

## **2023 COUNCIL ELECTION PLATFORM**

### **Derek A. Bergen, EIT**

Candidate nominated by Members.

<b>EDUCATION:</b>	BSc Civil Engineering – Cooperative Option with Distinction, University of Manitoba, 2023
<b>ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:</b>	Intern, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba
<b>OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:</b>	ICRI member, 2023-present ACI Manitoba Chapter member, 2019-present Crosier Kilgour, student intern, 2022 K.N.H. Sawatzky and Associates Ltd., student intern, 2019-2021
<b>EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:</b>	Crosier Kilgour, Designer/Project Manager, 2023-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?**

A primary function of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba with respect to public interest is to govern the professional practices of its registered members. The seal and designation of a professional engineer or geoscientist in Manitoba should ascertain confidence in the public that work completed under their seal has been done so with careful, diligent, and informed practice and therefore can be trusted. I believe this comes through careful work, continued learning, and a commitment to professionalism.

### **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?**

My opinion on this question has been shaped both by my experiences in the engineering profession and my previous experience as an owner in the building construction industry. I support holding paramount E-2: Practitioners practice with competence and conduct themselves professionally. It would appear that Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba is too of this opinion, as E-2 is effectively repeated in the opposite sense in E-3.

The importance of E-2 becomes more obvious through the exercise of deleting it while holding the others Ends constant. Example: What is the importance of being registered and licensed (E-1), or practitioners reflecting the diversity of the public (E-4) if the practitioners are not practicing with competence? While I firmly support all of the Ends (E-1-6) individually, I do believe that professional competence is footing on which they must stand. As with all bodies of science, developments and discoveries in engineering and geoscience constantly demand that professionals continue the joy and discipline of learning to remain informed and continue to practice with diligence. Additionally, as we consider the practice of engineering an esoteric body of knowledge, this should in turn encourage professionals to be leaders in relevant fields such as sustainability and environmental concerns.

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As discussed in Platform Part 1 (above), it is imperative that the public continues to have warranted confidence and inherent trust associated with the designation and seal of a registered professional engineer or geoscientist in Manitoba, as without it the value of Association is lost.

### **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?**

I think this is more challenging to select a single item and confidently hold it above the others than in the previous question. The well-known analogy comparing an organizational body to a physical body being made of many parts, each one with a critical role to play, holds well here. The body of the Council needs all parts of body, i.e., characteristics, to perform its diverse set of tasks and responsibilities well.

However, I would put forward GP-6, 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.

Values drive actions (this is true in all walks of life, be it personal or professional). Values are the point of origin by which we orient ourselves. This is why businesses have a mission statement, essays have a thesis statement, and why Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba has a Global End. If we get caught up entirely in periods and commas and do not prioritize the intent of a document, it is not likely to fulfill its intended function. To make another analogy, we cannot accurately and confidently select a specific structural member if we do not fundamentally understand the concept of shears and moments and stress-strain diagrams. Therefore, the ability to discuss values broadly, to prioritize and understand them, will surely lead to discrete actions, decisions and policies that imbue those values and uphold the function and intent of the Association.

### **PLATFORM PART 4 – THE CANDIDATE**

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

As a practicing engineering intern, I understand first-hand the challenges and concerns of entering into a new profession and becoming a member of a governing body. Businesses and corporations are continually discussing succession planning, and the fact that there is an Intern position on the Council indicates that Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba understands the importance of considering the future of the body and the profession. I want to be part of helping to bring interns alongside practicing professionals to provide both a positive experience in the industry and a positive experience with the Association from the outset so that we can continue to grow and uphold the importance and reputation of both the profession in general and Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba.

While only in the initial stages of becoming part of the engineering profession, I am excited and passionate about not just the practice, but about what being an engineer means in the local and more global context. Having come from the building construction industry, I have been exposed to a wide stratum of opinion on the value and competence of engineers. Having excelled through the undergraduate academic requirements and through my experience in the profession to-date, I am convinced in the importance and value of the profession and would be excited to be part of communicating and sharing this with the public and with the industries that rely on our expertise.

I am an open and generous person and am willing to engage in discussion, and yet I am comfortable to hold strongly to values I believe are fundamental and challenge others to discuss, for the sake of the best outcome for all.

For these reasons I believe I would be valuable to my fellow interns, Council members, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba and the body of professionals we encompass in the position of the intern representative on Council.