



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – APRIL 4, 2023

Seven Wardens Provide Update on Ritual Review

The Corporation of the Seven Wardens launched a review of the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer in February 2022. For further background on the Ritual Review process please see the first communique, dated November 21, 2022.

The Ritual Review Committee has been meeting regularly since February 2022 to move forward with its mandate “to make the Ritual meaningful and inclusive for all candidates”. The Committee wishes to thank all the recently obligated engineering graduates, Camp volunteers, engineering associations of various kinds, and other stakeholders for responding to survey requests and offering individual submissions to assist the Committee to understand the key issues.

Stakeholder sentiment ranged from leaving the ritual as-is to replacing it fully with new material. Most were in favour of changes between the two extremes. Sufficient evidence exists – both internally and externally – to support the need for changes to the Ritual and the candidate experience.

Although the Corporation recognized the need for change several years ago and made incremental changes to reduce concerns, it has become clear that the Ritual is still not fully meeting its intended purpose for a significant proportion of stakeholders.

The Corporation addressed some of the concerns this Spring by issuing a directive to all 28 Camps across Canada to use a modified (interim) version of the Ritual. Further, it requested that Camps move, where possible, to open ceremonies at which family and friends of participants are invited to attend. While over 50% of Camps already had open ceremonies, the remainder have been directed to move towards the elimination of any perceived secrecy.

The Committee is currently developing the guiding principles and strategy as part of the second phase of its mandate. Four primary options for the Ritual are under consideration:

- Continue to use the modified (interim) version
- Make further refinements to address additional concerns
- Keep the best elements of the traditional Ritual and embed them in a modernized Ritual
- Maintain the purpose and intent but develop a completely modernized the Ritual

A decision on the preferred option is expected this summer. Thereafter, the Committee will undertake a process to design and implement recommended changes to the Ritual. The entire undertaking requires careful thought, consideration and time. The Committee plans to engage one or more independent parties to provide unbiased feedback on the draft outcome.

The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer was instituted with the simple end of directing the engineering graduates towards a consciousness of the engineering profession and its significance, and indicating to experienced engineers their responsibilities in receiving, welcoming and supporting the engineering graduates in their beginnings. The Corporation wishes that the outcome





of the Committee's work will honour the integrity of the Ritual to ensure that it continues to be relevant and enduring for the next 100 years.

Feedback about the Ritual can be provided by contacting the Ritual Review Committee at ritual_review@corp.ironring.ca

The Corporation of the Seven Wardens Inc. is a not-for-profit Canadian Corporation, managed by volunteers, whose purpose is to administer and regulate the use of "The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer". Local groups, or Camps, across Canada are responsible for the delivery of the Ritual to candidates.

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