

PEO and Advocacy for the Public Interest

By: James Chisholm, P.Eng., M.Eng., FEC

Having been acclaimed as the Councillor for the West Central Region, I am looking forward to working with my Council colleagues to strive for greater excellence in the PEO's regulation of the engineering profession. In particular, I would like to see the PEO pro-actively advocate for regulatory enhancements to legislation/regulations that safeguards the public interest. Legislation/regulation such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Building Code, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Environmental Protection Act needs to be reviewed and updated on an on-going basis to address new information and new priorities so the public interest continues to be safeguarded. I believe that the PEO needs to put this issue on its radar and advance the engineering profession as a leader in championing needed regulatory reform to safeguard the public interest. I believe that should include identifying key life safety issues relevant to the regulation of the engineering profession that can and should be addressed through such regulatory reform. I will be encouraging my Council colleagues to support the vision of the PEO proactively training their volunteer subject matter experts (SMEs) to engage our government and their staff on technical committees dealing with legislative/regulatory issues in order to promote the PEO identified priorities that safeguard the public interest. I believe, a key issue to start with would be advocating for regulatory reform that aims to better mitigate/adapt to the climate crisis.

The PEO is a trusted regulator. I believe it should review and support that its regulatory mandate should include advocating that the Government address needed regulatory reform that enhances the public interest. It can and should play a key role in enhancing the public interest.