

2021 Engineering Nominees

Platforms, Histories, and Professional Activities for Election to
the Council

2021 COUNCIL ELECTION PLATFORM

Kathryn Atamanchuk, P.Eng., MBA, PMP, FEC

Candidate nominated by Council

- EDUCATION:** MSc Biosystems Engineering, University of Manitoba, 2020
MBA, University of Manitoba, 2007
BSc Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 1999
- ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:** Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 2005-present
Engineering Changes Lives Provincial Steering Committee, 2017-present
Women in Engineering and Geoscience Mentorship Program, Coordination Team, 2015-present
Investigation Committee member, 2013-2021
Nominating Committee member, 2013 and 2019
CIPWIE member, 2013-2019 (Chair, 2016-2019)
- OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:** Engineers Canada, 30 by 30 Champion, 2017-present
West Canitest R&D Inc. (WestCaRD), board member, 2017-present
Friends of Engineering, Ex-officio board member, 2013-present
CCWESTT 2020 Virtual Speaker Series, program lead, 2019-2020
- EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:** Price Faculty of Engineering, University of Manitoba - Engineer-in-Residence and Industry Partnerships Facilitator, 2012-present
StandardAero:
 - Director of Engineering, StandardAero Technical Services, 2007-2012
 - Various technical engineering roles, 1999-2007

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?

As self-regulated professions, it is critical that our governance policies and procedures align with the public interest. We can achieve this by continuing to ensure that the Act, bylaws, and Code of Ethics are reviewed on an on-going basis with input from both practitioners and key stakeholder groups. We should also look for best practices undertaken in other jurisdictions and in other self-governed professions. In addition to maintaining a robust governance model, we must also ensure that we continue to have the organizational structures and resources in place to execute good governance.

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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?

I believe that in order to best serve the public, the environment, and society, it is most important for us to work towards professions that reflect the diversity of the public (End 5) to ensure that the solutions we create and implement work for everyone. While efforts in this area have been underway for a number of years, there is more we can and must do. I believe it is also true that we can't achieve End 5 without also focusing on End 4 (Stakeholders understand and value the contribution of the professions) and End 6 (Consumers have access to a reasonable supply of practitioners' services). If we want groups of people who aren't historically drawn to our professions to consider them as a career choice, we need to ensure that they are aware of what a career in engineering or geoscience can look like. To do so, we need to ensure that appropriate programs are in place at the K-12 and post-secondary institutions to support this education.

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?

To me, it is critical that councillors are able to think in terms of systems and context – to see the big picture (GP-6, 1.2). A “systems” approach implies interdisciplinary thinking (technical and management) to design, implement, manage, and improve a complex system. Self-governance of our professions is certainly a complex system, so it is important for councillors to be able to develop proposals and evaluate decisions in the context of the vision and the Ends to achieve successful outcomes.

PLATFORM PART 4 – THE CANDIDATE

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

Through my engineering experience in industry, at the Price Faculty of Engineering, and through my various volunteer positions with the Association, I have gained a well-rounded understanding of and appreciation for our profession. I take every opportunity I can to share the value of professional licensure with engineering students and to demonstrate how rewarding a career in engineering or geoscience can be. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Association as a councillor.

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Daniel Asrat Balcha, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Council

- EDUCATION:** PhD Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 2014
MSc Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 2010
BSME, University of Minnesota, USA, 2005
BSc Double Major, Applied Mathematics and Physics, University of Winnipeg, 2004
- ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:** Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 2013-present
Ethio-Eritrean Members Chapter, Advisory Board member, 2019-2020
EngGeoMB-CTTAM Joint Board member, 2017-present
- OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:** Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering (CSME) member
American Society of Engineers (ASME) member
Canadian Standard Association (CSA): Fuels and Appliances Technical Committee member
CSA Technical Subcommittee for Gas Operated Agricultural Equipment member
CSA Propane Autogas Technical Committee member
Interprovincial Gas Advisory Council (IGAC) member/Vice Chair
- EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:** Government of Manitoba:
 - Municipal Relations Safety and Technical Engineer, 2020-present
 - Growth, Enterprise, and Trade, 2016-2020
 - Labor and Immigration, 2014-2016NSCC-Nautical Institute-Marine Engineering Department, Faculty, 2013-2014
University of Manitoba:
 - Research Associate, 2009-2013
 - Research Assistant, 2007-2009

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?

The Council ensures the public that those engaged in professional activities affecting their lives are competent to do so. The reason for this is that the public should be able to be confident that qualified and ethically accountable professionals make engineering decisions affecting their lives.

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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 expectation of the Ends for the Association is to make sure legislators and the public understand the value of professional engineers, encourage professionals to continue their professional development throughout their careers, and keep current in their specialty fields by engaging in professional and ethical practice. It is critical that the Association reinforces the trust that society has in the expertise and professionalism of professional engineers. In order to achieve this goal, the Association is required to set the education standards for engineering programs that provide the underpinning knowledge and understanding required to practise engineering. Setting standards for professional development in collaboration with the professional engineering community, the Association needs to continue to ensure that those who become professionally registered are not only competent and committed to the profession, but are able to work in an ethical, sustainable, and safe manner. The Association also responsible for ensuring that no barriers exist for anyone appropriately qualified to become professionally registered and promoting diversity and inclusion policies and practices across the profession.

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?

The most important characteristic of a good councilor should be the commitment to linking with the legal and moral ownership that requires understanding of Council's collective stewardship for the organization comprised of diverse people. This is an important characteristic, because in order for the decision-making of the Council to be ethical, due consideration must be given to all members – as a whole – not as individuals. By connecting with the ownership, the Council is able to determine what business the Association is in to actively seek to access and understand that diversity, promote diversity, broadly defined by modeling equity and inclusion through its policies and practises.

PLATFORM PART 4 – THE CANDIDATE

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

I work as a technical and safety engineer with a focus to safeguard both persons and property from fire and life safety hazards. This is accomplished through education, investigation, emergency response and code application, all of which heavily depend on engineering science. This real-life application of engineering practice allows me to be a good councillor who can inform our members and society-at-large of how the engineering profession affects their lives, study, and work, and to support the society's advocacy and members' engagement of policymakers at all levels. As a councillor of global experience, I can contribute to the Association's effort to expand its membership base, promote member engagement, celebrate the rich diversity and breadth of its membership, gather member input, serve member needs, and connect members to each other and the broader communities of stakeholders,

As an internationally educated engineer, I have witnessed the Association come a long way toward valuing foreign credentials. However, we are not there yet in giving the deserved recognition to such sought engineering skills brought to the province. As a councillor, I would like to contribute to the

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Association by embracing business improvement techniques to ensure all registration processes remain efficient and easy to understand. In addition, I would like to be a voice to the next generation of internationally educated engineers to have diversity and inclusion policies and practices of accepting foreign credentials and experiences in place. It is my strong belief that by streamlining the processes and reducing persistent information gaps, we can create a more inclusive economy and society for Canada. At the same time, it is possible to ensure all practising engineers in the province of Manitoba are held to exacting educational, experiential, and ethical standards, with licensure only granted to those who meet or exceed those standards.

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Talin Gregory, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Council

EDUCATION: BEng Civil Engineering, Lakehead University, 2010

**ASSOCIATION
ACTIVITIES:** Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 2015-present

**OTHER
ENGINEERING/
GEOSCIENCE
ACTIVITIES:** Professional Engineer, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia

**EMPLOYERS SINCE
GRADUATION:** Lavergne Draward and Associates Inc, Structural Designer, 2010-present

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?

Council should ensure Council members are from various backgrounds within the engineering fields to ensure proper representation and knowledge of each discipline (structural, civil, mechanical, electrical, etc.). Ensuring public safety without such widespread expertise, which is of the utmost importance, would not be as effective or possible. Additionally, mandating company audits could be considered when significant public safety issues arise from the work of an engineering company practising in Manitoba. Currently, individual discipline meetings are held on occasion, but often the company for which an individual works should also be scrutinized when safety issues arise.

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?

I believe the most important End to be E-2 “Practitioners practice with competence and conduct themselves professionally”. That said, it is recognized the End E-1 is also high importance, but really is the bare minimum to be part of our profession in Manitoba. Ensuring E-2 is achieved protects not only the public but the entire engineering profession, as having individuals or companies not live up to these standards creates danger for the public and poor impressions of our field. Engineers are professionals and I feel it is important these values of professionalism and competency are upheld if our industry wants to be considered valuable to the public and maintain our self-regulation.

PLATFORM PART 3 – THE COUNCIL

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I believe the most important characteristic in clause 1 of GP-6 to be item 1.3 “Interest in and capability to discuss the values underlying the actions taken in the organization, and to govern through the broader formulation of those values.”

I believe this is of utmost importance as it is critical to understand the “big picture” before passing judgment or giving an opinion on a given scenario within the organization. By understanding the underlying values, it becomes easier to understand and make decisions that are not always going to be black and white. As we all know, many scenarios have various factors that can influence one’s feelings towards a given scenario, personally or otherwise. By ensuring the core values are maintained, governing with consistency also becomes more practical.

PLATFORM PART 4 – THE CANDIDATE

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

I believe I would make a good councillor as I am a proud member of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba that wants to give back to a profession that has given much to me. I am a strong leader that leads by listening to other opinions and ensuring all voices are heard, but I am also not afraid to make a final decision when needed. I also strongly believe in looking at the big picture, not just what happened, but why and how. By understanding the root cause of any problem/issue/policy, it becomes possible to provide the correct and effective solution or ruling.

If I am selected to be councillor, I will be a very devoted member who is also active and respected in the structural engineering field with many additional contacts throughout industry. I intend to give full effort to ensure the organization is properly governed and that the public are kept safe through the strong leadership of Council.

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Mike Houvardas, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Members

- EDUCATION:** BSc Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 1984
- ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:** Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 1988-present
- OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:** Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists British Columbia
Professional Engineer, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta
Professional Engineer, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan
Professional Engineer, Professional Engineers Ontario
Association of Consulting Engineering Companies Manitoba (ACEC), member, board member (Secretary/Treasurer), and participated in committees including,
- ACEC/Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba liaison
 - Energy, Science, and Technology Committee
 - Golf Committee
 - Quality of Documents Committee (ad hoc)
 - Buildings and Institutional Committee (presently active on)
- EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:** Tower Engineering Group, P.Eng., Principal, 1997-present
Nova 3 Engineering, P.Eng., Senior Mechanical Engineer, 1992-1997
SMS Engineering, P.Eng., Mechanical Systems Designer, 1991-1992
K&D Engineering, EIT, Mechanical Systems Designer, P.Eng., 1987-1991
EJ Faraci & Associates, Drafter, EIT, Jr. Mechanical Designer, 1984-1987

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?

In my opinion, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's Code of Ethics is a very demanding document. Demanding, but not draconian. Demanding in a way that tells the public their health, safety, and welfare is an engineer's upmost priority and reminds the engineer of that duty. I can think of no other profession that demands as much from their practitioners and I have read many other codes, oaths, and see evidence of impropriety daily in media. Through rigorous training and access to mentorship programs, engineers have some of the highest standards of practice. Maintenance of these standards is through execution of the Act and by-laws and must be preserved, otherwise government officials will regulate the profession and they may not have the necessary background, education, or skillset to do this properly. Politicians may step away from issues at the end of their terms, but engineers cannot.

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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?

Ends 1, 2, and 3 in my opinion are self-explanatory. They are important and will always be the core issues of the Association. I had to decide on E-4.2 and E-6.2. Given the ongoing working relationship with the provincial government, work needs to be done on E-4.2. The commodification of engineering services is not appropriate. However, I choose E-6.2. Sustainability will be a major topic for years to come and no one is better poised to help in that regard than engineers – not accountants, economists, or politicians. Others may have ideas, but only engineers, as the world's problem solvers, must be seen as being in the forefront. While everyone is interested in sustainability, young people are especially so, and as engineers, we would have the knowledge and background to properly assess ideas (including those of others), their practicality, their efficiency, and cost-benefit. They would be the ideal candidates to lead us into the future.

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?

After reading through the eleven core characteristics considered to be important, my first cull left me with 1.3, 1.7, and 1.9. On further review, I realized that what those three all have in common is effective communication. In my opinion, characteristic 1.7 best summarizes those three. I think many of us can recall meetings where two or three people dominated, either intentionally or accidentally, often leaving good ideas unsaid. Some attendees may even get frustrated, only to return to their offices to send a long email, or worse, to undermine or reverse the work of the meeting by other means. As the point states, assertive, respectful, and honest discussion considering the best facts available are key to productive, fruitful, and successful undertakings.

PLATFORM PART 4 – THE CANDIDATE

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

I have been an engineer for over 30 years involved exclusively in the consulting industry. It took my involvement in ACEC before I realized that consulting, at least in Manitoba, made up only about 10% of our membership. This was made clearer to me after my involvement in a number of reverse career fairs. I was surprised at how few students knew what a consulting engineer was, but were incredibly interested when I explained many of the daily aspects of the position. It offers opportunities to work directly with the public and people with diverse backgrounds – architects, brew masters, contractors, dentists, doctors, manufacturers, restaurateurs, etc. It also offers engineers a path to business ownership that perhaps other areas of engineering may not, or where it might be more difficult to do so, and that may be attractive to some students. As a councillor, I would like to help foster this area of our profession.

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Scott Whaley, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Council

EDUCATION:	Chartered Manager, Canadian Institute of Management, University of Manitoba, 2015 BSc Electrical Engineering, University of Calgary, 2007 Computer Engineering Technology, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, 2001
ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:	Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 2012-present Westman Chapter, Executive Committee Chair, 2013-present
OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:	Westman Science Fair, Engineering Project judge Westman Career Symposium, Engineers and Geoscience Manitoba volunteer
EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:	Manitoba Hydro, Distribution Eng. Contract section head, 2007-present Schlumberger Oil & Gas, Field Engineer, 2007 Design Engineering Technologist, HVW Technologies, 2001-2003

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?

My platform priority is advocating to the Association about supporting all member(s) when public engagement is present. It is imperative the Council communicate with outside stakeholders and public entities to ensure the Association is aware of industry change which may directly affect the profession. Engagement meetings with the Association would ensure to guarantee members are well represented.

My message to the Association is that engineers and geoscientists are the stewards for morals, standards, and ethics in the eyes of the public; strong governance is necessary to ensure our profession is represented with the utmost integrity.

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?

There are two defining "Ends" which in my view are the pillar of the Association and the profession. They are:

- E-2 – “Practitioners practice with competence and conduct themselves professionally”

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- E-4 – “Stakeholders understand and value the contribution of the professions”

Professional advancement happens through education, experience, and guidance. The Council must ensure members are well represented, equipped, and informed by the Association to ensure our profession excels.

The expectation is for the Association to act as the champion for promoting our profession with a focus on safety, innovation, critical thinking, and high ethical standards.

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?

As a running councillor who strongly advocates for the well-being of all professional members, I am impelled to say that the most important core characteristic is “the ability to think in terms of systems and context – to see the big picture”.

With constant change and innovation within society, the Council needs to work with the Association to understand how the profession should/will evolve. Discussion and support on professional diversity, Association membership support, and adaption to new standards/laws along with stakeholder expectations are big picture strategies.

With the pandemic causing catastrophic change to workplace practices, travel, public perspective, and interaction, a big picture approach is essential for navigating forward to guarantee members are well represented.

PLATFORM PART 4 – THE CANDIDATE

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

I strongly advocate for the development and mentoring of professionals in training. If elected, I would focus on looking at new communication channels and resources to help members work towards their professional designation. My lengthy career has shown that mentoring and guiding young professionals can be one of the most rewarding achievements of all.

I advocate for a fair and diverse work environment and believe people should be allowed to express their opinions without fear of being ostracized. Furthermore, I am very vocal on ensuring the Association provide equal representation for all associated members regardless of their geographical location within Manitoba.