

BOARD CANDIDATE (3 to be elected)



Veronica Knott, P.Eng. | Victoria, BC

When I received the notification for the search for the Board of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, I immediately wanted to sign up. Then I started doubting myself, I worried I didn't have enough experience for the role. However, over the next couple weeks, I couldn't stop thinking about it. As someone who just recently received their professional designation with Engineers and Geoscientists BC and is just starting out what I hope to be a long engineering career, I realized that I could bring a unique perspective to the Board.

This would not be my first Board experience having served on the University of British Columbia Board of Governors for two years, I am well versed at how essential Boards are at creating resilient institutions. As well, having led multiple volunteer organizations I understand the intricacies of working as an organization built by passionate volunteers.

I felt my fresh perspective paired with my experience on the UBC Board and other volunteer organizations that I would be able to provide value to the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Board and its registrants in this role. My goal for this position would be to help ensure that Engineers and Geoscientists BC is a regulatory body that supports its members in their current challenges and leads by example to build a resilient and dynamic institution for the future.

EDUCATION

BASc (Mining Engineering), University of British Columbia, 2019

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Engineering Superintendent, Surface Operations & Projects, Rio Tinto Diavik Diamond Mines, 2021–present

RELATED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Director, Canadian Mining Games, 2023

President, Engineering Undergraduate Society, 2014–2015

Chair, National Conference on Women in Engineering, 2013–2014

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Elected Governor, University of British Columbia Board of Governors, 2015–2017

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Gold Medal Student Award, Engineers Canada, 2017

Women to Watch, Wendy McDonald Awards, Vancouver Board of Trade, 2017

Nestor Korchinsky Award, University of British Columbia, 2016

Difference Maker Award, Rick Hansen Foundation, 2016

Q&A WITH CANDIDATES

Engineers and Geoscientists BC is the regulatory authority charged with protecting the public interest with respect to the practice of engineering and geoscience in the province of BC. What is the key challenge facing the organization?

With advances in technology and changes in society along with the latest changes to the PGA, I believe the key challenge is staying relevant and representative of our registrants. As methodologies of practice adapt to addition of AI, remote work, and additional responsibilities under the PGA, as a regulatory body, I believe that Engineers and Geoscientists BC needs to support its registrants but as they navigate how these new challenges integrate into their practice.

What are the key issues facing the engineering and/or geoscience professions?

I love the phrase that engineering and geoscience are the interface of technology to the public. I believe this shows how the issues facing our professions are also those faced by the public. The world is going through changing times with climate change, social license to operate, housing crises and adoption of machine intelligence. Our professions are

critical to leading the implementation and improving the outcomes. The result will only be stronger if we are able to work together and support each other in best practices but also recruit and grow our professions to be able to adequately support these requirements.

Looking five years ahead, what is your vision for Engineers and Geoscientists BC as a professional regulatory body in BC?

I believe it is the responsibility of Engineers and Geoscientists BC to provide the framework for our professions to operate. This means showcasing the values and setting the expectations for parameters of practice. As a regulator, I would hope that Engineers and Geoscientists BC is able to push the envelope to ensure inclusive and progressive thoughts to recruitment, retention and regulation of our professions that align with the public's largest concerns.

For the Board to achieve its goals and meet its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board has identified the need for diverse voices on the Board, with a blend of the following skills and competences: leadership, financial literacy, risk management, human resources, strategy, regulatory understanding, governance and technical proficiency. Please highlight the areas of strength you bring to the role.

I believe I can provide the Board with a diverse perspective as someone starting out in my career. I think this diversity is supported by my previous experience serving on the UBC Board of Governors giving me important insights into governance, financial literacy, risk management and strategy. I think this is supported by my technical exposure in the world of mining and mine closure through experience in risk management and regulatory understanding. I feel I'd be able to provide a perspective of an engineer starting their career and be a part of building the Engineers and Geoscientists BC I'll be proud to be a member of in 20 years.