



STEPHANIE HOLKO, P.ENG, MBA, ICD.D

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

A STRONG REGULATOR FOR A STRONG PROFESSION!

I am committed to upholding the high standards of our regulator to advance our profession and protect the public. A strong regulator is efficient, fair, transparent and effective.

My Values

- Protection of the Public Interest
- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Accountability
- Innovation

Relevant Professional Leadership and Experience

I have led teams and projects within the steel industry and the advanced manufacturing sector. I also have a passion for effective governance and believe the integrity of an organization begins at the top. To that end, I have trained to be an effective director at the Institute for Corporate Directors, Rotman School, University of Toronto. This training has reinforced my commitment to good governance and given me tools to be effective around the Council table, collaborating with fellow Councillors to deliver the best possible outcomes for our profession, if elected.

I served on the Board of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers as Vice Chair, President and Chair and Past Chair from 2021 – 2025. The issues OPSE advocates for are important to engineers and the experience only made me want to continue to serve the profession I am proud to be a part of, and PEO is the most important organization for engineers in the province. My involvement with the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers was a positive experience, and I aim to learn and grow with the excellent Councillors at PEO.

Currently, I am the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Growth at Innovation Factory in Hamilton, Ontario. We support innovators and entrepreneurs in several sectors, and I also lead the Centre for Integrated Transportation and Mobility as part of the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network.

Previously, I worked as Director of Project Development at Next Generation Manufacturing Canada (NGen), Canada's Advanced Manufacturing Global Innovation Cluster. There, I developed collaborative projects across Canada, working with cutting-edge technology companies that 3d-printed brain cell tissue, made carbon negative concrete products, and everything in between. This showed me the power of collaboration in innovation. Collaboration has proven key in developing effective and impactful strategies and partnerships and I hope to foster this as a member of PEO Council.

I also worked in the steel industry at ArcelorMittal Dofasco in Hamilton for the majority of my career. Here I learned about the value of safety, responsibility, and environmental protection.

Vision and Goals

My vision is to ensure PEO fulfills its public interest mandate through effective and relevant regulation, while proactively evolving to meet the demands of a rapidly changing profession.

Fairness and Transparency in Licensure

The engineering landscape requires regulation that is both rigorous in protecting the public and efficient in enabling qualified professionals to practice. My priority is to continue streamlining PEO's processes to better serve both the public interest and our members.

I strongly support reducing unnecessary barriers to licensure for engineers already registered in other Canadian jurisdictions. We must ensure a clear, efficient pathway where highly qualified professionals can move between provinces.

I am committed to the transparent implementation of efficient, competency-based assessments for internationally trained engineers. The goal is to meet the six-month processing timeline while rigorously maintaining PEO's high standards of qualification and ethics. Fairness in process must never compromise the standard of public safety that defines our profession.

We need clear communication channels so that members understand why decisions are made regarding licensure requirements and standards. Transparency builds trust within the membership and confidence within the public we serve.

New Technology and Its Impact on the Profession of Engineering

Engineering is on the front lines of technological advancement. PEO's regulatory framework must evolve in parallel to provide clear guidance and professional standards in emerging fields.

I advocate for the development of clear ethical guidelines and practice standards related to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, and automation in engineering work. PEO needs to lead the conversation on how professional accountability is maintained when digital tools are integrated into design and analysis processes.

Council must anticipate regulatory needs in high-growth sectors such as sustainable infrastructure design, data engineering, and cybersecurity within industrial control systems. I will advocate for the creation of clear professional development resources and perhaps new competency definitions in these critical areas, ensuring Ontario engineers remain globally competitive and ethically guided. I also feel strongly about training the next generation of engineers to both understand problem-solving from first principles and to be fluent in the newest technology that can guide the profession forward without risking our reputation.

The mandatory Practice Evaluation and Knowledge (PEAK) program can be a valuable tool to keep current as a licensed professional. Learning modules that specifically address emerging technology and ethics are important, ensuring continuous learning among all license holders regarding new standards of practice.

In closing

The engineering license is a public trust, and my highest priority is the stewardship of that trust. I bring to this campaign a strong belief in accountability, fairness, and the critical importance of effective self-regulation. I am committed to streamlining licensure processes without compromising standards and ensuring that every decision made by PEO Council is transparent and focused on public safety. I am eager to apply my experience to advance PEO's strategic goals and ensure a robust future for engineering in Ontario.

I would be honoured to have your confidence and your vote.