

As the newly acclaimed Regional Councillor for the West Central Region, I will be encouraging my colleagues on the PEO Council to widen our field of view to include guidance from its key mandate – the PEO Strategic Plan, 2018 – 2020. Point #4 of the Plan calls on the PEO to "engage chapters as a valuable regulatory resource." What a great idea! There is a wide range of legislation/regulation in Ontario that involves engineering practices that serves and protects the public interest. Serving and protecting the public interest is a key part of the Principle Object of the PEO. I believe Point #4 of the Strategic Plan could and should be used by the PEO to orient Chapters to relevant public interest regulatory issues. For example, a key public interest issue is the climate crisis. The grassroots nature and its connectivity to communities makes the Chapter system very well suited for

James Chisholm, P.Eng., M.Eng., FEC the PEO to engage it in this super important public interest issue. The Chapters could harness the energy, expertise and passion of its volunteers to champion regulatory excellence for mitigating the climate crisis and adapting to it. For example, Chapter volunteers with specialized knowledge could be trained and assigned to represent the PEO in meetings with Government staff, relevant Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) and to meet with MPPs on regulatory issues related to the climate crisis issue. Let's engage the chapters and develop them to be a viable and valuable part of the regulatory mandate of the PEO.