

Peter Broad

PEO is at a crossroads and while member votes are always important this is especially true now.

It has been claimed by some that engineers may be biased when having to choose between protecting the public and harbour an innate desire to support other engineers. One suggestion that has appeared on the OEO Linked-In page is that our elected councillors should be replaced by a control board similar to the Ontario Nursing Council. Having observed the failure of that system I believe we MUST choose councillors who are willing to listen to both to the public and to members.

Our founding fathers created APEO so that engineers who understand the risks and safe practice requirements of engineering are the same people who proscribe those standards for other engineers to follow.

In reaching this conclusion I believe that we need a dynamic council to lead PEO into a second century. However “engineering” is not what it was in 1922. There are a multitude of new disciplines that the public recognises as “engineering”. Your council needs work with a wide range of other interested parties to ensure that our commitment to public safety is maintained, and guide us to look outwards not inwards.

As a foreign trained engineer and one who continues to practice overseas I believe I can assist PEO as it looks to the future. As a Chapter Chair in Northern Ontario I know that the team spirit and support it provides are key in recruiting and training future engineers. Our teamwork also helps us when we encounter unlicensed practitioners and need to convince PEO enforcement to take action in ensuring these individuals obtain licenses or cease practicing.

While I have not previously served on Council I have assisted PEO in various roles, as well as helping mentor EIT’s and prepare them for licensure. As a former Northern Chapter leader and fellow Order of Honour recipient so aptly said “Engineering is a calling..” Our license to practice is much more than any other permit.

Even if you do not vote for me to represent you, at least please ensure that you vote maintaining our right to self-regulation is important.

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