

Red Herrings

Council desperately tried to justify 2019's **20 % fee increase**, saying we pay the lowest fees of all engineering associations in Canada. **What a red herring!** They are low because we are—by far the largest regulator in the country, with *huge economies of scale!* A small regulator like Nova Scotia needs the same computerization, the same departments, a tribunal system, etc, *but has fewer members to finance it all!* **If Council stopped wasting members' money** (like the \$300,000 spent on “PEAK”, or the \$250,000+ for regulatory-performance consultants), it could focus on effective regulation without raising fees.

PEO should fund aggressive enforcement. PEO squandered a huge amount on its flawed membership database software and “PEAK”. It consistently fails to challenge big companies and crown corporations who hire unlicensed engineers. Instead, it goes after softer targets, like sole practitioners who make a misstep. To protect the public, PEO should focus on enforcing the Act—regardless of the size of the offender. If PEO cannot do this, then its existence is pointless, as are its licences. We'll continue to drift into irrelevancy.

PEO is a self-regulated profession. It is a *member-run* organization, and *we are the members*—not mere “licence holders”, as some candidates and councillors condescendingly call us. (The Act says so, right from the beginning of paragraph 2.(3).) This is a *professional association*, not an oligarchy. **It's time to elect councillors who understand this. The profession's needs and the public interest are *not* mutually exclusive.** *Council* does not protect the public directly, because it does not do engineering. It is *we, the engineers*, who do. Our education, ethics, and experience solve society's problems and protect their interests. It's time for Council to value and respect its members.

**Vote
Peter Cushman, P.Eng.
For East Central Councillor**