



For Immediate Release - January 13, 2025

Seven Wardens Approve Modernized “Calling of an Engineer”

The Corporation of the Seven Wardens launched a review of the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer in February 2022. The mandate of the Ritual Review Committee was “to make the Ritual meaningful and inclusive for all candidates”. For further background on the review process please see earlier communiqués.

In late 2024, the Corporation of the Seven Wardens voted to accept a revised version of the Calling of an Engineer, known informally as the Obligation Ceremony. This is a very significant and exciting milestone in the almost 100-year history of the Corporation and its Obligation Ceremony following two years of stakeholder consultation followed by writing of the new text. The new Ceremony keeps traditional elements, like the Obligation and the presentation of iron rings to the candidates, while embedding them in a modernized narrative emphasizing the origins and history of the ceremony, the values being promoted, and the relevance of the Obligation to modern engineering.

Contributors to the new Ceremony included a diverse group of Canadian voices, including:

- Marie-Célie Agnant, author and poet, originally from Haiti, resident of Québec since 1970.
- Tom Deer and Joe Deom, representatives from the Kahnawake Mohawk Community, south of Montreal.
- Chris Hadfield, engineer, author and retired astronaut
- Dan Levert, engineer and author
- Titilope Sonuga, engineer and poet, Poet Laureate of Edmonton.

Also included in the Ceremony are two new poems, one in English and one in French, commissioned for the 100th anniversary of the Ceremony in 2025. For further details on the new poems, please see the Corporation’s communiqué dated November 24, 2024, available at ironring.ca.

The Committee wishes to thank all internal and external stakeholders for their valuable input to the review process. Stakeholders included Engineers Canada, Engineering Deans of Canada, Canadian Federation of Engineering Students, the Ritual Review Advisory Panel, Wardens from many Camps across Canada, and past participants of the Ceremony.

Next steps are to hold pilot ceremonies with the modernized text and to prepare materials to aid the twenty-eight regional Camps in implementing the new Obligation Ceremony beginning in 2025 and moving forward into the next 100 years!

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The Calling of an Engineer was instituted with the simple end of directing the engineering graduates towards a consciousness of the engineering profession and its significance, and indicating to experienced engineers their responsibilities in receiving, welcoming and supporting the engineering graduates in their beginnings. 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 Calling of an Engineer”. Local groups, or Camps, across Canada are responsible for the delivery of the Ceremony to candidates.

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