

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Engineering Changes Lives” Initiative Launched Regulatory Body Commits to Increasing Number of Women in Engineering

WINNIPEG, MB –

A bold new initiative, announced by Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, aims to achieve the goal of women comprising 30% of newly licensed engineers in Manitoba by 2030. This ambitious goal, initially developed by Engineers Canada, results from the urgent need to increase the number of women in engineering across the country. The percentage of newly licensed female engineers across Canada was 17.2% in December 2016.

Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba formally adopted the 30 By 30 goal as a Strategic End for the Association in May 2017, signifying its critical importance to the future of engineering in the province. Their new initiative, “Engineering Changes Lives”, will increase both the number of women entering engineering and the retention rate of women working in the field.

“It is in the public interest to have the very best engineers practice. When we see an Association whose members do not reflect the diversity of the public, it is a sign that we are missing out. While the goal of 30% is well short of our ultimate goal of true proportional representation, 30% is achievable and has been shown to be the tipping point where a natural momentum begins to occur,” explains President Jonathan Epp, P.Eng., FEC.

“We’ve been working to increase the number of women in engineering at a grassroots level for many years, so it’s exciting to see a more dedicated approach towards achieving the 30 By 30 goal. We look forward to collaborating with new partners from across the province on this important initiative,” said the Chair of the Association’s Committee for Increasing the Participation of Women in Engineering (CIPWIE), Kathryn Atamanchuk, P.Eng.

Currently, in Manitoba, women represent 15.1% of newly licensed engineers. It takes between four and six years to obtain a university education before a graduate can apply to become an engineering intern with Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, and another four years of supervised work experience to achieve the professional designation (P.Eng.). Therefore, the window to meet the 30% target by 2030 is closing in quickly, with only three years to influence the numbers required to accomplish this goal.

Lindsay Melvin, P.Eng., FEC, was the Association’s sixth female President and is a keen advocate for the new initiative: “I am proud of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba for taking new,

directed action to achieve more women in the engineering profession. The fact that women make up only 10% of all licensed engineers in Manitoba is a disservice to the public which engineers serve. The evolution of our world and society is constant and exciting. With diversity in the profession, engineering will be well poised to meet future challenges.”

In the Speech from the Throne on November 21, The Honourable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba said, “We look forward to engaging Manitobans on ways to ensure that women are better represented at decision-making and influence levels within community and corporate sectors.”

Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (formerly APEGM) is a public, non-profit organization charged with the governance and responsibility of regulating the practices of professional engineering and professional geoscience within the Province of Manitoba, in order to serve and protect the public interest.

www.EngGeoMB.ca

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