

Allan Silk, P.Eng., FEC

Candidate nominated by Members

EDUCATION:	B.Sc. Computer Engineering, University of Manitoba, 1985
ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:	Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, registered 1988 Indigenous Professionals Initiative Committee (IPIC), 2018-present Government Relations Advisory Committee, 2016-present EGAIAR Joint Board, 2006-present Past Presidents Committee, 2006-present Executive Committee, 2004-2006 CTTAM-EngGeoMB Joint Board, 2001-2010 Council President, 2005 Council, 2001-2006 Nominating Committee, 1997-2000, 2004-2009, 2011-2012 Experience Review Committee, 1994-2002
OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:	Manitoba Hydro Professional Engineers Association <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member/Chair Professional Development Committee• Member/Chair Safety Committee Member of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Various committees with the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Midcontinent Area Power Pool (MAPP) organizations.
EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:	Manitoba Hydro, Integrated Network Performance Engineer, 1988-present Microelectronics Centre, Design Engineer, 1986-1988 Cirlog Corporation, EIT, 1985-1986

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 Association needs to maintain a position of transparency especially with respect to those functions that are core to the Association, that being registration, discipline and competency of members. The details that go into the decision that the Association makes cannot always be made public, but if the decision-making process and criteria are well-known and accepted by membership, prospective members, and the general public, Council's responsibility of ensuring that its governance with respect to how it governs and regulates the professions should be aligned with the public interest.

Council should also be aware of issues arising in other Canadian jurisdictions. Government concerns and issues can cross Provincial lines. Council needs to be aware of what is happening in other jurisdictions to ensure that the concept self-regulation is not at risk within Manitoba.

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?

End 0, “The interests of the Public of Manitoba are protected, as they relate to the practice of engineering and geoscience and that the results should be worth the resources expended” is the most critical end followed closely by the first Sub-end “Individuals who are practicing engineering and geoscience are registered and licensed”. *The Engineering and Geoscientific Professions Act* not only establishes the Association and its Council, it also defines its purpose. The Act lists the first purpose of the Association is to “govern and regulate the practice of professional engineering and professional geoscience in Manitoba”. I believe that this purpose is aligned with End 0 and Sub-end 1.

I am not suggesting that Council should be focused on this end all the time. Other Ends, for example those addressing diversity, may be the prime focus of Council for a period of time, and in the case of diversity it may be high on Council’s action item list for many years. What I am saying is that Council should always align their Ends with the purpose of the Association as set out in the Act, and the Ends that have a direct linkage to that list should have an elevated status of importance.

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?

Clause 1 of GP-6 sets out a very good list of characteristics and guides for a prospective councillor. I believe that a councillor that has the “ability and willingness to participate assertively in deliberation, while respecting the opinions of others” will be a very effective councillor. In Council deliberation, it is optimistic to expect that every councillor will be aligned with every deliberation that will occur. I find that when I am arguing a point that is not going to succeed, what is most important is that my points are being listened to and considered. In some respects, this is more important than the final outcome of the discussion. I believe for a council to be effective it is imperative each councillor must be able to provide their opinion while listening to and understanding every other councillor’s position.

Mastering this competency should make other characteristics listed in Clause 1 easy. For example, if my views were listened to and understood, it will be very easy to “honour Council policies and decisions” even if my views were in the minority.

PLATFORM PART 4 – THE CANDIDATE

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

It may be easy to believe that when a Past President is running for Council that they are

convinced that something is wrong that needs an intervention from the past. This is not my motivation at all. The Association by its very nature must be responsive to the needs of society and will always be changing to meet those needs. However, I believe the attributes that make a good councillor have not changed.

One thing that I would like people to know about me is that I believe that the Association has many stakeholders and it is imperative to engage these stakeholders to find out what is important to them and consider what we learn from them in our work as a Council. However, I believe that out of all the stakeholders, membership and the Government are the two most important stakeholders. Government may be slightly more important as they have the power to end our experiment in self-regulation with the stroke of a pen. If you examine the makeup of Council as set forth in our Act, it is populated by elected members and those appointed by the Government. I believe that this was done intentionally by the Government to stress the importance of these two groups. In my previous experience on Council we had some significant decisions to make as every council does. As part of my deliberation I always tried to consider what the membership would have me do. I did not find that this limited my ability to act as a councillor but in many ways it enhanced my ability as I believed that I had earned the trust of those members who were interested in the work of Council. It is impossible to please all members at any time. I felt that if my record over the course of a council year was generally acceptable to most members, that the linkage that I owed to the stakeholders that sent me to Council was fulfilled.

I practice at Manitoba Hydro where I presently lead a group of nine engineers and technologists. My team studies the high voltage AC transmission system within Manitoba and determines how much power can be moved within the Province and how much power can be exported/imported to/from Ontario, Saskatchewan, and the USA. Our work product is used by the staff in Manitoba Hydro's Control Centre to help them operate the power system. I have been involved with and led many external committees. Most of the members of these committees were from US utilities and other entities that manage the power system within the United States. I was seconded by Manitoba Hydro International for a two-year period to work on projects in Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan.