into the Ministry of the Attorney General. The legislation sets consistent standards for ethical principles, duties and responsibilities, and governance structures across professions, as well as introducing new regulatory tools, processes, and requirements.

The main areas of change from the previous Engineers and Geoscientists Act are:

- updates to the Code of Ethics,
- mandatory continuing education, and
- regulation of firms.

Awareness and compliance with the updated Code of Ethics and continuing education requirements is primarily the responsibility of individual practitioners.

## Discussion

In order to comply with these regulatory changes, the City of Port Moody must register as a firm with EGBC and receive a Permit to Practice. Under the Permit to Practice, the City must name engineering or geoscience professionals as Responsible Registrants who are responsible for ensuring that the firm's practice meets ethical, quality management, and continuing education requirements.

Port Moody completed registration and received a Permit to Practice on September 27, 2021. The City is now a practicing professional engineering firm. The City's Responsible Registrants are the General Manager of Engineering and Operations, Manager of Infrastructure Engineering Services, and the Manager of Project Delivery Services.

As part of the Permit to Practice requirements, registrant firms must prepare a Professional Practice Management Plan (PPMP) within 12 months of registration that must be reviewed and updated annually. Staff have begun work on the PPMP, coordinating across all departments where engineering professionals are currently employed. The PPMP documents policies and procedures that indicate how the firm meets the quality management, ethics, and continuing education requirements of the *PGA* and EGBC bylaws.

EGBC will also be completing proactive audits of registrant firms. Firms will be eligible for Permit to Practice audits 12 months after receiving a permit and on a three-to-five-year cycle thereafter.

## Other Option(s)

This report is being provided for information on the actions Port Moody staff are taking to comply with changes in regulation to the practice of engineering and geoscience in BC. There are no alternatives to be considered or direction being sought.

## Financial Implications

A one-time application fee of \$350 is required at the time of initial registration as a firm. The annual registration fee is calculated based on the number of EGBC registrants on staff and totals \$1,323 for Port Moody in 2021. This fee will be considered in future year department operating budgets.

Responsible registrants must undertake mandatory training – one seat is provided free of charge to each organization, further participants are \$100 each. This will be a minimum cost of \$200 in 2021/2022, which can be accommodated in existing operating budgets.

There are no changes to the way Port Moody currently supports its professional staff in continuing education and training.

## Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

No external communication is required at this time. Information on the *PGA* for the general public and practicing professionals is being disseminated through the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance and the industry-specific regulatory bodies under the Act, including EGBC.

Internal communication to staff on topics related to the *PGA* will be led by the responsible registrants for Port Moody. This will include, but is not limited to:

- emails and lunch and learn sessions to support staff in understanding their ethical and continuing education requirements in relation to their specific work at Port Moody; and
- updates provided during regular team meetings and as required at quarterly all-hands meetings for staff in the Engineering and Operations Department.

## Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Compliance with the *PGA* will support engineering and geoscience staff in continuing to deliver exceptional service to the residents and visitors to the City of Port Moody.

## Report Author

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## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Provincial <i>Professional Governance Act</i> and City of Port Moody Permit to Practice.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Oct 29, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Kim Law, Manager of Project Delivery Services - Oct 27, 2021 - 9:38 AM

Stephen Judd, Manager of Infrastructure Engineering Services - Oct 27, 2021 - 11:06 AM

Jeff Moi, General Manager of Engineering and Operations - Oct 27, 2021 - 2:44 PM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Oct 27, 2021 - 3:24 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Oct 28, 2021 - 10:19 AM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Oct 28, 2021 - 10:41 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Oct 29, 2021 - 1:29 PM