

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting **of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT)**

Friday, May 29, 2026 at 8:30am-2:30pm
In-Person at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel
Southwest Ballroom

Present:

Christopher van Dop, C.E.T.	President
Stephanie Nuttall-Pesheau, C.E.T., CAPM	President-Elect
Norman Sandberg, C.E.T.	Central Region
Brian Raymond, CD, C.E.T.	Eastern Region
Scott Martin, C.Tech.	Horseshoe Region
Steven Finley, A.Sc.T., rcca	Northern Region
Taylor Rohmann, C.E.T., PMP	Toronto Region
Lara Widdifield, C.E.T.	Western Region
Mladen Ivankovic, C.E.T.	Young Professionals Representative
Riley Burton	Heads of Technology Representative
Camille Glover	Public Representative
Alex Zebadua	Outgoing Student Representative
Thomas Miedema	Incoming Student Representative

Staff:

Cheryl Farrow, MBA, CAE	Chief Executive Officer
Lily Rudeychuk, CPA, MBA	Director, Finance and Corporate Services
Barry Billing	Director, RPP OACETT Registrar
David Terlizzi	Director, MES, Government Relations
Elle Armstrong	Administrator, Executive Office

Guests:

Michele-Elise Burnett	Founder & Creative Director Kakekalanicks
------------------------------	---

Regrets:

Micheal Mooney, C.E.T.	Past-President
-------------------------------	----------------

❖ President's opening remarks and call to order

President Christopher van Dop called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. He welcomed the Board and noted that the meeting was being recorded for accuracy of minutes. He also offered a land acknowledgment recognizing the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to these territories.

❖ Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

❖ Approval of the Board Meeting Agenda

The agenda was presented without amendment.

- 6016 Moved by Camille Glover, Seconded by Mladen Ivankovic and Carried.
Resolved that the Board of Directors approves the agenda as presented.**

CONSENT AGENDA

❖ Approval of the Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the Consent Agenda, including standing Committee reports and Executive updates. During report highlights, the outgoing Student Representative provided closing remarks, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that Board decisions continue to consider the student experience and perspective.

- 6017 Moved by Lara Widdifield, Seconded by Brian Raymond and Carried.
Resolved that the Board of Directors approves the items in the Consent agenda as presented.**

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE CEREMONY

❖ Appointment of Student Board Representative

The Board formally recognized the contributions of outgoing Student Representative Alex Zebadua, expressing appreciation for her thoughtful participation and insights throughout her term. Reflections were shared regarding the value of the student voice and considerations for enhancing the effectiveness and continuity of the role in future.

The Nominating Committee recommendation was then presented for the appointment of Thomas Miedema as the incoming Student Representative. Clarification was provided that the Student Representative is now a voting member of the Board, with the same expectations and responsibilities as other directors.

- 6018 Moved by Mladen Ivankovic, Seconded by Taylor Rohmann and Carried.
Resolved that Thomas Miedema be appointed as the voting Student Representative on the Board of Directors for a one-year term commencing as of the Board of Directors meeting on May 29, 2026, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.**

❖ Swearing of Oath

Barry Billing, Registrar and Commissioner of Oaths for OACETT, was responsible for swearing in Thomas Miedema as the Incoming Student Representative and welcomed him to the OACETT Board of Directors for 2026-27.

❖ Indemnification agreement

Mr. Miedema was asked to sign a personalized version of the Indemnification agreement, which had been drafted by OACETT's legal counsel and was available for advanced review. A copy of this signed document was provided to Mr. Miedema post-meeting.

FINANCE AND AUDIT (FA)

❖ Year-to-Date Financials as of March 31, 2026

Mr. Brian Raymond, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) presented the year-to-date financial statements as of March 31, 2026. He noted that the organization is currently performing above budget, with revenue trending approximately 3-4% higher than forecast. Membership dues collection showed a significant improvement compared to the prior year, attributed largely to enhanced member outreach efforts, including direct contact initiatives.

Mr. Raymond also addressed the investment portfolio, explaining that a modest unrealized loss reflects interest rate fluctuations rather than any realized financial risk. An unbudgeted grant of \$50,000 was also noted; however, funds remain unspent pending fulfillment of the associated program commitments.

Board discussion focused on revenue composition, member payment behaviours, sponsorship opportunities, and the limitations of interpreting trends based solely on first-quarter results. No concerns requiring action were raised, and the item was received for information.

❖ Budget and business plan schedule

Mr. Raymond also reviewed the budget and business planning schedule, included in the meeting package. He highlighted key dates in September and November for committee planning and budget finalization. No motion was required.

REGISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (RPP)

❖ Review of Fellow Designation Criteria and Policy

Taylor Rohmann, Chair of the Registration and Professional Practice Committee (RPPC) presented proposed updates to the Fellow Designation Criteria and Policy. The proposed revisions focused on introducing a structured evaluation rubric, shifting toward self-nomination, and placing increased emphasis on technical achievement, leadership, and professional contributions.

Board discussion emphasized the importance of validating applicant submissions through references or supporting documentation and ensuring accessibility for senior professionals whose work history may extend beyond conventional reference availability. It was agreed that validation requirements would be incorporated, with further refinement delegated back to the RPP Committee.

6019 Moved by Taylor Rohmann, Seconded by Steven Finley and Carried, (with Riley Burton absent during the vote).

Resolved that the Board of Directors approved, as amended, the proposed Fellow policy changes, and the changes to the scoring matrix which will now include evaluation on technical expertise, leadership, innovation, professionalism, and service to the profession.

❖ **Change to Monthly Admission Approval**

The Board then considered proposed changes to the monthly admission approval process aimed at reducing delays in member certification. The discussion explored governance implications, bylaw requirements, Fairness Commissioner expectations, and potential reputational considerations. While there was broad agreement on the need to improve timelines, concerns were raised regarding implementation approach and communication.

A motion was introduced to table the item pending further review and additional information from the RPP Committee.

6020 Moved by Taylor Rohmann, Seconded by Mladen Ivankovic and Carried. Resolved that the Board of Directors table the proposed removal of the additional RPPC review step, which is intended to allow members to be approved for certification more quickly, pending further analysis and information.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICES (MES)

❖ **Options for new Regional Conference Formats & Year-End Gala Options**

Due to scheduling requirements, the Board agreed to move Item 8.1 ahead of the Discussion section (Item 7.1).

Steven Finley, Chair of the Member Engagement and Services Committee (MESC) presented a proposal to transition from a single annual conference to a year-round, multi-event engagement model. The model included four primary components: a Workforce and Innovation Expo, three rotating regional hub events, a standalone awards gala, and a chapter leadership summit.

The Board engaged in an extensive and robust discussion. Supportive perspectives highlighted the opportunity to increase regional accessibility, expand industry engagement, and better align with strategic priorities by creating more frequent and targeted touchpoints for members. The model was also seen as a way to enhance outreach to non-members and strengthen the value proposition of certification.

Concerns were raised regarding the potential loss of a central, flagship conference experience and its impact on organizational identity and member perception. Several Board members emphasized the importance of the conference as a unifying event and expressed concern about possible impacts on chapter engagement, volunteer motivation, and sponsorship viability. Financial sustainability, staff capacity, and geographic challenges—particularly for rural and northern members—were also discussed in depth.

Additional considerations included the role of chapters within the model, expectations for Board participation, and the need to monitor both financial outcomes and member engagement metrics closely. Following discussion, an amendment was introduced to establish the initiative as a three-year trial with annual review.

6021 Moved by Steven Finley, Seconded by Brian Raymond and Carried, with one Opposition and one Abstention. (Riley Burton was absent during the vote). Resolved that the Board of Directors approves:

- **Transitioning to a year-round multi-event engagement strategy;**
- **Implementing four core event streams: Workforce and Innovation Expo, three regional hub events, standalone Awards Gala, and Chapter Leadership Summit.**

and further that, by amendment, the initiative be established as a three-year trial, subject to annual review.

NATIONAL

❖ TPC update re. P.Tech.

Ms. Cheryl Farrow, CEO provided an update regarding discussions with Technology Professionals Canada (TPC) related to the P.Tech. designation. She advised that, based on legal review, OACETT's ownership of the official mark for "Professional Technologist" cannot be assigned to TPC, resolving a previously identified concern among some of the other provincial organizations. Minor refinements to the agreement remain under discussion. The update was received for information.

MEETINGS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ❖ Friday, September 25, 2026 (1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) -- Online – MS Teams
- ❖ Friday, November 20 – Saturday, November 21, 2026 -- In-person- Location TBD
- ❖ Friday, February 26, 2027 (1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) -- Online – MS Teams
- ❖ Wednesday, April 28, 2027 (5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.) -- Online – MS Teams
- ❖ Saturday, June 5, 2027 (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) -- Online – Virtual AGM
- ❖ June Board Meeting (Date TBD) -- Location TBD (Regional Hub)

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forward.

Due to time constraints, the Organizational Culture Exercise (Item 7.1) was postponed to the November 2026 in-person Board meeting, while the Name Change discussions (Item 10.1) were deferred to the September 2026 Board meeting.

IN-CAMERA

The Board entered an in-camera session, first with the CEO present and then without.

6022 Moved by Stephanie Nuttall-Pesheau, Seconded by Mladen Ivankovic and Carried, that the Board of Directors would move in-camera.

FLETCHER FOUNDATION AGM

The Board of Directors paused its meeting in order to conduct the Fletcher Foundation Annual General Meeting (AGM).

6023 Moved by Stephanie Nuttall-Pesheau, Seconded by Norman Sandberg and Carried, that the Board of Directors meeting be paused to convene the Fletcher Foundation AGM.

President van Dop then invited Devi Richards, Trustee of the Fletcher Foundation, to call the AGM to order. He reminded attendees that the OACETT Board members serve as the voting members of the Foundation. The minutes of the AGM will be documented separately and provided to the Fletcher Foundation.

BOARD WORKSHOP SESSION

The Board of Directors reconvened following the Fletcher AGM.

6024 Moved by Norman Sandberg, Seconded by Stephanie Nuttall-Pesheau and Carried, that the Board of Directors meeting be reconvened.

President van Dop introduced Michele-Elise Burnett, Founder & Creative Director of Kakekalanicks. A facilitated session on cross-cultural Indigenous awareness was delivered, focusing on strengthening Board effectiveness and promoting inclusive leadership practices.

ADJOURNMENT

President van Dop made his closing remarks, thanking everybody for their participation. He declared the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Email vote subsequent to the May meeting:

Following the November 2024 Board decision, staff prepared the May 29, 2026 Board meeting minutes for review and approval via email vote. Discussion opened on June 22, 2026, with movers and seconders confirmed. The vote was called on June 25, 2026, with a deadline of June 28, 2026. The President announced the results on June 30, 2026. This streamlined process allows staff to post the approved minutes on the website more promptly, enhancing transparency and communication with members and chapters.

The Board was asked to vote by email on the following motion:

**6025 Moved by Brian Raymond, Seconded by Steven Finley and Carried.
Resolved that the Board of Directors approves the May 29, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.**

The motion was carried.