



## Investigating the Eligibility of Applicants for Registration

*Improved Public Interest*

To better protect the public APEGA must have the ability to minimize licensing risks and have the tools necessary to ensure that individuals are qualified and competent to practice before they are licensed.

### Background

- The role of the Board of Examiners is to evaluate the qualifications of applicants and confirm they are qualified to practice before they are approved for registration and given a license to practice.
- Currently, there is no effective or efficient way for the Board of Examiners to investigate potential issues when conflicting evidence is received as part of an application for registration.

### Why is this Important

- The Board of Examiners is seeing more applications with potential issues related to applicant character and credibility, proof of identity, and English language proficiency.
- The Registration Committee is established to evaluate the qualifications of applicants for registration, not to conduct investigations. Members of the Registration Committee are not trained to conduct investigations, nor should they be expected to do so.
- It is in the public interest that APEGA have the authority to investigate these potential issues when conflicting evidence is received to ensure that complete and accurate information is available to the Registration Committee when determining whether an applicant meets all of the qualifications required to be registered.

### What is being proposed

- Amend the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act* to authorize the Registrar to investigate the eligibility of applicants for registration upon the request of the Registration Committee and to forward the findings of the investigations to the Registration Committee. This would

include the ability to investigate an applicant's character and reputation, English language proficiency, proof of identity, or any other criteria required for registration.

Effect of change  
Proposed

- Authorizing the Registrar to initiate investigations and appoint investigators, similar to initiating a Registrar's investigation against existing Members and Permit Holders, will provide an effective and efficient mechanism for the Registration Committee to receive complete and accurate information when conflicting evidence is received as part of an application for registration.
- It will better protect the public because more complete and accurate information will be available to the Registration Committee when determining whether an applicant meets the qualifications to be registered.