

## **Western Regional Councilor Platform – Peter Inman, P. Eng., MBA, CEM, FEC**

### **Education:**

B.E.Sc. (Mech) – U.W.O. London 1973

EMBA – Ivey Business School – 1997

CEM (Certified Energy Manager) – Assoc. of Energy Engineers 2008

### **Profile:**

A knowledgeable, multi-disciplined professional engineer committed to innovative solutions that reduce cost, improve efficiency, and support environmental sustainability across a wide range of industrial and commercial facilities. A resourceful, creative business professional with a successful track record in public, private and commercial enterprise. Contributes to the community through voluntary participation in non-profit and charitable organizations.

### **Work Experience:**

Energy management – led energy conservation initiatives, building retrofits, the efficient design of new facilities, optimization, renewable energy in the municipal, educational, and commercial sectors.

Electric power production (hydro and coal) – field engineering, operations, maintenance, environmental reporting, asset management, capital project planning, strategic planning, and special projects.

### **Participation on PEO Council, task force, etc.**

Member of PEO Chapter executive for over 20 years, currently serving as Chair, Niagara Chapter. In January 2024, I will have been licensed for 48 years. (yikes!)

### **Other Professional Affiliations and Community Service**

Welland Hydro Corporation – Vice Chair; Board Governance and Ops. Committees

Rotary Club of Welland – Community Services Director

Sugarloaf Sailing Club - Secretary

## **Why am I running for Western Regional Councilor?**

New leadership within the PEO and Council gives me hope that the engineering profession can transition into a powerful force for the 21<sup>st</sup> century through value-added regulation, self-governance, and a streamlined licensing process.

If elected, I will commit my time and energy as Western Regional Councilor to collaborate with Chapter members, PEO Council and others to strengthen and modernize the engineering profession. Chapters play a key role in Profession Advocacy and bridge the gap between the PEO as Regulator and OSPE representing Member Advocacy.

The new licensing process is overly complicated, opaque and needs adjustments to improve it. The cancellation of the EIT program does not make sense, and currently there is no replacement for it.

I was shocked to learn that only 27% of Western Engineering graduates go on to become licensed professionals. What? My expectation was that 80% of engineering grads would get licensed, otherwise why did you attend engineering school? Why are licensure rates so low? “Most jobs do not need P. Eng. credentials (the industrial exemption), the PEO is hard to deal with – long time, unresponsive, difficult, bureaucratic – why bother?” Also, that licensure will invoke liability that you may be sanctioned by PEO (the dreaded blue pages).

At the CLC in November 2023, President Roydon Fraser presented data that across Canada, only 31% of CEAB graduates become licensed, and for Ontario, only 21% become licensed. Furthermore, 92% of licenses issued are from the traditional 8 disciplines, and only 8% come from the 70+ modern disciplines such as aeronautical, nuclear, biomedical, software, renewable energy, etc.

The PEO licensing process has created this situation, and it must change to make licensing simpler while maintaining high standards. In the current situation, we have 20% grads licensed with increasing regulatory burden and 80% grads that remain unlicensed and really have no ongoing commitment to ethical behavior or public safety. We expect drivers to have licenses to operate vehicles on our roads and highways to ensure public safety. There would be chaos if even 20% were not licensed. We need to promote the value of P. Eng. credentials so that even if licensure was not required, an employer will want a licensed professional to

ensure that decisions made in their organization are based on ethics, public safety and the common good.

We need to have a new definition of engineering that is pragmatic: “the engineer as problem solver” that includes modern disciplines such as nuclear engineering, software engineering, AI, etc. There needs to be common sense regulation that focuses on ethical behavior and public safety as the essential principles of licensed professional engineering. The ‘practice of engineering’ should not stop, should you go into management, government, or business as long as your commitment to ethical behaviour and public service remain intact. In fact, we need engineers in these areas as engineering problem-solving ability translates into effective decision-making and implementation skills that benefit society.

We need to move from the current 20% licensing rate of engineering grads to 80% being licensed under a regulatory process that is streamlined, straightforward and spans both traditional and modern leading-edge technologies that our modern society depends on. The process should enable limited licensure shortly after CEAB graduation and full licensure with appropriate professional development. The process for foreign trained engineers should follow the same principles.

The PEAK program may discourage existing P. Eng.s. from renewing as it can be seen as a burden, not benefit. The PEAK program needs to be repositioned as a means to enhance one’s professional portfolio, providing increased value to clients or their company, rather than as a regulatory burden. The self-managed portfolio would include knowledge, increased capability, and work experience relevant to their situation.

If elected, I will commit my time to listening to your concerns and ideas to effectively represent the interests of Western Regional Chapters. I will participate in various task forces, collaborate with Council and PEO towards strengthening, modernizing, and making professional engineering relevant again.

In conclusion, we need licensed professional engineers of all disciplines to address the Environmental, Social and Governance challenges faced by society today, and in the future.

Please support my candidacy for Western Regional Councilor with your vote.

Thank You. Peter Inman, P. Eng., MBA, CEM, FEC