



The Association of
Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of Alberta

Hello,

My name is John Van der Put, and I'm a professional engineer and the 101st president of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA).

It's my pleasure to attend your annual general meeting, and to bring greetings from my Council colleagues and our members.

This year marks APEGA's centennial—100 years of serving the public interest through the self-regulation of the engineering and geoscience professions in Alberta. One hundred years of commitment to public safety. And 100 years of building for a brighter future.

I would also like to congratulate Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba on your own centennial this year. This important milestone highlights 100 years of association and member achievements, and it serves as a reminder of the long history you have in making life work better in Manitoba.

Our two associations have long supported each other and worked together, and I look forward to another century of collaboration, innovation, and protecting Canadians.

Who could have imagined that such a momentous year would bring with it the largest health crisis in a century? Or that we'd be cancelling in-person events and conducting business virtually, as you are now?

We are celebrating the best years of APEGA's history during a time of fear, uncertainty, and change.

But this year has also given us a chance to show what defines us as professional engineers and professional geoscientists. While so much has changed around us, our discipline, our ethics, and our commitment to keeping the public safe have remained steadfast.

Even in the throes of a global pandemic, we are demonstrating extraordinary teamwork, ingenuity, and resiliency as we come together for our communities.

As APEGA moves forward into our next century, we continue to safeguard the public welfare through the regulation of the professions, just as we did before the global health emergency.





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We are working diligently to improve our registration processes—which already meet industry best practices—to provide all applicants, including internationally trained ones, with an interim decision on their application status within six months of submission. We have achieved good success in the past year.

We are supporting the modernization of the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*, which has not had a major update in 40 years. After numerous conversations and consultations with registrants, permit holders, and other stakeholders, in 2019, we compiled and sent a list of 163 recommendations to the government to modernize the Act and provide APEGA with better tools to effectively regulate our professions.

And we are striving to increase the number of practice reviews APEGA carries out each year and measuring their effectiveness to ensure they're doing what we need them to do.

As we continue to reach for the end of this pandemic, we are optimistic for the future and for our next 100 years.

Thank you and best wishes on your virtual annual general meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Van der Put".

John Van der Put, P.Eng., FEC, FGC (Hon.)
President

