

By J. A. René Bourassa, Eng.

PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION COMMITTEE: CANDIDATES WANTED

Interested?

Being a member of the Professional Inspection Committee (PIC) of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec means ensuring the protection of the public by using your knowledge, experience and interpersonal skills. Being a member of the PIC also means helping members improve their professional competence and in the process, helping to enhance the image of the profession while promoting its values. Finally, being a member of the PIC means a chance to communicate freely with colleagues in various fields, working in different sectors of the economy, whose expertise is acknowledged.

The PIC is looking for new members to fill two existing vacancies and three more that will be created soon.

AN EXTREMELY AFFIRMING ROLE

The PIC is a statutory committee created under the Professional Code to supervise the practice of the profession. To fulfill this role, the PIC uses professional inspections and special inquiries. The PIC can conduct a special inquiry into the qualifications of any engineers suspected of shortcomings in their area of competence. Inquiries are usually the result of a recommendation by an inspector or a complaint received from the public. Where appropriate, the PIC makes a recommendation to the Administrative Committee of the OIQ (which decides on the basis of powers delegated to it by the Bureau) to oblige members to require any member of the order to successfully complete a period of refresher training or a refresher course, or both such training and course require any member of the order to successfully complete a period of refresher training or a refresher course, or both such training and course, restrict or suspend the member's right to engage in professional activities until that requirement is met.

The members of the PIC are engineers whose expertise has been acknowledged by their peers and who work actively in varied fields. Members are appointed by the Bureau for a three-year term, renewable. They hold meetings once a month, at the end of the afternoon, at the head office of the OIQ and participate in some six hearings per year. During the meetings, they analyze the reports of the investigators and experts. During the hearings, three PIC members hear the respondent engineers, evaluate their professional competence and formulate recommendations to the Administrative Committee. The files come from many fields and are treated collaboratively within the PIC.

While using their expertise to serve the profession, PIC members have an opportunity to expand their knowledge in all fields of engineering and share their knowledge and experience with their colleagues. Highly affirming, this commitment to the profession is compensated for by professional fees of \$160 per half-day.

PORTRAIT OF IDEAL CANDIDATES

The PIC is especially looking for candidates specializing in the following fields:

- structure – framework and foundations;
- municipal engineering – urban drainage;
- building electricity.

Engineers working in other fields who are interested in applying are also welcome. To apply, you must have been a member of the OIQ and have practiced the profession of engineer for at least 10 years. You must also satisfy other criteria, such as:

- possess relevant experience and technical expertise in the discipline practiced;
- not be a director of the OIQ and not be a member of another statutory committee pursuant to the Professional Code, in order to ensure the greatest possible autonomy and independence of the PIC and avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance thereof;
- not have been the subject of a disciplinary decision rendered by the Committee on Discipline of the OIQ finding the member guilty of an offence and not have been the subject of a decision by the Administrative Committee rendered pursuant to section 55 of the Professional Code, as the result of recommendations by the PIC, over the last 10 years;
- have demonstrated an interest in the OIQ, share its values (accessibility, rigor, accountability, consistency and as well as respect, transparency and trust) and adopted the fundamental values of the engineering profession (competence, ethics, responsibility and social commitment) in your professional activities.

Serving on a committee whose decisions have a significant impact on the practice of engineering calls for special qualities, including impartiality, discretion, perspicacity and judgment. The selected candidates must also commit to avoid any conflict of interest or appearance thereof.

To learn more about the PIC, consult the Regulation respecting the professional inspection committee of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, available on the members' extranet, or contact the secretary of the Committee, Georges-Étienne Ménard, Eng., at 514 845-6141 or 1 800 461-6141, ext. 3138.

Interested in applying to become a member of Professional Inspection Committee? Or know a colleague you think would do a good job? The very simple procedure is described in the appel des candidatures opposite. Being a member of the professional inspection committee is an experience that is rewarding both personally and professionally.