

Vaibhav Banthia, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Council

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, registered 2004 Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Councillor, 2018 to present Audit Committee, 2019 to present Ownership Linkage Committee, 2018-2019 India Members Chapter, Founding member and past Chair, 2016-2020 Academic Review Committee, 2014-2018
OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:	Canadian Society of Civil Engineering, Regional Vice-President - Prairies, 2019 to present Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, Executive for Manitoba Section, 2011-2018 Association of Consulting Engineering Companies' Image Committee. Speaker's Bureau Coordinator, 2013-2015 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 Mentor 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

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?

Having served as a councillor for the past two years, there never was a situation when Council took any decision without public interest being at the forefront. Nevertheless, as with any organization, there is always room for improvement. The goal of the Association should be not only to dispel any negative perception that may exist, but in fact to heighten our profile within the public domain. This can be achieved by establishing a strong media presence, as well as increasing communication within the engineering community and with appropriate government

departments.

Today the public and the media are far more aware of ongoing projects, which puts a lot of emphasis on public input and making sure that "stuff" gets done right the first time, and at all times. There just cannot be any compromise on competence and professionalism!

It is essential that the public understands our number one priority is safeguarding the public's interest as well as being ethically and fiscally responsible. The expectation is also that engineers will lead our leap into the future by creating socially and environmentally sustainable designs.

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?

The Ends don't work in isolation but rather feed off each other so that we achieve our global End of ensuring that the interests of the public of Manitoba are protected.

It goes without saying that the Association as a regulatory body for the professions of engineering and geoscience in Manitoba should have its primary focus on ensuring that only registered and licensed practitioners can practice with competence while conducting themselves professionally. In that regard, it is critical that the by-laws are upheld and strengthened to be in accordance with our Act.

While not on the same footing, but also critical, is ensuring a quality future for our profession. In that regard, the practicing engineers must reflect the diversity of our public, all the while being relentless in ensuring high standards of acceptable competency. In a constantly evolving world, diversity is critical for sustenance and growth of our profession. A more diverse workforce appeals to a broader demographic as it becomes more relatable to the public. People of different genders, ages, ethnicities, religions, and nationalities offer multiple viewpoints, which enhance the level of creativity and innovation. This inclusive and diverse society can be simply summed up as "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*", which means "The World is One Family".

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?

In my opinion it is very important to have the ability and willingness to develop a vision and formulate long-term strategies while delegating operational details of the Association to others. This means we must consider the public's interests, and then strategically and systematically balance innovation and risk when putting a plan in action. However, it is also imperative that we remain flexible as there may be societal and technological changes requiring a relook and maybe a reset of goals.

Not to shortchange the other core characteristics, which are equally important, it is critical to fully imbibe the three phrases that should remain front and centre of each councillor:

- Do you understand the issue?
- Can you live with the decision?
- Will you promote the agreed decision?

PLATFORM PART 4 - THE CANDIDATE

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

Working in the public sector has provided me with the skillset and insights to place my highest priority on serving and protecting the public interest. This requires being patient, being an active listener, debating constructively, and always respecting the opinions of others.

While managing large capital projects, I have always strived to think in terms of systems and context - to see the big picture and focusing on promoting the notion of right cost versus the lowest cost.