

By-law 13: Introduction

This proposal was prepared by the By-law Review Committee of Council as part of the multi-year by-law refresh project.

The central objective for the refresh of this by-law was to standardize concepts of ethics with other regulators within Canada, and to allow for further guidance through practice notes and guidelines, which can evolve more readily in conjunction with shifts in practice standards.

To achieve this, the Engineers Canada code was used as a basis, but kept as a separate and unique document that remains under the control of the Association and its members. (Council has also published a guideline that shows how each of the canons in the current Code of Ethics map to the Engineers Canada model, which can be found at <http://www.enggeomb.ca/pdf/Guidelines/ECCodeOfEthicsGuideline.pdf>).

After review, extensive engagement with members, and consultation with legal counsel, the committee is recommending that the By-law 13: Code of Ethics be replaced by the version proposed here.

PART XIII CODE OF ETHICS

13.0 Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics approved by the council on September 7, 2018 is hereby adopted as the Code of Ethics of the Association.

CODE OF ETHICS

This code of ethics sets out general principles of ethical conduct to be observed by members, licensees, interns and holders of certificates of authorization (each, a “practitioner”).

Practitioners shall act with fairness, courtesy and good faith to their associates, employers, employees and clients. They shall uphold the values of truth and honesty. They shall act in the public interest. They shall safeguard human life and welfare and the environment.

In keeping with these basic tenets, practitioners shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and the protection of the environment and promote health and safety within the workplace.
2. Offer services, advise on or undertake engineering or geoscientific assignments only in areas of their competence and practise in a careful and diligent manner and in compliance with applicable legislation.
3. Act as faithful agents of their clients or employers, maintain confidentiality and avoid conflicts of interest, but, where such conflict arises, fully disclose the circumstances without delay to the employer or client.
4. Keep informed in order to maintain their competence and strive to advance the body of knowledge within which they practise.
5. Conduct themselves with integrity, treat clients, colleagues and others with equity, fairness, courtesy and good faith, give credit where it is due, and accept, as well as give, honest and fair professional criticism.
6. Present clearly to employers and clients the possible consequences if engineering or geoscientific decisions or judgements are overruled or disregarded.
7. Report to their regulator or other appropriate agencies any perceived illegal or unethical engineering or geoscientific decisions or practices by registrants or others.
8. Be aware of, and ensure that clients and employers are made aware of, societal and environmental consequences of actions or projects and endeavour to interpret engineering or geoscientific issues to the public in an objective and truthful manner.

Each practitioner is required by The Engineering and Geoscientific Professions Act (the “Act”) to subscribe to and follow this code of ethics. Non-compliance may be considered professional misconduct or unskilled practice, which may lead to a disciplinary action or an order under the Act.