

2019 PEO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—MEMBER SUBMISSION COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS

WHEREAS:

- Serious questions have been raised about certain anomalies in the recent electronic council elections
- In a member-directed, self-regulated profession, democratic expression via ballot is of paramount importance, trumping all other considerations
- Electronic elections are inherently unreliable, prone to hacking, personation, and loss of secrecy
- Electronic elections are virtually impossible to scrutineer, verify, or audit, as there is no physical manifestation of mouse clicks
- All elections must not only be open, accessible, secure, and fair, but be *perceived* to be so by both candidates and electors

THEREFORE BE IT SUBMITTED THAT PEO return to its traditional, secure, paper-ballot election format, beginning with the 2020 elections.

Moved by: _____



(Gregory Wowchuk, P Eng, Kingsway Chapter member, PEO Councillor-at-Large)

Seconded By: _____



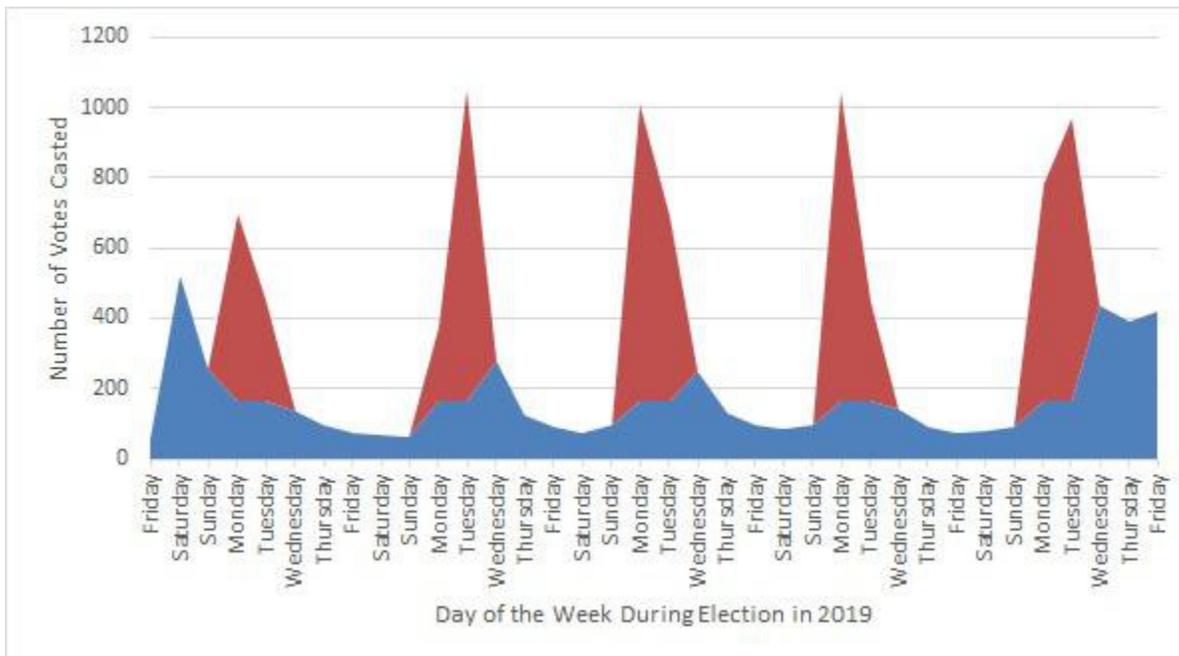
(Peter Cushman, P Eng, York Chapter member, 2019 Vice President candidate)

Date: 19th April 2019

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Council decided a couple of years ago to implement all-electronic voting in order to increase the voter participation rate. Electronic voting *has failed* to increase that rate, however, and the reliability of the election process has declined.
2. Electronic elections have generated controversy all over the world due to their inherent susceptibility to fraud by those running the election or by persons or parties seeking to support or hinder a particular candidate. In an era where even our large chartered banks and technology companies like Facebook and Apple—with massive IT capability—are being hacked, the security of electronic data is largely a myth.

3. Serious concerns about our election process have been expressed by recent candidates and ordinary members. Councillor Keivan Torabi advised Council of large, unexplained spikes in vote volumes on each Monday and Tuesday of the five-week election period :



4. PEO's paper-ballot mail-in electoral system worked well for decades. Filling out individual ballots and mailing each in its separate security envelope is secure from fraud and leaves physical evidence of the vote, should an investigation or recount be necessary.

5. Councillor Wowchuk has five years of intensive training and experience as a provincial Returning Officer, and has volunteered both to investigate the anomalies and to assist in developing a PEO election process which is open, accessible, fair, and accountable.