

Re-elect Vicki Hilborn, MAsc, P.Eng.
for Western Regional Councillor

Revitalizing PEO: Fresh Perspective, Bold Actions

My journey in engineering began with a passion for innovation and sustainability. Graduating from the University of Waterloo with a BAsc in Environmental Engineering and furthering my academic pursuits with an MAsc from the University of Guelph, I solidified my commitment to excellence in this field.

Over the years, I've garnered extensive experience and expertise in both the public and private sectors. Directly after completing my masters, I worked in the renewable energy sector and experienced the challenges of being on the bleeding edge of a technology.

While in my role at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, I further expanded my understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by the engineers and the public in delivering safe, humane and reliable food – even during a global pandemic. Within this role, I have lead a team of engineers and created a atmosphere of clear direction and accountability during a time of uncertainty and rapid change.

As a current Western Regional Councillor, I've actively engaged with diverse engineering communities, advocating for their needs and contributing to the betterment of our profession. Serving as the Chair of the Regulation, Policy, and Legislative Committee has honed my abilities to navigate complex regulatory frameworks, ensuring that the voice of engineers and the public are considered is heard in PEO's policy decisions.

My tenure as the past Chair of the Brantford PEO Chapter (2017-2022) showcased my dedication to grassroots-level initiatives, amplifying the local impact of the engineering community. Additionally, my involvement as the past Chair of the Government Liaison Committee underscores my commitment to fostering relationships with our co-regulator, the provincial government.

I am incredibly proud to have been honored with the prestigious Amethyst Award from the Ontario Public Service, recognizing my significant contributions and leadership in driving impactful behaviour change to reduce the impact of barn fires on farm family and livestock. This work has lead to changes in building, fire and electrical codes to address the unique hazards in agricultural buildings.

Throughout my career, I've remained steadfast in my belief in the importance of self-regulation for the engineering profession in Ontario. I have championed this cause, advocating for its significance and emphasizing the need for inclusivity and support for internationally-trained engineers. Furthermore, I am actively working to restore vital programs, such as a pre-license program aimed at nurturing aspiring engineers and bolstering the profession.

My vision extends beyond the traditional boundaries of engineering. I strongly support the evolution of our profession to encompass emerging disciplines, fostering an inclusive environment that accommodates entrepreneurial minds seeking P.Eng. licensure. Embracing technological advancements and innovation is integral to my approach, ensuring that engineers and the public are equipped with the tools and knowledge to thrive in an ever-evolving landscape.

Collaboration lies at the heart of my approach. I am dedicated to forging partnerships and collaborations within the engineering community, educational institutions, government bodies and industry associations which will lead to a collective effort towards a stronger, more vibrant profession.

Respectful behaviour, ethical standards and integrity are paramount to effectively regulating the engineering profession. Upholding these values is non-negotiable in my vision for the future of our profession. Furthermore, I am committed to engaging with engineers across diverse backgrounds, listening to their concerns, and advocating for their needs to ensure their voices resonate within the decision-making processes of the board.

Moreover, I am passionate about promoting mentorship programs and initiatives that encourage continuous professional development among engineers. By fostering a culture of learning and growth, we can ensure that engineers are equipped not only with technical skills but also with the leadership qualities essential for success.

In conclusion, I am deeply committed to the betterment of the engineering profession in Ontario. My multifaceted experiences, unwavering dedication, and forward-thinking approach uniquely position me to continue to contribute meaningfully to the Council of Professional Engineers of Ontario. I am honored to be considered for this esteemed role and pledge to serve with integrity, vision, and a relentless drive to advance our profession.