

My message this year hasn't changed: **The wisdom of Ontario's engineers—increasingly spurned by recent councils—is the *foundation* of our self-regulated profession, and the prime asset which will lead PEO out of its current troubles, including its gratuitous spending and the “PEAK”/CPD controversy.**

Councillors and many candidates have embraced the buzzword “**modernization**”. But, instead of the lean, focused structure truly modern organizations utilize, we are spiralling down the rabbit hole, obsessively reinventing ourselves and growing the bureaucracy.

1. **Let's stop our obsession with “governance”**. Focus on licensing, enforcement, discipline, and member engagement. *Modern professional regulation is not rocket science!* We need to stop hiring expensive outside “experts”, concocting new programs, and spending recklessly.
2. **Make member referenda *obligatory*** for *major* Council initiatives (Strategic Plan, “PEAK”/CPD, and Act/Regulations amendments). When members feel in control of their self-regulating profession, they will participate more in it. They are so disengaged that only **11 %** of them vote in our elections! *PEO cannot protect the public when its own members are so indifferent!*
3. **Develop comprehensive practice standards** to ensure engineers don't skip necessary tasks in their work. Bidding will become more uniform and fair. Shelve “PEAK”. ***Experience produces competence!*** My motion for the long-promised referendum on “PEAK” was *blocked from even being debated!* (This only exacerbated members' suspicion of secret agendas and backroom manipulation.)
4. **Overhaul the discipline process.** *Get rid of all the costly **lawyering!*** (Leave that for appeals which go to Divisional Court.) Discipline is supposed to be administered by *our peers*. Utilize less-costly *mediation* for minor offences.
5. Government indifference toward manufacturing is forcing engineering demand—and salaries—down. Demand an **industrial policy** for Canada and Ontario, and **require engineering be done by engineers**.

**GREG WOWCHUK for Vice President.**

**EXPERIENCED • RESPONSIVE • RESPONSIBLE**