
Society of PM Professionals of Greater Vancouver

Statement of Principles and Purpose

The Society is a voluntary, democratic organization of PMP[®]s in the greater Vancouver area, who are dedicated to the achievement of their common purposes in the profession through mutual support, co-operation, and collective effort.

The purposes of the Society, acting within its local area, are:

- To advocate and to promote the practice of project management as a profession.
- To comment upon matters affecting the public interest in which the practice of project management is a factor.
- To organize and to conduct professional development events for professional practitioners of project management.

The basic principle which informs all of the activities and actions of the Society is that the peer group of professional practitioners in its community is an authoritative source of knowledge, arbiter of disputes, and judge of ethical professional conduct, in all matters involving the management of projects.

The size of the Society is limited. The goal is to have no more members than could reasonably attend and participate in a business meeting of the Society. When, in the judgement of its members, this maximum size has been reached, the Society will voluntarily subdivide or will encourage and assist the formation of a sister society of PM Professionals associated with another distinct community.

The Society is autonomous, independent, and self-reliant. It is a professional organization with no ties or affiliations. In particular, it enters into no relationships of any form with the providers of commercial products and services in the field of project management. It does not seek, nor does it accept sponsorships from or advertising for any other endeavor. It accepts unencumbered gifts, including gifts in kind, only on the condition that the donor remains anonymous.

The principal activities of the Society are: refereeing ethical and professional issues among members, their clients, and their employers; the advocacy of professional practice in project management in the wider community; and professional development for practitioners.

The Society is not-for-profit and self-financing. The Society assesses fees and levies on its members, calculated to cover the costs incurred to carry out the programs and initiatives of the Society. This principle is applied to each meeting or event held by the Society so that, to the extent that is reasonable, the cost of each meeting or event is borne by the attendees. The Society plans its fiscal affairs with the aim of concluding each calendar year with no accumulated surplus or debt.

The work of the Society is carried out by its members who provide their time and services voluntarily. A person carrying out the work of the Society does not receive remuneration, and is reimbursed only for allowable disbursements.

The Rules of Organization and Governance

Only persons who are currently certified as Project Management Professionals (PMP[®]s) may become regular members of the Society. Any qualified person who applies, who agrees to be bound by the Statement of Principles, shall become a member. If one becomes unqualified or submits a written resignation, one ceases to be a member. Other persons may be elected as honorary members for a period not to exceed one year. Only regular members may vote on motions or in elections.

The authority to govern the Society shall reside exclusively with its members, and the ultimate authority on any matter shall be a majority vote, by the members who participate, on a legitimate motion. A motion shall be legitimate if it has been communicated to the members two weeks or more before the date of a vote conducted by mail, or if it has been moved at a business meeting, and the date for the meeting has been communicated to the members two weeks or more before the meeting.

A motion shall be binding on all of the members of the Society. A motion which authorizes a promise or a commitment by the Society to a member or to another party may not be reversed or revoked until the promise or commitment has been fulfilled or otherwise terminated.

The Society shall elect three members to the positions of officers with the following duties and powers:

- President, who shall chair all business meetings of the Society, who shall oversee all ballots and votes of the members, and who shall be the spokesperson for the Society in all dealings with the public and other parties. The President shall set and announce the date for an annual business meeting and election in the month of November. The President shall not vote upon any matter except to break a tie.
- Secretary and Treasurer who shall keep the record of all votes and decisions, who shall maintain the books of account and receive and disburse funds for the society, and who shall determine the fees or levies to be charged for attendance at any event or meeting of the Society, and the amount of any special levy required to fund a deficit.

- Registrar who shall receive applications for membership and shall verify the eligibility of candidates for membership before accepting their applications; and who shall maintain a record of all current members and their addresses, who shall notify members of events and meetings, and who shall maintain and archive records of professional development units (PDUs) awarded to members as a result of participation in the professional development activities of the Society.

The three officers acting collectively shall constitute the executive of the Society. The officers shall have no powers of governance other than those needed to carry out their duties prescribed above. An officer or any other person or group may be authorized by a motion to act as the agent of the Society for the purpose of carrying out a specified assignment, and may be granted powers needed for the conduct of the assignment in the capacity of agent.

A Model Professional Development Program

Through their involvement in the activities of the Society, PMPs will have the opportunity to acquire PDUs towards PMP® re-certification under two categories:

- Education (PMI requires a minimum of 35 PDU's in a 3 year re-certification cycle)
- Giving Back (PMI allows a maximum of 25 PDU's in a 3year re-certification cycle)

1. Education: Educational Seminars

The Society shall designate at least three dates in each calendar year as Professional Development Days, and shall organize a program of educational seminars comprising at least three full-days, or the equivalent in half- day or shorter seminars, to be held on the designated dates.

A typical seminar might comprise a 50/50 mix of presentations and interactive workshops. Presentations can be lecture format or consist of panel discussions. In either case, provision shall be made for interaction with the participants. Workshops may involve dividing the participants into smaller groups where knowledge can be shared and learned through problem solving, or the exchange of tools, techniques, and experience. Workshop leaders shall provide for the documentation of workshop deliverables.

A full-day seminar could yield seven PDUs for the attendees, under Education –Instructor Led Formal Education. A PMP who attends three full-day Professional Development Seminars a year for three years would meet the PDU requirements for re-certification.

The seminars shall be advertised to the members and other interested PMPs, who will make reservations and will agree to pay the shared cost of the meeting facilities and refreshments. If hotel meeting rooms are used and a full-meal deal is offered, the cost per participant per day could be in the range of \$70 to \$90. Shorter seminars or those where minimal refreshments (brown-bag lunches) are provided could cost less.

2. Giving Back: Creating Content, Presenting, Sharing Knowledge

PMPs will have the opportunity to serve as technical presenters and workshop leaders. The content of a presentation does not need to be original. It could come from a text book or a journal. The presenter or workshop leader will be given guidelines on how to write up the description so that the qualification for PDUs is explicit. The presenter will be responsible for obtaining permission to copy published materials, and can claim the associated costs as disbursements.

Each presenter or workshop leader earns PDUs for preparing the topic under Giving Back: Creating Content or Sharing Knowledge. One hour spent creating content or sharing knowledge equals one PDU. Under previous rules, PMI allowed up to 10 PDUs for preparation.. In addition, each presenter or workshop leader earns PDUs for delivering the topic. One hour spent delivering equals one PDU.

3. Giving Back: Service

PMPs will have the opportunity to serve as officers of the Society, as seminar project managers or management team members, or as members of task forces.

Under Giving Back: Service, PMP's members can earn PDUs by serving as officers of the Society, as project managers or management team members for a seminar, or as task-force members. One hour of (non-compensated) service equals one PDU. Under previous rules, PMI allowed a seminar PM to claim up to 10 hours of service, a project team member to claim up to 5 hours of service, and an officer of the Society to claim up to 10 hours of service per year.

4. The Role of the Society: PDU Claims and Services

The Society exists as a forum for knowledge sharing among PMPs and provides an opportunity to serve the profession and the public good. The Society is not a member services organization. There is no fee to be a Society member and thus no benefits are promised or entitled.

The Registrar of the Society shall keep records of seminar proceedings, registrants, and evaluations, as evidence that the programs presented are rigorously structured educational events featuring qualified presenters and leaders, documented content, and evaluations which confirm that there was a mechanism to assess the degree to which the learning objectives were achieved. The aim is to maintain evidence supporting the legitimacy of any PDU claims arising from education acquired through the Society.

The Registrar of the Society shall issue certificates to seminar participants and presenters, and to those who have served, describing the nature of the qualifying education or service, upon request. PMPs shall be responsible for assuring that their claims for PDUs are accurate.

The Society shall serve as a forum for the exchange of information and guidance among PMPs on opportunities for acquiring PDUs, other than through the programs of the Society.