

## ACCOUNTABILITY—TRUST—TRANSPARENCY

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#### A FRESH VOICE, A CLEAR THINKER FOR COUNCIL

*PEO must be an efficient, member-driven organization and address ongoing challenges in an evolving marketplace*



As a licensed professional engineer and professional accountant with decades of experience, I am unhappy with the direction taken by PEO in recent years. I can't sit on the sidelines any longer and watch this continue. Bureaucracy is surging within PEO lately, and the influence of members and volunteers has waned. We must 'stick to our knitting' and remember that we exist to protect the public, not to pursue extraneous objectives. More specifically:

- PEO is becoming too isolated from its members and volunteers. It has lost touch with the will of our members and volunteers. If we are to preserve the remarkable gift of self-governance, this cannot be allowed to continue. Self-regulation and self-governance have served our profession--and the public--superbly for over a century.
- The introduction of compulsory professional development ("PEAK"), reneging on the promised referendum, is a case in point. It is expensive both for the individual engineer (time and money) and for PEO itself. Dictating--and *auditing*--the training of tens of thousands of engineers will not be cheap. Expect a significant increase in fees. It also is expensive for the individual engineer, especially entrepreneurs and sole practitioners who do not have the benefit of employer-provided training programs. *It serves no one to turn practising engineers into points collectors.*
- Bureaucracy can be reduced by recognizing that the marketplace provides the most efficient mechanism to ensure the ongoing competence of our members. One has to remain current to remain employable, and there has never been any evidence that engineers are not keeping competent and up-to-date. The market for engineers is continually evolving. Any attempt to centrally impose formalized training by PEO to capture this moving target is an exercise in futility; largely a waste of resources, both time and money. *Experience--not collecting CPD points--makes better professionals.*

PEO must be more accountable to stakeholders. More specifically:

- Council must be open, evolving, and transparent. Chapters, volunteers, and members must be given ample opportunity to 'know what's going on'. We cannot continue to govern as if they don't matter.
- We must keep up-to-date with emerging engineering disciplines in order to ensure the public interest is protected. Society and our economy are changing. So must PEO.

- We have to manage our members' money wisely. With 89,000 members, we have tremendous economy-of-scale, and can provide licensees with reasonable fees.
- There is a need to initiate and maintain a meaningful dialogue with the provincial government. Government officials are busy. We can help keep them up-to-date on emerging issues withing our profession and recommend ways to represent the public interest as it pertains to engineering.
- Maintaining an open, ongoing relationship with OSPE can benefit both organizations.

Many have heard me speak on these topics at previous town halls conducted by PEO. But the time for speaking is over. It's time to get an *activist* on Council. As a **professional accountant** as well as an **engineer**, I am eager to help you get **value** for your dues and share my pride in being a P.Eng!

**A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION, RUN BY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**STEVEN SCHILLACI** FOR COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE