

Professional Governance Act: Overview for PIBC



Ministry of
Post-Secondary Education
and Future Skills

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Presented to the Planning
Institute of British Columbia

Professional Governance Act (PGA)

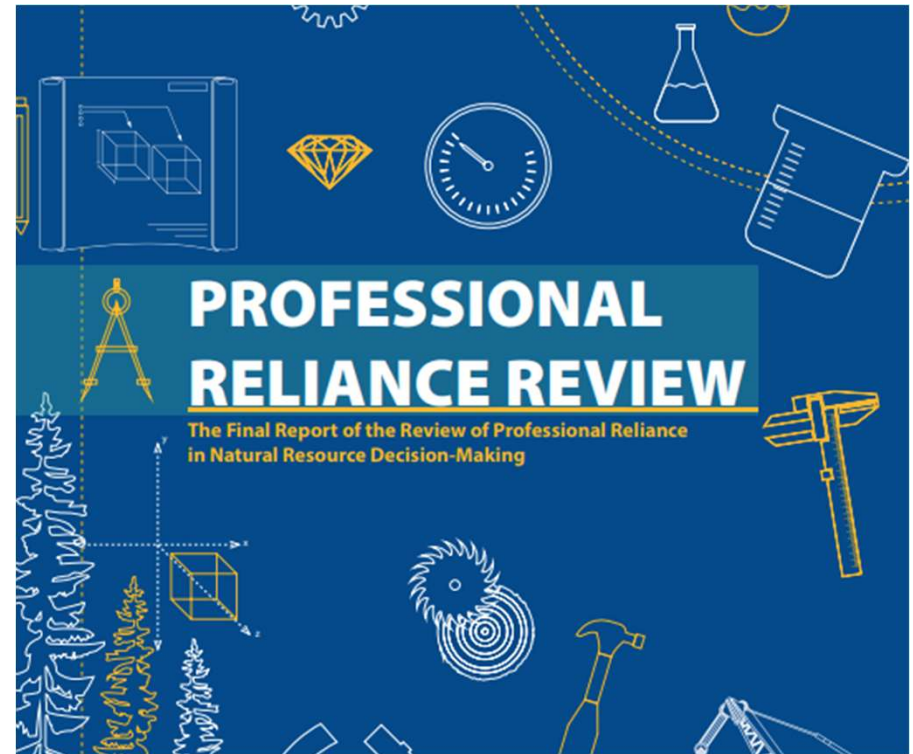
2018 Professional Reliance Review

Recommendations included enhancing professional governance and adding oversight

- Strong professional governance >> important input into improved professional reliance

Fully in force as of February 2021

Key principles: public interest; protection of the environment and public health and safety



OSPG Mandate and Responsibilities

Includes:

- ✓ Overseeing systemic or general matters
- ✓ Oversight to ensure regulatory body operations are in the public interest
- ✓ Facilitate ministry-regulatory body relationships on PGA matters

Excludes:

- × Overseeing individual registrants or professionals
- × Carry out the duties or functions of regulatory bodies
- × Appeal body for decisions of regulatory bodies

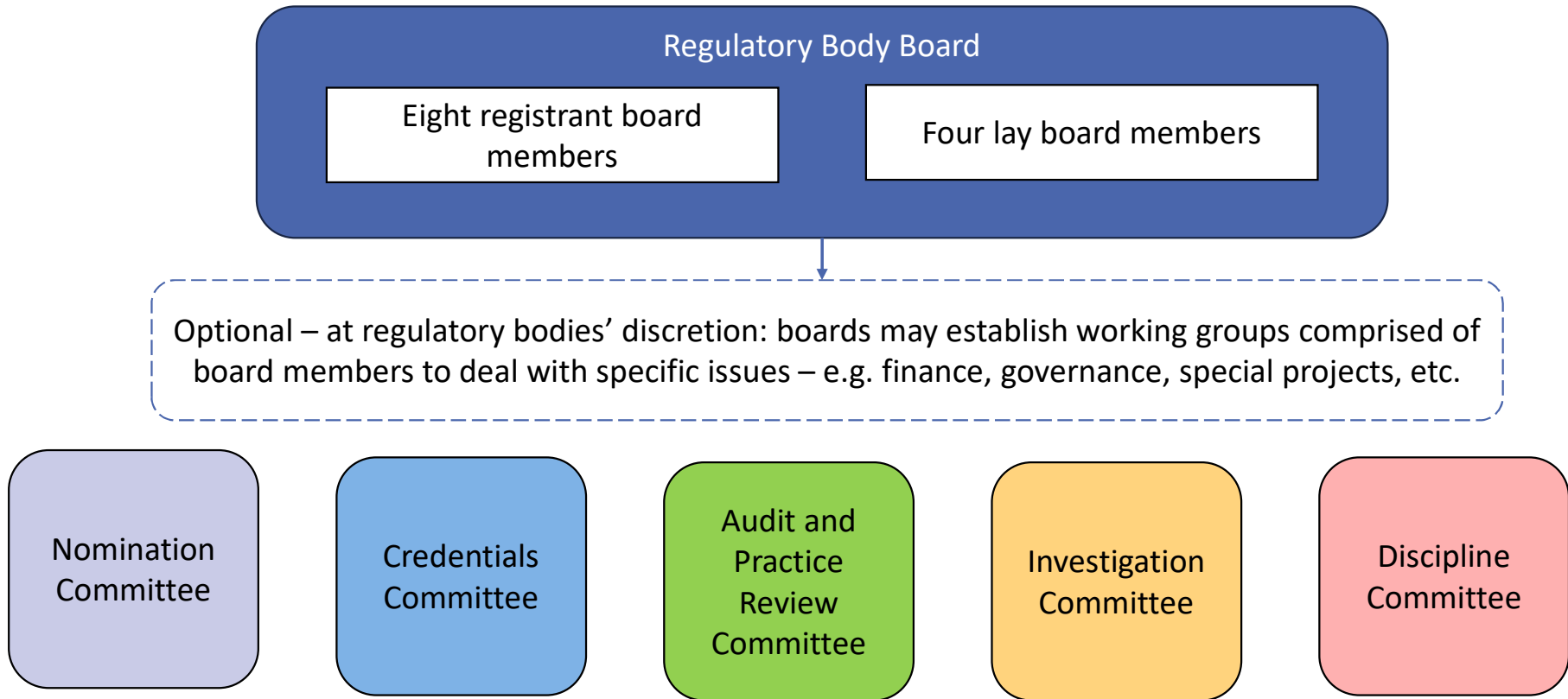
Regulatory Bodies

- Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC
- Architectural Institute of BC
- BC Institute of Agrologists
- College of Applied Biologists
- Engineers and Geoscientists BC
- Forest Professionals BC

In progress: BC Society of Landscape Architects

- Natural and built environment professions
- At least some of the practice poses a direct risk to the physical world, environment and/or human health and safety
- Governments rely on advice of the professions to inform permitting decisions, authorizations, etc. E.g.
 - Issuing building permit based on architectural plan
 - Environmental impact studies before allowing a mine

General Governance Structure for Regulatory Bodies



Board members are not on statutory committees (exception: chair of nomination committee)

Practice rights

Regulated practice

Body of knowledge or list of disciplines a profession is based upon

Defined in regulation for **each** PGA regulator

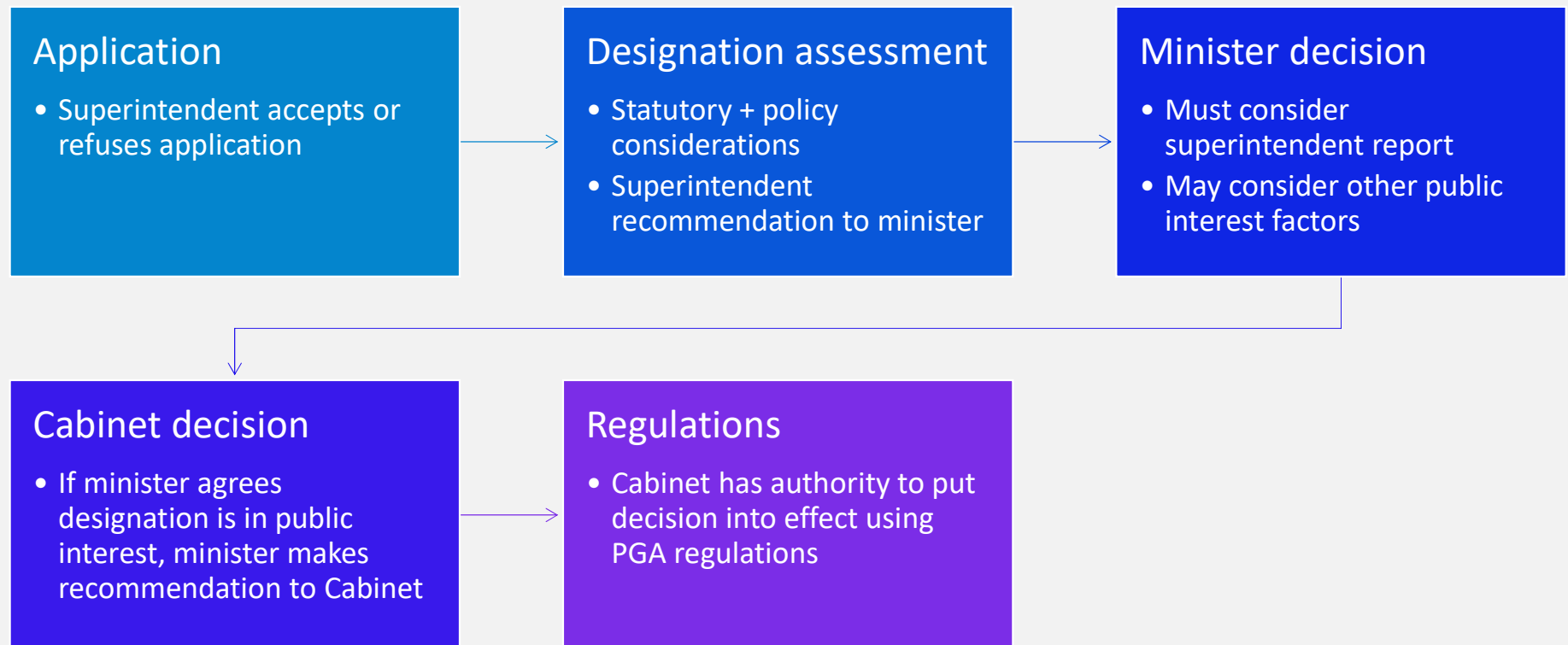
Reserved practice

Having regard to the **protective purposes**, requires the **experience** or **technical knowledge** of a registrant

Protective purpose means the safety, health and welfare of the public, including the protection of the environment and the promotion of health and safety in the workplace

Established: Architecture, Engineering, Geoscience, Forestry Agrology, Applied biology
Under consideration: Applied Science Technology

Application & Designation Assessment Process



Designation Assessment Considerations – PGA section 87

Mandatory considerations

- “The degree of risk to the environment and to the health or safety of the public from incompetent, unethical or impaired practice of the profession”
- Supervision
- Educational programs
- If recommending designation, whether to create or continue a regulatory body, or to assign responsibility to existing PGA regulator

Other considerations

- Capacity to self-govern
- Benefits of regulation relative to downsides (e.g. costs to professionals, public)
- Public interest rationales for regulation and for reserved practice
- Compatibility with other PGA professions
- Is provincial supervision of the profession’s regulator warranted or helpful?

More information:

<https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/regulatory-bodies/adding-regulatory-bodies/>



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Additional information