

**Vaibhav Banthia, M.Sc., P.Eng.**

Candidate put forth by the Nominating Committee

- EDUCATION: M.Sc. Civil Engineering, University of Manitoba, 2003  
B.Eng. Civil Engineering, University of Pune, India, 1997
- ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES: Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 2004 to present  
India Members Chapter, Founding member and current Chair  
Academic Review Committee, 2014 to present
- OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES: Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, Executive for Manitoba Section, 2011 to present  
Association of Consulting Engineering Companies' Image Committee, Speaker's Bureau Coordinator, 2013 - 2014  
Participated in multiple high school presentation and career fairs to advocate engineering as a career  
Volunteer at International Centre of Winnipeg to mentor newly arrived skilled immigrants  
Mentored and judged Capstone Design projects  
Volunteer judge at Manitoba Schools Science Symposium
- EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION: City of Winnipeg, Bridge Projects Engineer, 2016 to present  
Tetra Tech, Senior Structural Engineer, 2002 – 2016  
Ghate and Associates, Junior Engineer, 1997 – 1999
- QUESTIONS FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:
- 1) What is the most important issue facing the professions today? Why?**  
*There are many issues that our profession faces today, including lack of recognition, resource constraints, exclusion of foreign trained engineers in the work force, to name a few. In my opinion, lack of adequate and appropriate mentorship is a much bigger challenge as it doesn't pave the right way for next generations of researchers and engineers. It is the proverbial passing on the baton, where new graduates and foreign trained professionals can be coached to build and enhance their skills and competencies. Initiation and continued support of ethnic and local chapters by our Association is a step in the right direction as it provides a platform to implement more direct mentoring and transfer of knowledge between different experience levels. More needs to be done!*
- 2) Why is self-regulation, and its associated responsibility important?**  
*Self-regulation maintains the strong tradition of accountability as both the government and public recognize that members act in an ethical and professional manner. This privilege empowers us to be autonomous and by regulating ourselves in exchange for protecting public interests results in a true win-win situation.*

### **3) Why is diversity important to the professions?**

*It is a cliché to state that our world is becoming more globalized. To keep pace with other professions in an increasingly connected world, inclusion of diversity is important for sustenance and growth of our profession too. People of different genders, ages, ethnicities, religions and nationalities offer multiple viewpoints, which enhance the level of creativity and innovation. Furthermore, a more diverse workforce appeals to a broader demographic as it becomes more relatable. In this era of divisive politics, there is potential for diversity workplace issues, including discrimination, racism and prejudice but it can be managed and mitigated through written policies and sensitivity training.*

### **4) What is the public's expectation of engineering and geosciences?**

*Based on a recent poll, Canadians generally have a lot of respect for engineers. This stems from having the expectation and trust that safeguarding public's interest is an engineer's number one priority, followed closely by being ethically and fiscally responsible. Today the public and the media are far more aware of ongoing projects, which puts a lot of onus on public input and making sure that "stuff" gets done right the first time, and at all times. Using their knowledge in science, mathematics, and logic, engineers not only solve the present world problems but also endeavor to solve the 21st century problem of how to leave a clean environment for next generation of Manitobans.*