

INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release

Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance

Jan. 26, 2021

Modernized professional governance act takes effect

VICTORIA – Legislation that increases transparency and accountability for regulatory bodies, ensuring professionals act in the public interest, will come into force on Feb. 5, 2021.

The current legislation governing the respective professions will be officially repealed when the legislation comes fully into force. The designated regulatory bodies will begin operating entirely under the Professional Governance Act (PGA). Government passed the PGA in 2018 and began bringing it into force in stages in June 2019.

The legislation standardizes how regulatory bodies govern their registered professionals. This includes expectations on codes of ethics, continuing education, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and transparency in their governance.

The PGA provides a framework for self-regulating professions. It increases public access to information on the governance of the regulated professions and ensures professionals are held to the highest ethical and technical standards.

The Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) is responsible for administering the PGA. Under the act, the OSPG currently oversees five designated regulatory bodies.

The superintendent's office has the power to issue guidelines and directives to regulators to ensure compliance and enforcement of best practices, and professional and ethical standards. Staff can investigate potential breaches of duty to report protections and administer penalties.

In November 2020, the Architects Act was moved from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training to the responsibility of the Ministry of Attorney General, bringing the Architectural Institute of BC (AIBC) under oversight of the OSPG. Work is underway to transition the AIBC from its own act to the PGA.

Additional professions could be brought under the oversight of the OSPG in the future if the superintendent considers it to be in the public interest.

Quick Facts:

- The Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance is responsible for five professional regulatory bodies: the BC Institute of Agrologists; Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C.; College of Applied Biology, Engineers and Geoscientists BC; and Association of BC Forest Professionals.
- These regulatory bodies oversee more than 60,000 professionals working in B.C. across a range of disciplines in the natural resources sector, industry, transportation, construction and real estate industries, among others.
- The PGA was created in response to recommendations in the independent Final Report of the Professional Reliance Review, submitted to the Ministry of Environment and

Climate Change Strategy in June 2018.

- The superintendent maintains an independent oversight role and provides an annual report to the attorney general.

Learn more:

To learn more about the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance, visit: <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/>

Contact:

Aimée Harper
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
778 698-1608

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