

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 90,000+ 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 throughout the year – to see what different chapters are working on and where they may require more support.

➤ **Fairness and inclusivity in key decisions:**

PEO's 90,000+ 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 a major decision, and 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.

➤ **EIT replacement:**

PEO needs to quickly replace the EIT program. Undergraduate engineering students can enroll in PEO's Student Membership Program – we need EIT replacement to continue their engagement with PEO after graduation.

➤ **PEO council size:**

PEO and city of Toronto council has the same number of councillors. Does it make sense? Also, currently 5 of the 8 councillors appointed by the Lieutenant Governor are P.Eng's. Should Lieutenant Governor Appointees exclude PEO members?

➤ **Address PEO's declining relevance:**

Government, industry, and the public must understand how vital engineering 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 (started volunteering for the chapter while in EIT program), as secretary, vice-chair, and treasurer; Licence Assistance Program, certificate presentation, golf-tournament organizing committee.
- Member of Chapter Procedures Manual Advisory Group (2024).
- Member of Chapter Leaders Conference organizing committee (2023).
- Community service (current and past): ReForest London volunteer, Thames Valley Toastmasters Club (president, treasurer, secretary), various arts organizations (FCG, LCA, Simple Reflections for the Artists).
- Board experience: Director at my condominium board.