

Qiuyan Yuan, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Council

EDUCATION:	PhD. Civil Engineering, University of Manitoba, 2012 B.Sc. Food Processing Engineering, Beijing Agricultural University, China, 1992
ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:	Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, registered 2014 BRACE Task 2 Working Group, 2019 Chinese Member Chapter, Executive Committee member, 2019 Awards Committee, 2017 to present Committee for Increasing Participation of Women in Engineering (CIPWIE), mentor, 2016-2019 Organizing committee member of the Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (MCWESTT) Conference, 2013
OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Women in Engineering (WIE) Winnipeg Section speaker, 2019
EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:	Department of Civil Engineering, University of Manitoba, Associate Professor and Associate Head, 2013 to present Stantec, Process Designer, 2011-2012

PLATFORM PART 1 - THE PUBLIC OF MANITOBA

The Association governs and regulates the professions in the public interest. What is, or what should, Council be doing to ensure that its governance is in the public interest and why?

When we talk about the public interest, this is generally understood as the welfare and safety of the broader public, which are the centerpieces of the engineering and geoscience professions. However, identifying and determining the appropriate public interest in any particular professional case is often no easy task – as Lyndon B Johnson once said: ‘Doing what’s right isn’t the problem. It is knowing what’s right’. To ensure the governance of the Association reflects the right public interest, I think first and foremost is that the Council must listen to the public. The Council is comprised of a group of practicing engineers and geoscientists, aka councillors, who interact with the general public in a wide range of sectors. One of the most effective and efficient ways of learning the needs and interests of the public is through the ears and eyes of the councillors. Engineering and geoscience are fast-evolving fields, where new voices, ideas, and concerns are emerging on a daily basis. The Council should keep these changing needs of the public in mind and prioritize them as needed when providing governance oversight and establishing the overall strategic direction of the organization. The importance of this is undeniable because a lack of understanding of the current public interests will make all the efforts that the Association has

spent over the years invalid, and eventually lead to the legislature taking away the designation of the professions being self-regulating.

PLATFORM PART 2 - THE ASSOCIATION

Council sets the expectation for the Association by defining the Ends. What is, or should be, the most important End and why?

E-5 Practitioners reflect the diversity of the public.

All ends defined by the council are worth noting. To me personally, “E-5 Practitioners reflect the diversity of the public” presents special meaning. From an ethical and moral standpoint, I see equity, diversity, and inclusion as fundamental because I believe that everyone should have an equal chance, regardless of their background, gender, or affiliation. On a practical note, diversity leads to better problem-solving, expands the talent pool, and is important for long-term economic growth. Innovations resulting from science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields have positively touched nearly every aspect of human life. Scientific innovations and applications do not arise on their own; each is brought forth through the hard work and ingenuity of scientists and engineers. Therefore, the quality of the scientific research and engineering applications, and its ability to meet the needs of, and positively impact the lives of individuals, communities, nations and the world, is inextricably linked to the individual practitioners involved. A group of practitioners that reflects the diversity of the public would be undoubtedly better positioned to deliver solutions that meet the varying needs and interests of the public. Having a diverse set of points of view, approaches, and skillsets will get to the best solution faster. Without efforts to diversify and indeed change its composition along with the shifting demographics in society, the engineering profession will likely suffer considerably from a lack of growth and innovation. To achieve the ambitious, yet reasonable, goal of 30 by 30 initiative set by Engineers Canada, we need to cultivate talent, and promote the full inclusion of excellence across the social spectrum in a timely manner.

PLATFORM PART 3 - THE COUNCIL

Council sets out the core characteristics of what it considers to be a good councillor in Clause 1 of GP-6. What is, or should be, the most important characteristic of a good councillor and why?

Characteristic 1.7- Ability and willingness to participate assertively in deliberation, while respecting the opinions of others.

I have enough faith in the ability and willingness of elected councillors in participating assertively in deliberation. The point I want to make is the second part of the characteristics, i.e., respecting individual opinions. Diversity means difference. Diversity is no longer constrained to physical attributes, like race, gender, and religion. It also encompasses differences in opinions resulting from generational differences and personalities. Parallel to my strong belief of diversity in the profession is my utmost respect to different views and voices of others. We devote our time to the Association that is doing work that we care about, whether it is attending committee meetings or organizing outreach events. At times that passion can make us lose sight of how we treat others in the organization, especially when their opinions differ from our own. However, no one wants to feel like they are being disregarded. A mutually respectful Council will help to

improve communication between councillors, increase teamwork, and reduce stress. As mutual understanding and respect increase, the exchange of ideas will rise which will increase association knowledge and innovation, as well as assist in increasing productivity.

PLATFORM PART 4 - THE CANDIDATE

Please provide any additional information you would like as to why you would make a good councillor.

I bring a diverse background and rich governance experience. A councillor not only needs to be an outstanding member of the profession dedicated to protecting and promoting the public interest, but also requires governance experience to provide governance oversight for a complex organization. I am an internationally trained engineer practicing in academia. I have also had experience working in the private consulting industry.

I am passionate about education!