

2026 COUNCIL ELECTION PLATFORM

Ellery Burton, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Members

EDUCATION:	BEng Mechanical Engineering, Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Canada, 2008 PhD (Candidate), Biosystems Engineering, University of Manitoba (current)
ENGINEERS GEOSCIENTISTS MANITOBA ACTIVITIES:	Professional Engineer of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 2014-present I have not previously held a formal committee, chapter, or volunteer position with Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba. I am interested in becoming more directly involved in the profession, and I view Council service as an opportunity to contribute my engineering, leadership, business, and community experience in a meaningful way.
OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:	I am completing a PhD in Biosystems engineering at the University of Manitoba. My research focuses on the practical use of computer vision, machine learning and agricultural data to improve crop production. Much of my work involves bringing together farmers, engineers, researchers, manufacturers and technology companies to develop solutions that can work under real agricultural conditions.
EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:	Alterra Innovation, Steinbach, MB, President and CEO, 2022-present AgriHub Inc., Winnipeg, MB, 2020-2022 – Director of Operations – Director of Supply Chain and GM Saskatchewan Hylife Foods – North America, Steinbach, MB, 2017-2020 – Director of Construction and Continuous Improvement – Director of Procurement – Senior Manager of Procurement WS Steel, Steinbach, MB, Engineering Manager and Lead Designer of Smart Seeder Max, 2013-2017 Canadian Forces Pilot, 2012-2013 Canadian Army Engineering Officer, 2009-2012 – 1st Royal Canadian Artillery Regiment – Maintenance Company – Kandahar, Afghanistan – Received Commander's Medallion for Outstanding Leadership

PLATFORM PART 1 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please tell us why you are interested in serving on Council and what you bring to the role.

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I was pleased to be asked to consider serving on Council because I believe professional engineers have an obligation to contribute beyond their individual areas of practice. Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba plays an important role in protecting the public, maintaining confidence in the profession and ensuring that regulation continues to reflect the environment in which engineers are working.

I would bring a broad range of engineering, leadership and operational experience to Council. I grew up on a farm in Manitoba, completed my mechanical engineering degree at the Royal Military College of Canada and served for 10 years as an engineering officer and pilot in the Canadian Armed Forces, including a deployment to Afghanistan. Since leaving the military, I have worked in agricultural equipment design and manufacturing, food production, procurement, supply chain, operations and technology development. I am currently the President and CEO of Alterra Innovation Group and I am completing a PhD in Biosystems Engineering at the University of Manitoba. I am passionate about agriculture and find myself most often working in the rural areas of Canada and the US in the provision of practical engineering expertise for the advancement of agriculture, in both low tech and high-tech capacities.

I am a veteran, a volunteer firefighter and a youth hockey coach. These experiences have taught me to listen carefully, consider different perspectives, make difficult decisions when required and remain accountable for the outcome. I believe I would bring a practical independent and systems-based perspective to Council.

PLATFORM PART 2 – 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 needs to remain focused on the fact that the Association exists first and foremost to serve and protect the people in Manitoba. That means Council must understand how engineering and geoscience affect the public, listen to a broad range of perspectives and ensure that its decisions are not driven only by the interests of the professions or individual members.

In practical terms, Council should establish clear expectations for professional conduct, competency, registration and accountability. It should ensure that complaints, investigations and disciplinary processes are fair, and timely and transparent. It should also regularly review whether its policies and regulatory processes are producing the intended results and communicate those results in a way that the public can understand.

Council should provide strategic direction and oversight without becoming involved in the day-to-day management of the Association. Its responsibility is to establish the expected outcomes, set appropriate limits and then hold the organization accountable using credible information. This is how Council can protect the public while maintaining confidence in the professions.

PLATFORM PART 3 – THE ASSOCIATION

Council sets the expectation for the Association through the Strategic Imperatives and Outcomes within the Strategic Plan. What is the most important Strategic Imperative and why?

In my view, the most important Strategic Imperative is modernizing the regulatory framework. Engineering is changing quickly through artificial intelligence, automation, new business models and increasing environmental and social expectations. Regulation must keep pace with these changes while continuing

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to protect the public. A modern framework should be clear, practical and flexible enough to support responsible innovation, professional mobility and consistent accountability.

PLATFORM PART 4 – THE COUNCIL

Council sets out the core characteristics of what it considers to be a good councillor in GP-6 Councillor Roles and Job Description. What is the most important characteristic of a good councillor and why?

I believe the most important characteristic is a commitment to serving the people of Manitoba. This keeps Council focused on public outcomes rather than individual interests or professional politics. A good councillor should actively seek out different perspectives, consider the long-term effects of decisions, exercise sound judgment and support the collective decisions of Council once those decisions have been made.