

Kris Popiolek, P.Eng., FEC for Western Regional Councillor

It's time Western Region had a fresh voice at PEO Council. I am that voice:

➤ TRUST, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

We owe it to our 89,000 members, our employers, and the public. PEO must be more open and transparent than it has been.

Ideally, after a key decision is made, a notification is sent to the members, maybe even including who voted in favour or against the given motion.

Better bi-directional communication is needed. If elected, I'd try to attend Western Region's chapters meetings (at least one per year per chapter) - to see what different chapters are working on and where they may require more support.

➤ FAIRNESS AND INCLUSIVITY IN KEY DECISIONS:

PEO's 89,000 members are the prime stakeholders in this (self-regulated) profession. They have invested their lives in their careers and their profession.

We must respect the role and voice of our members. Having a referendum may be required when making major decisions. If a referendum was promised, that promise must be kept.

➤ PROPER SUPPORT FOR CHAPTERS:

They have important roles in supporting self-regulation. They are the eyes, ears, and voice of PEO around this province. This support isn't just funding for the chapters.

➤ ADDRESS PEO'S DECLINING RELEVANCE:

Government, industry, and the public must understand how vital this profession is to prosperity in our society. PEO must ensure that the role of P.Eng. licence holders aren't replaced by others, non-regulated groups. We don't want to see "industrial exemption" repeated in the future.

Our economy is changing, and PEO must adapt. We must demonstrate the value of the P.Eng. licence and bring emerging engineering disciplines into the regulatory fold. Currently PEO recognises less than half of the engineering disciplines people graduate from, that must change, and this change must happen quickly.

We need to demonstrate the value of the P.Eng. licence to engineering students before they graduate. This means we need to better promote PEO's student membership and create a replacement for the EIT program as soon as possible.

ABOUT ME:

- Active in the London Chapter for over 15 years, as secretary, vice-chair, and chair; Licence Assistance Program, certificate presentation, golf-tournament organizing committee.
- 2023 Chapter Leaders Conference organizing committee.
- Community service: ReForest London volunteer; Thames Valley Toastmasters (president, treasurer, secretary).

- Board experience: Director at my condominium board.