

2013 Exam Board Report

PRESENTED BY ROD NASH RGD, PRESIDENT OF THE EXAMINATION BOARD FOR REGISTERED GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

DIRECTORS: ADAM ANTOSZEK-RALLO RGD, FRANK CHARTRAND RGD, TERRY HILL RGD, CRIS JAW RGD, LOUIS LAPOINTE RGD

The Exam Board is focused on:

- Establishing and updating the eligibility process for determining which candidates are qualified to take the RGD Exam
- Creating a method for testing these candidates that ensures they meet the standards required to be certified as Registered Graphic Designers
- Ensuring the assessment is professionally credible, feasible, defensible and affordable.

It has been a very busy year for the Examination Board. Many new procedures have been implemented to improve the Exam candidates' overall experience, make the Exam process more transparent, make the Written Test and Portfolio Interview more effective and the Exam more accessible nationwide.

“With close to 20 years of experience, I am pleased to be assisting RGD’s Exam Board to qualify RGD candidates and maintain the quality and integrity of our professional designation.”

DIEGO CASCO RGD, PORTFOLIO EVALUATION COMMITTEE

First, the Exam Board developed a new results sheet giving candidates an overview of how they scored on the entire Exam. Candidates receive the results of their Portfolio Interview evaluation with indications for assessment areas where there is room for improvement or where the candidate has demonstrated exceptional ability. They are also told whether they passed or failed each of the Test sections and then told, based on their portfolio interview results, how many Test sections they needed to pass to succeed overall.

Second, in an effort to increase transparency, we posted information about our Portfolio Evaluation Committee to the RGD website, along with the criteria to be considered for the group. Criteria includes a recognized body of work/study in the profession, a minimum of 10 years in the industry including education, a member recommendation and a time commitment of 3-6 hours per month. To date, 15 RGD interviewers have been approved by the Exam Board. All other information about RGD’s certification process has been incorporated into the RGD website. To view, go to rgd.ca/rgd-certification/.

Third, the existing Written Test portion of the Exam has undergone several changes in the last few months in anticipation for its evolution to an online format in July. We have removed the existing technology section; we

have made all sections of the Written Test open book as is the current practice with online exams. The Rules of Professional Conduct section is also being updated with new questions.

“As a freelance designer, studying best business practices and the RGD’s Rules of Professional Conduct have helped enhance the relationships I have with my clients.”

UMAR SHAHZAD RGD

The next step for the Exam Board will be the complete transformation of the Written Test from its focus on testing knowledge that designers already have to one that trains forward-thinking, strategic professionals who are sought after as accredited RGDs. New Written Test sections will be developed around subjects, like Accessibility and Responsive Design, that will differentiate RGDs to employers and clients, and will be based on educational webinars designed to prepare candidates for the new sections. Our goal is to launch in early 2015.

This June, the Exam Board will hold its Annual General Meeting when we will welcome new Board and Advisory Committee Members to help us reach our ambitious goals for the upcoming year.

“After 15 years on the board of SDGQ, I am passing on my duties to whoever will oversee certification in Quebec. I will keep fond memories of our collaboration.”

LOUIS LAPOINTE RGD, DGA

