



**THE RITUAL  
OF THE CALLING  
OF AN ENGINEER**

**LE RITE  
D'ENGAGEMENT  
DE L'INGÉNIEUR**

**The Corporation of the Seven Wardens Inc.  
Société des Sept Gardiens Inc.**

## **Call for Expressions of Interest**

**English and French Poems  
for  
the Corporation of the Seven Wardens**

**Date Issued: February 6, 2023**

**Deadline for Submission: May 1, 2023**





## **Call for Expressions of Interest – New Poem for the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer**

### **Synopsis**

The Corporation of the Seven Wards will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer in 2025. To mark this milestone, the Corporation is seeking to commission two new poems, one in each official language, English and French. The new poems will be used in the *Ritual of the Calling of the Engineer*.

The inclusion of these new works is intended to help make the ceremony more inclusive and to reflect the diversity of contemporary society.

The two authors of the English and French poems selected for inclusion in the Ritual will each receive a prize of \$3,500.

Further details are provided below and in the attached appendix.

The deadline for expressions of interest is May 1, 2023.

### **Background**

The Corporation of the Seven Wards is a not-for-profit organization that is responsible for the *Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer*. With 28 ‘Camps’ across Canada, the Corporation administers the Ritual for engineering graduates in their local communities.

Canadian engineers attend a ceremony known as the *Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer*, a uniquely Canadian tradition that started in 1925. The ceremony directs newly qualified engineers toward a consciousness of the profession and its social significance. Participants in the ceremony remind themselves of their limited knowledge, their service and responsibility to the public, and their professional duties to seek help when necessary and to support others.

Iron Rings are worn on the little finger of the working hand by many engineers in Canada. They serve as reminders of their ethical obligation to live by a high standard of professional conduct in the service of the public. The ring also symbolizes the pride which engineers have in their profession, while simultaneously reminding them of their humility.





### **About the Poems**

Rudyard Kipling included three of his own works for use in the Ritual:

- a) The Sons of Martha
- b) The Hymn of Breaking Strain
- c) If

The themes captured in these poems include self-control, integrity, humility, service to society, sacrifice, and consideration to human qualities of the heart and spirit. While the “Sons of Martha” and “If” were previous works, Kipling wrote the “Hymn of Breaking Strain” specifically for use in the ceremony.

### **The New Poems**

Although Kipling’s poems are well known and contain important messages and context, they were written approximately 100 years ago and it is the Corporation’s wish to modernize the ceremony with a poem that uses the language of today while still respecting and capturing the themes and values of the Corporation.

Each of the new poems should embody today’s societal expectations and norms. The new poems should be:

- a) Gender neutral
- b) Written in contemporary language accessible and relevant to today’s participants
- c) Relatable to candidates of all genders, religions, ethnicities, races, sexual orientations, and physical abilities

The new poem should help candidates understand their professional roles and responsibilities. It should help them understand:

- a) their obligation to society,
- b) the challenges of dealing with people and their expectations,
- c) the pride and satisfaction to be gained by benefitting society while working in one’s chosen profession and passion
- d) the potential failures and consequences of not conducting themselves with professionalism and integrity

The new poem is also an opportunity to provide participants with context of Canadian engineering history, by celebrating successes and achievements or reminding them of challenges and difficulties.





## Poem Selection Process

The selection process includes two phases:

- a) an initial expression of interest phase (this phase), and
- b) final submissions from a group of short-listed individuals based on the results of the expression of interest

## Summary of Deliverables

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (this phase)

Interested individuals are to submit the following:

- a) a brief explanation (200 words or less) expressing why they are interested in this opportunity
- b) their biography, summary of qualifications and/or CV
- c) samples of their original poems and/or creative writing pieces

Stage 2 – Submission of Works (future)

After reviewing the responses to the Expression of Interest, the Corporation will invite a short list of poets to submit new works for consideration.

The Corporation will select two poems, one in English and one in French, from the submitted works from the short list of poets.

The author(s) of the selected poems will provide a perpetual license to the Corporation to use the selected poem(s) in its camps' obligation ceremonies in return for the \$3,500 prize provided by the Corporation for each poem.

## Deadlines

May 1, 2023	Due date for submission of Expressions of Interest
September 30, 2023	Shortlisted respondents will be advised by the Corporation
March 31, 2024	Due date for submission of poems
September 30, 2024	Final selections made by the Corporation

## Confidentiality

The Corporation of the Seven Wardens 100th Anniversary Poem Subcommittee will maintain all submissions and discussions in confidence. Proposal information will not be shared with any other parties.

Questions or clarifications provided by the Corporation regarding procedural matters or information regarding the Corporation, the Ritual, or the Iron Ring will be provided to all participants in the process.





### **Submission**

Please submit your response to the Expression of Interest Call via email to [poem\\_poeme@corp.ironring.ca](mailto:poem_poeme@corp.ironring.ca) before 11:59 pm EST on May 1, 2023.

Late submissions may be accepted or rejected at the Corporation's discretion.

### **Disclaimer**

The Corporation maintains the right at its sole discretion to cancel this process at any time, and to select any or no poems at its sole discretion.

### **Related Work**

The Corporation is also seeking submissions for the creation of a historical video to be used as part of the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer. A separate Expression of Interest has been created for that opportunity and details are available from the Corporation's website at <https://ironring.ca>

### **Useful References**

Corporation of the Seven Wardens web site: <https://ironring.ca>

Camp 1 (Toronto) web site: <https://www.camp1.ca/wordpress>

Camp 3 (Kingston) video (English): <https://camp3.ca/media/TheIronRing-web.mp4>

Camp 3 (Kingston) video (French): <https://camp3.ca/media/AnneauDeFer-web.mp4>





## **Appendix – Further Details on the Corporation, the Ritual, and the Iron Ring**

### **History of the Corporation of the Seven Wardens and the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer**

The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer has a history dating back to 1922 when seven past presidents of the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) attended a meeting in Montreal with other engineers. One of the speakers was civil engineer Professor Haultain of the University of Toronto. He felt that an organization was needed to bind all members of the engineering profession in Canada more closely together. He also felt that an obligation or statement of ethics similar to the Hippocratic Oath that medical professionals take should be developed for young graduates in engineering.

Dr. Haultain wrote to Rudyard Kipling, who had referred to the work of engineers in some of his poems and writings. Dr. Haultain asked for his assistance in developing an obligation and ceremony. Mr. Kipling was very enthusiastic in his response and very quickly produced both an obligation and a ceremony formally entitled “The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer.”

The seven past presidents of the EIC were the original seven Wardens who convened the first ceremony in 1925. Today, the Ritual is administered and maintained by the Corporation of the Seven Wardens Inc./Société des Sept Gardiens inc. Over 500,000 Canadian engineers have participated in the Ritual since its inception and each participant receives an Iron Ring as a reminder of their Obligation.

The Ritual is delivered by local organizations of wardens called Camps, which are organized in various locations in Canada<sup>1</sup>. Currently, there are 28 Camps across Canada that administer Iron Ring Ceremonies to engineering graduates in their local communities. Over the years, minor changes to the original order of ceremony have been authorized by the Corporation. The changes were made to reflect changes in societal values, to address gender references, and to make the ceremony more inclusive while maintaining the historic content and context of Rudyard Kipling’s work.

### **About the Iron Ring**

The Iron Ring is worn on the little finger of the working hand by any engineering candidate who has been obligated at an authorized ceremony of the Ritual of the Calling of the Engineer. The ring serves as a reminder to the engineer and others of the engineer’s obligation to live by a high standard of professional conduct.

It is not a symbol of qualification as an engineer as this is determined by the provincial and territorial licensing bodies.

The Iron Ring has been trademarked, and the Ritual has been copyrighted in both Canada and the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> There are currently 28 Camps located in Canadian cities where undergraduate engineering degrees are awarded. They span from St. John’s, NL to Victoria, BC.





## About the Ritual

The objectives of the Ritual are:

- a) to remind participants of the limits of their knowledge and training
- b) to help them understand the public service that engineers perform in our society and the responsibility they have to others
- c) to remind participants of their role to seek help and support others as part of their professional responsibility

Participants in the ceremony recite an Obligation, where they commit themselves to upholding these principles.

While the Obligation contains the key commitments of participants in the ceremony, two additional opportunities are provided to reinforce these points and to add context to the Obligation.

a) The Reflection

The Reflection is a short speech by an invited ‘thoughtful and senior engineer.’ This individual can relate the ceremony to today’s context and to their own personal experience to bring additional meaning to the Ceremony for participants.

b) The Poems

Rudyard Kipling included three of his own works for use in the ceremony:

- a. *If* (text follows)
- b. *The Hymn of Breaking Strain*
- c. *The Sons of Martha*

*The Hymn of the Breaking Strain* and *The Sons of Martha* can be found with the links below.

[https://ironring.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Kipling\\_Poems\\_English.pdf](https://ironring.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Kipling_Poems_English.pdf)

[https://ironring.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Kipling\\_Poemes\\_Francais.pdf](https://ironring.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Kipling_Poemes_Francais.pdf)

The themes captured in these poems include self-control, integrity, humility, service to society, sacrifice, and consideration to human qualities of the heart and spirit.





**“IF”**

If you can keep your head when all about you  
    Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when others doubt you,  
    But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
    Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated don't give way to hating,  
    And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;  
    If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
    And treat those two imposters just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
    Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
    And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
    And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
    And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
    To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
    Except the Will which says to them: “Hold on!”

If you can walk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
    Or walk with Stars – nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
    If others count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
    With sixty seconds' effort to life's race,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
    And - what's more – you will have earned your place!

