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Engineers and Geoscientists BC is pleased to be contributing to government's review of the professional reliance model. As the regulator for professional engineering and geoscience, we are dedicated to upholding public safety, high standards, and robust professional practice, and we want to ensure our voice is heard in this process.

Professional reliance is the practice of relying upon the decisions and advice of professionals who accept responsibility and are held accountable for the decisions they make and the advice they give. We see this review as an important opportunity to assess how the professional reliance model is applied under a variety of legislation in the natural resource sector to ensure it continues to work as intended.

Under provincial law, it is the role of Engineers and Geoscientists BC to establish, maintain, and enforce standards of qualification and practice for our members. We utilize proactive and reactive regulatory programs to ensure engineering and geoscience is conducted safely and ethically. From qualification assessment, to practice guidance and oversight, to undertaking disciplinary processes when our standards are not met, we continue to develop vigorous regulatory solutions that serve to protect British Columbians.

Within the professional reliance model, we work with our professionals, as well as relevant authorities and stakeholders, to communicate the standards of practice members should follow when carrying out their professional obligations. This is accomplished, in part, through the creation of quality management and professional practice guidelines, in areas such as flood hazard assessment, terrain stability, forest roads and bridges, riparian area assessments, dam safety reviews, and onsite sewerage.

Over the years, we have been proactive in identifying and submitting recommendations for improvements to the professional reliance model, and have collaborated with other professions to comment on issues related to the natural resource sector – including utilizing consistent standards, revising legislation impacting the application of professional reliance, addressing issues related to government oversight and the use of professionals, and documentation of professional practice.

We have also provided extensive information on ways in which the professional reliance model can be improved, as part of this review. This includes clarifying roles and expectations of all parties working within the model, strengthening the regulation of Qualified Professionals, increasing government oversight, and implementing common practice guidelines. We look forward to continuing to contribute to this important discussion, and encourage our members to provide their input to this process as well.

We take very seriously our obligation to the public and our responsibility to ensure that all engineering and geoscience work is carried out safely and ethically. We are dedicated to safety, ongoing professional development, and professional accountability, and we welcome any opportunity to build on the regulatory tools we already have in place.

To that end, we have previously identified several amendments to our 100-year-old legislation that would strengthen our ability to act as a strong regulator, and through the coming year we will continue to review and consider ways we can enhance our ability to protect the public interest. In addition, we have an established Task Force that is currently evaluating options for the potential regulation of engineering and geoscience organizations in BC, as a means to provide greater public protection. We believe these and other continuous improvement efforts will support and enhance the role we play within the professional reliance model, and as a professional regulator serving the people of BC.

We look forward to working with government and our professional colleagues to advance this review, and we remain dedicated to serving the interests of all British Columbians for the next 100 years with integrity, accountability and innovation.

Ann English, P.Eng.

CEO and Registrar