

DO YOU VALUE A SELF-REGULATED PROFESSION?

Fellow engineers,

For years now, I have warned about the threat to self-regulation in our profession. *That threat does not come from the Ontario government*—a fabrication some councillors have invented. It comes *from within*, from *our own council* and the “experts” Council has been hiring to support its agenda. *The threat has been allowed to grow **because seven-eighths of us don't bother to vote!***

You sent me to Council two years ago, because you were as concerned about this as I was. Unfortunately, it's getting worse. Councillors feel that democratic input from the members must be suppressed “to protect the public”, yet no one has ever shown—since 1922—that the two can't co-exist and both benefit.

No effective government can exist without checks and balances. This is not China or Trump's America. Yet the democratic control we have over PEO—even *now*—is minuscule. (Arguably, this is why the problems we face now have arisen.) *One-third* of Council is government-appointed (usually for three years). Our voters can render judgment on *only seven* of twenty-five council seats this year!

Unhappy with even this exposure to democratic change, Council, supported by its well-paid “experts”, is considering:

- “Competency”-based candidacy and later, “a move away from elections” [Umm. . . who defines “competency”?]
- “Educating” candidates and voters (presumably on Council's orthodoxy and “best practices”)
- Councillors' input to be consistent with the governance “filter”
- Additions to Council's agenda tightly controlled
- Cut the size of Council, with only half—or even **no**—member-elected councillors

Council's decisions hardly affect Council. They affect us—it's our future, our profession. **We** provide engineering services and protect the public interest. **The profession's needs and public interest are *not* mutually exclusive.**

GREGORY WOWCHUK

for Vice President

Vote!