



# Gregory Wowchuk

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**for Vice President**

## **A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION, RUN BY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

Count on me to remain resolute, principled, and firm on the important issues. I have been *your* voice during my recent term as Councillor-at-Large, and will continue to work for a better profession for all of us.

1. I am alarmed at the continuing trend at Council, which 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, a process which itself is deeply flawed. (These ultimately affect how Council itself is composed, and thus are *constitutional changes, requiring 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? Who gets to do the “designing” if not the members at the ballot box? *Many changes now are being enabled via by-law amendments (without member approval), in order to avoid the closer scrutiny associated with Act or Regulation changes.* (Clever, but not acceptable.)
2. I am troubled also by the willingness of recent councils to offload their fiduciary duty and statutory obligation to govern to **unelected PEO staff and outside hired “consultants”**. I have said before that performing one's duties on Council is not rocket science. Each of us brings to the table varied education, opinions, and life experience which provides the tools needed to do the job.
3. **I oppose the marginalization of the Admissions-Requirements and Experience-Requirements Committees**, and of Council's unwillingness to consult with them when discussing changes to our licensing process. Recent musings at PEO that we should have standardized exams for all licence applicants would only exacerbate our low capture rates of engineering graduates. (This is the American model of regulation, where everyone must write exams and then is given licences by government or by an agency appointed by it. Capture rates of non-civil engineers in the US is almost zero. That hardly protects the public!)
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. The licence should be promoted as a way of adding value, instead of being portrayed as a burden.
5. On the theme of “adding value”, the licence must be defended and our standards kept high, so as to give our members a “leg up” in **esteem, job opportunities, and salary**. Our enforcement division should be adequately funded, and not afraid to confront large employers of engineers.
6. Discipline and enforcement seem to go after the “little guy”, with catastrophic personal, professional, and financial results. Is there no misconduct or incompetence in larger companies? Let's 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, LEAN, MODERN PROFESSIONAL REGULATION. IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE.** We don't need to keep hiring expensive “experts” to tell us how to do it! It's 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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