

2023 COUNCIL ELECTION PLATFORM

Mike Houvardas, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Council

EDUCATION:	BSc Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 1984
ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:	Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 1988-present Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Councillor, 2021-present Executive Committee, member, 2022-present Nominating Committee, member, 2021
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, <ul style="list-style-type: none">– ACEC/Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba liaison– Energy, Science, and Technology Committee– Golf Committee– Quality of Documents Committee (ad hoc)– CEM/MAA Joint Executive– Industry Advisory Group– Buildings and Institutional Committee
EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:	Tower Engineering Group, Senior Mechanical Engineer and Principal, 1997-present Nova 3 Engineering, Senior Mechanical Engineer, 1992-1997 SMS Engineering, Mechanical Systems Designer, 1991-1992 K&D Engineering, Mechanical Systems Designer, 1987-1991 EJ Faraci & Associates, Drafter, 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?

With the retirement of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's previous CEO, Council has used the opportunity, until a new CEO is found, to review its governance and make any adjustments necessary to

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ensure adherence to the Act. This will be a significant undertaking, but the benefit will be a renewed assurance for the public that Council is not static but is continually working and improving their oversight of the high professional standards that the public expects.

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?

In my first term, I spent a great deal of time on an appeal panel which gave me greater insight into the application of several of the Ends, specifically the importance of E-2, "Practitioners practice with competence and conduct themselves professionally". I learned that sometimes competence is not enough.

The areas of practice in our profession can vary greatly. I came to realize how little we might understand what each of us does, even between peers in the same industry. For this reason, members of the general public or politicians cannot be expected to understand the many nuances of our day-to-day practice. By the time a complaint gets to the Association, it may be too late to prevent a potentially drawn-out process. I'm of the opinion that the Association can, and should, try to improve the process of how complaints are dealt with.

Benjamin Franklin wisely said, "*An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*", in other words, it's better to prevent something from happening in the first place than to repair the damage afterwards. It is therefore incumbent on each of us to conduct ourselves professionally at all times, be proactive, and try to prevent adverse situations from occurring.

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 contend that characteristic 1.7 (Ability and willingness to participate assertively in deliberation, while respecting the opinions of others) is one of the most important. As engineers, we are first and foremost problem solvers, and we do our best in that regard. However, engineers and engineering are not immune to scrutiny and can be exposed to many alternative points of view from lay people or even other members. Only respectful, assertive, 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.

My first two years have been educational and enlightening. Council has embarked on a task of governance review to address any gaps, shortfalls, or inconsistencies between its operations and its administration of the Act. This goal is for the improvement of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's function in the service of the public and its members. With the membership's affirmation, I would like to continue as a councillor to see this task through to fruition.