

JOHN H. GUENTHER, P.Eng.

EDUCATION	B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 1986
ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES	Professional Engineer, APEGM, 1989 to present Registration Committee: Past Chair, and member for the past 10 years APEGM PPE Committee (since dissolved)
OTHER ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES	ASHRAE (MB) Chapter Board of Directors, Donwood Manor PCH Member, Winnipeg Building Commission, Mechanical engineer
EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION	Nova 3 Engineering, Partner; Sr. Mechanical Engineer - 1997 to present Centra Gas (MB) Ltd., Distribution Engineer - 1993 to 1997 MBH Mechanical Ltd. – Mechanical Engineer/Designer -1989 to 1993 DFC Mechanical Testing & Balancing – TAB Assistant -1986 to 1988 Alphair Ventilation Systems – Industrial Fan Sales Engineer -1988 to 1989

PLATFORM

This is my first application for a term on Council, and I look forward to continuing my involvement with APEGM by serving as councilor. The function of the Association is crucial to our profession and our ability to practice our craft; as geoscientists or engineers. As a consulting engineer, I have the opportunity to interact with and personally know engineers from several branches of practice, and realize that they also have a unique set of concerns and obligations.

There are many challenges that face the engineering professional associations, including APEGM. I have several areas of focus which I see affecting the profession and as such I would:

- Lobby for the implementation of a statute of limitations in regards to engineering liability in keeping with other jurisdictions and other regulated professions.
- Undertake a role in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to promote continued education for the betterment of our members and the public and to support members in the process.
- Recognize the proposed Act changes regarding limited licenses, and work to raise the standard of the profession, and to advocate for fairness in issuing these licenses.
- Having served on the Registration Committee, and also being the son of an immigrant, I have seen the challenges that these applicants can face. I would strive to ensure equal opportunities of qualified foreign-trained engineering applicants.
- I would also strongly support the promotion of women in engineering, as there still seems to be an unbalanced representation of female engineers in my area of consulting engineering.
- Work to enhance the image of engineering in our communities to help attract the youth of our province to the engineering profession.
- Lobby to encourage those who purchase engineering services including government, institutions, developers and heavy industry, to buy Manitoba engineering services.

QUESTIONS
FROM THE
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE

1) In your view, what is the single most important issue facing the professions today, and why?

In my professional opinion, I believe the single most important issue facing the engineering professions today is the gradual increase in bureaucracy associated with professional accountability. As professionals today, we are more often questioned by decision makers with limited expertise and experience that hold little or no liability in the outcome of a decision. This increasing amount of bureaucracy is beginning to erode public perception of the engineering and geoscience professions in that we are being viewed less as a technical authority and more just as a necessary resource. Professional engineers and geoscientists have received, and continue to receive, extensive education, training, and experience that allow us to make appropriate decisions and maintain public safety. We need to work more in conjunction with regulatory bodies and decision makers to ensure that we maintain technical authority, and that all work remains correct, efficient, and professional.

2) Why is self-regulation and the responsibility given to us by government and the public important?

The responsibility of self-regulation is important because only another professional member can adequately and fairly review and discipline a colleague. A professional check-balance system must involve professionals checking professionals who are all under the same strict ethical code. By showing both the government and the public that professionals are willing to be held accountable to other ethical professionals for the sake of the public's interests, we have achieved a very efficient way of the check-balance system that, if properly used by all members, will show the value of self-regulating our industry.

3) What do you think the public's expectation is from the practices of engineering and geosciences?

I think the public expects constant professionalism from our engineers and geoscientists in its dealings with them and our colleagues. I also believe that the public deserves to expect that their safety be paramount. Lowering the bar as to who is allowed to practice in this field may compromise this requirement. It is important to remember, and promote, that engineering as a whole is greater than the sum of its members. Competence and professionalism must be preserved in the public's eye.