



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – NOVEMBER 21, 2022

Seven Wardens Announce Review of the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer

For nearly a century, Canadian engineering graduates have been invited to voluntarily participate in “The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer”. Participants make a personal obligation to live by a high standard of ethical conduct regarding their duties and responsibilities towards themselves, other engineers and society in general. During the Ritual, the engineering graduates are made joyously welcome to the profession of engineering by those that have preceded them. Over 500,000 engineering graduates have attended a Ritual ceremony. An iron ring has been given to each one, serving as a constant reminder to them and others of their obligation.

The original Ritual was conceived in the 1920’s. Since then, Canada has become significantly more diverse. Several revisions have been made to the text of the Ritual regarding gender neutrality and the removal of religious words and phrases. More recently, the age of the Ritual, its old English language, and overtones of colonialism, have prompted the Corporation to initiate a review of the Ritual and the organization to make the Ritual more meaningful and inclusive for all candidates by building on the original intent of the ceremony but reflecting the context of a modern Canadian society.

In early 2022, the Corporation formed a Ritual Review Committee. The Committee’s initial work has been to solicit input and actively listen to newly obligated candidates, Camp volunteers and other engaged stakeholder communities. A formal case for change and guiding principles will be presented to the Corporation membership prior to the development of specific recommendations.

Some stakeholders have expressed urgency in replacing the Ritual immediately. The Corporation wishes to honour principles of the 100-year-old tradition and to respect all stakeholders’ needs. To do so will require thoughtful input and careful consideration. The current Ritual served its purpose for nearly 100 years – the Corporation wishes that the outcome of the Committee’s work be relevant and enduring for the next 100 years.

Feedback about the Ritual can be made in writing 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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