

# **Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting** **of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT)**

**April 24, 2025 (Virtual)**

## **Present:**

<b>Rosanna Tyrer, C.E.T., rcji, CAPM</b>	Past-President
<b>Micheal Mooney, C.E.T.</b>	President
<b>Christopher van Dop, C.E.T.</b>	President-Elect
<b>Norman Sandberg, C.E.T.</b>	Central Region
<b>Brian Raymond, C.E.T.</b>	Eastern Region
<b>Shelley Parker, A.Sc.T.</b>	Horseshoe Region
<b>Stephanie Pesheau, C.E.T., CAPM</b>	Northern Region
<b>Roy Sue-Wah-Sing, C.E.T.</b>	Toronto Region
<b>Samuel Nammari, C.E.T., P.Eng</b>	Western Region
<b>Liam Croft</b>	Student Representative
<b>Mladen Ivankovic, C.E.T</b>	Young Professionals Representative
<b>Alex Lusty</b>	Public Representative
<b>Daniel Liao</b>	Heads of Technology

## **Staff:**

<b>Cheryl Farrow, MBA, CAE</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Lily Rudeychuk, CPA</b>	Director, Finance and Corporate Services
<b>David Terlizzi</b>	Director, MES & Government Relations
<b>Elle Armstrong</b>	Administrator

## **Regrets:**

<b>Barry Billing</b>	Director, RPP & Registrar
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### **❖ President's opening remarks and call to order**

President Mooney called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He welcomed the Board of Directors, noting that the meeting was being recorded for accuracy of minutes.

### **❖ Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

Stephanie Pesheau declared a conflict of interest related to the appointment of the new Heads of Technology (HOT) Representative. She noted that the proposed candidate is her supervisor at Confederation College. As a result, Ms. Pesheau recused herself from any discussion or decision-making related to this appointment.

### **❖ Approval of the Board Meeting Agenda**

The Board of Directors was asked to consider an addition to the agenda under new business to include a discussion on the upcoming Labour Market Study. The Board approved the agenda as amended, with the labour market study added as a new item for discussion.

5957

**Moved by Rosanna Tyrer, Seconded by Roy Sue-Wah-Sing and Carried.**

**Resolved that the Board of Directors approves the agenda as amended, to include new business related to the Labour Market Study.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **❖ Approval of the Consent Agenda**

5958

**Moved by Mladen Ivankovic, Seconded by Norman Sandberg and Carried.**

**Resolved that the Board of Directors approves the items in the Consent Agenda as presented.**

## **FINANCE**

### **❖ Audited Year-End Financial Statements**

Brian Raymond, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), presented the Audited Year-End Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024, which will be brought forward for approval at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 7, 2025. He began by outlining the findings of Prentice, Yates & Clark, the external auditors, who concluded that the financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects and complied with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, in other words a “clean audit”.

During their review, the auditors raised concerns about the overly complex structure of OACETT’s reserve funds. In response, the FAC committed to conducting a review of the reserve structure. The Board also discussed the importance of maintaining the integrity of restricted funds. It was agreed that such funds must continue to be used for their designated purposes, even if accounts are consolidated, unless the Board explicitly approves a change in designation.

5959

**Moved by Brian Raymond, Seconded by Roy Sue-Wah-Sing and Carried.**

**Resolved that the Board of Directors approves the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024 for presentation and approval at the AGM on June 7.**

### **❖ Auditor Recommendation**

The Board of Directors discussed a proposed change in auditing firms, prompted by a significant and unexpected 25% fee increase from the current auditor. Although the increase was attributed to a change in scope, the specifics of the revised scope remained unclear. Staff expressed concerns that the mid-contract increase, occurring only two years into a five-year agreement, reflected a lack of good faith in the renegotiation process. This concern was shared by the FAC, prompting a broader evaluation of alternative audit providers.

After careful consideration, the Committee recommended entering into a new five-year agreement with Welch LLP. Their proposal was recognized as both competitive and comprehensive, offering the added value of an additional audit team member and demonstrating strong experience in the non-profit sector. This recommendation will be brought forward for member approval at the AGM on June 7, 2025.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

### **❖ Board Appointments: Student, Public & Heads of Technology (HOT) Representatives**

A confidential discussion took place regarding the appointments of the Student, Public, and HOT representatives to the Board of Directors for the 2025–2027 term. This section will be redacted from the final Board Meeting Minutes until all appointees have been formally notified and the information has been publicly announced.

## **NAME CHANGES**

### **❖ Setting the Fall Meeting Dates**

To prepare for the potential name changes, the Board of Directors discussed plans for upcoming member meetings. Two key dates were proposed: a Fireside Chat on September 8<sup>th</sup> and a special meeting during the week of September 15<sup>th</sup>. These sessions are intended to foster member engagement and open dialogue around the proposed changes. To support effective scheduling, Board members were asked to submit any blackout dates by the end of next week to help ensure maximum participation.

## **TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS CANADA (TPC)**

### **❖ Update re. the Accords and International Engineering Alliance (IEA) Membership**

A confidential discussion was held concerning the Accords and IEA Membership. This section will be redacted from the final Board Meeting Minutes until after the IEA Annual Meetings conclude in June 2025.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- ❖ Saturday June 7, 2025: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. -- Online – Virtual AGM
- ❖ Friday June 13- Sunday June 15, 2025- Meeting and Conference – In-Person – Caesars Windsor: 377 Riverside Drive East, Windsor, ON, CA N9A 7H7

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **❖ Labour Market Study**

Norman Sandberg, Chair of the Steering Committee, and Cheryl Farrow, CEO, have commenced scoring the proposals submitted for OACETT's 2025 Labour Market Study. Due to

the \$80,000 value of the contract, the Executive Officers have agreed that the recommended proposal should be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Board members are advised to be on the lookout for an upcoming email vote, which will include the confidential rationale behind the contract as well as details on the proposed proponents.

### ❖ **Government Funding Update**

The Board was informed that OACETT, in partnership with three other organizations, has secured a portion of a \$500,000 government grant for a new initiative aimed at upskilling individuals in advanced manufacturing. OACETT's share of the funding is approximately \$70,000. Participants in the program will follow a defined pathway toward certification, supporting workforce development and addressing the evolving skill demands of the sector.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Mooney made his closing remarks, thanking everybody for their participation. He declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m., as moved by Mladen Ivankovic.