

# Gregory Wowchuk

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for Vice President

## CONTINUED VISION AND LEADERSHIP ON COUNCIL!



Count on me to remain resolute, principled, and firm on the important issues. I have been your voice during my current term, and will continue to work for a better profession.

1. Council, quietly and deliberately, has been moving us away from the member control granted us in 1922 by the Ontario government. It tried in 2012 to take away our right to elect our President. It has created unnecessary obstacles to candidacy in the election process. (These ultimately affect how Council itself is composed, and thus are *constitutional* changes which require approval by the general

membership.) It has been seeking a bigger role in "succession planning", including influencing government appointments. It has been musing about setting "qualifications" of candidates for election. Are we now on the verge of "designer" councils?

2. The wild spending, hiring, and program expansion continues. In the past, Council's ability to spend was restrained because it was required to obtain member approval to raise fees. Its power to make major structural changes was limited. But now, amendments it secured in our Act allow it to amend by-laws at will, *without referendum*. It is already abusing that power. Instead of addressing its spending addiction, PEO is expanding programs, hiring "experts" and growing the bureaucracy. One result? Your **20 %** fee increase in 2019. We can count on more to come!

3. Irrespective of any merits "PEAK" and Compulsory "Professional Development" might have (I just haven't seen many), I object to the way these programs have been advanced. Stop treating the members like children! Identify the problem—if there is one—and then secure the members' approval to proceed with a plan. But the juggernaut already has been built. The slick sales pitch in our June 2019 council package occupied 63 pages! I doubt we'll now be given the opportunity to vote it down. My two motions at Council (Sept and Nov 2019) demanding the long-promised referendum were *blocked* from even being debated! "PEAK" divides us, as its "tailoring" counts on the large mass of "non-practising" engineers, who will have less onerous obligations, to out-vote the "practising" engineers, who already are fully competent without CPD.



4. New technology and globalization are making PEO almost irrelevant. How then are we protecting the public? We need to bring all engineers into our tent, perhaps with two sub-groups: practising and non-practising.

5. Discipline and enforcement seem to go after the "little guy". Is there no misconduct or incompetence in larger companies?

6. Put clear definitions—and limitations—on the term "professional misconduct". It should never be used as a convenient "catch-all" charge to levy on a practitioner.

7. LET'S GET DOWN TO GOOD, BASIC, MODERN PROFESSIONAL REGULATION. IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE. We don't need to keep hiring expensive "experts" to tell us how to do it! Time to generate useful practice standards to assist practising engineers to cover the bases and bid competitively and uniformly.

*I need your support to speak on these important topics as your Vice President.--Greg*

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