

Briefing Information for Prospective Members of the PEGNL Board of Directors

GENERAL:

PEGNL and Its Role:

Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador [PEGNL] is an organization whose mandate is regulating these professions in the public interest. PEGNL has approximately 3,000 members and is accountable to the public through the Provincial Department of Government Services.

Act, Regulations, By-Laws:

Engineering and Geoscience are regulated professions because of their impact on the public's well-being and quality of life; therefore, only licensed professionals are permitted by law to practice these professions.

Provincial legislation governs the practice of engineering and geoscience. *The Engineers and Geoscientists Act, 2008 and Regulations*, (first promulgated by government in 1952) create PEGNL's mandate and authority, and prescribe many of its activities.

PEGNL By-Laws direct the business and administrative affairs of the organization, including the Board of Directors election process.

Role of the Board of Directors:

PEGNL is governed by an elected body called the Board of Directors which directs and monitors the business, and exercises the powers of the organization on behalf of the Members.

Board Governance Model, Board Policies:

The PEGNL Board of Directors has chosen to govern itself and the affairs of PEGNL through the Carver Policy Governance® model. Through its governing policies, The Board conducts its meetings and directs the business of PEGNL. The policies define the Board's role, set down PEGNL's ENDS or Objectives, and delegate authority to committees and staff.

Characteristics of Candidates for the PEGNL Board of Directors:

Candidates for positions on the Board of Directors should have characteristics which will enable them to govern, not manage, PEGNL, including:

- A commitment to linking with the members and the public. Understanding that Board Members represent a diverse group of people, be willing to actively seek to access and understand that diversity.
- An ability to think in terms of systems and context, i.e. to macro-manage, rather than micro-manage.
- An interest in and capability to discuss the values underlying the actions taken in the organization, and to govern through the broader formulations of these values.
- An ability and willingness to deal with vision and the long term, rather than day-to-day details, i.e. to see 'the big picture'.
- An ability and willingness to participate assertively in deliberation, while respecting the opinions of others.
- A willingness and commitment to honour board decisions once they are made.
- A commitment to make judgments in an open-minded manner.

PEGNL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Board Composition:

The Act and By-Laws provide that the Board consist of the Chair, Chair-Elect, nine professional members and three Ministerial appointees.

Election Process:

Each year, the Board appoints a Nominations Committee. Members can be nominated for election by either the general membership or by the Nominations Committee.

One month before the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the Secretary mails a ballot to each member of PEGNL, with return required at least four days before the AGM.

A Scrutineers Committee, appointed by the Board, counts the ballots received and advises the Members of the election results at the AGM.

Board Process:

The Board takes office at each AGM. Normally, the Board of Directors holds 6-7 meetings annually, with two 2-day meetings and the remainder being 1-day meetings. The PEGNL Board operates under a Policy Governance Model. Board policy provides that Robert's Rules of Order can be invoked if required, however, normally, less formal rules are employed. Approximately one week before each meeting, the Secretary distributes a Board meeting briefing book to Board members who are expected to review the material prior to the Board meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Term of Office:

Board Members normally serve three years unless completing the term of a resigned Board member's term of office.

Attendance at Meetings:

Board policy provides that any Board member who misses three meetings in one year is deemed to have resigned.

Time Commitment:

With the frequency and duration of meetings, preparation time and possible committee or task force involvement, an annual 8 to 10 day commitment by Board members is normal. Members from outside St. John's must also add travel time.

The Chair will spend up to 20 days on PEGNL business annually.

Board Members' Expenses:

PEGNL reimburses its Board Members for out-of-pocket expenses associated with Board business, including travel, accommodations and meals.

REFERENCES:

- Engineers and Geoscientists Act, 2008, and Regulations
(www.pegnl.ca/about_us)
- PEGNL By-Laws
(www.pegnl.ca/publications)
- Board Governance Policies
(www.pegnl.ca/publications)
- General Information
Brochure/Press
- Kit
(www.pegnl.ca/media/index.htm)
- PEGNL *Becoming a Professional* brochure
(<http://www.pegnl.ca/students/index.htm>)