

Report of the President

With my term as 106th president winding down, I am reminded of the phrase, “The days are long, but the years are short”. The year has indeed flown by but was filled with numerous and exciting undertakings and challenges. I am therefore thankful for everyone that helped guide me in the role and helped me find my lane.

For the preparation of this report, I took some time to reflect on the past year and on the many matters that your Council dealt with. To that end, over the past year, the focus was not necessarily on growth but was centered around continued work on priorities established over the last couple of years, mainly: the modernization of our governing legislation through the Act Re-Write Project; continued advancement of our governance framework; and the evolution of policies and initiatives.

With respect to the governance framework, it meant the sunset of the “The Ends” with work being guided toward achievement of the Strategic Imperatives in accordance with the new Strategic Plan developed the previous year, including KPIs and balanced scorecard, management tools, as well as many other ongoing improvements.

The Act Modernization Project has progressed steadily over the past year and reached yet another important milestone in the last month with the passing of the drafting instructions, that will be put forth to provincial policy advisors with intent to introduce the new legislation in 2027. On this matter, I’d like to thank Council for their efforts over and above those of regular council meetings in continuing to advance this project, and all members that participated in the Act/Re-Act series of questions as well as the public forums. Your opinions and responses were important in advancing the Association’s priorities. As I mentioned in my acceptance speech last year, this is your Association and I believe that Council has an accountability to you.

I am pleased to report that your Association is healthy and functioning well thanks to the many checks and balances and the talented people involved. Membership levels are at an all-time high and our external auditors assure us that the Association is financially sound and compliant from a regulatory perspective even with the major projects under way. Additionally, public perception of our profession continues to be extremely positive.

As the President is elected by Council, and Councillors are elected by the members, this democratic foundation made it important to me to connect at both levels over my term. Connecting with Councillors, as individuals, on a personal level over lunch or coffee, to share their opinions of me and Council meant a great deal. Thank you for your feedback and sincerity. Most of your comments have been positive and I have tried to address the criticisms as well. Your input has been valuable and helped to identify actionable opportunities to continue learning, growing, and strengthening our working relationship. It was important to me to

connect with individual members by attending as many events as my work and personal schedules could allow such as the New Member Luncheons, AGMs of four chapters, the Making Links Engineering Golf Classic, liaising with ACEC Manitoba, as well as meeting over lunch or coffee with many of you. Strengthening the connection with members was also the main impetus for holding this year's Annual General Meeting in Brandon, MB.

In the national picture, over the year and a half that I have attended Engineers Canada meetings, I can report that there has been a greater incentive for regulators across Canada to work together by identifying common challenges and learning from each other's successes and shortfalls. While full harmonization is still off in the future, the collaboration and incremental improvements made along the way will significantly benefit engineers throughout the country.

Finally, as I pass the gavel to incoming President, Kaitlin Fritz, I want to thank CEO & Registrar Michael Gregoire, EngGeoMB's excellent staff, and our many dedicated volunteers. It has been a pleasure getting to meet and work with you. I'd like to thank the past presidents that I've consulted with for the valuable advice I've received over the past year and, of course, I want to thank all my fellow Council members and in particular Council's excellent appointed Councillors. Your unique areas of expertise help to round out Council's abilities and I'm sure that working with a room full of engineers and geoscientists could not have been easy. While I believe that engineering and geoscience are objective, merit-based fields, as engineers and geoscientists we do not work in a vacuum. Personal growth in our profession relies on a blend of both technical and soft skills. For this reason, I will fondly look back on my term as having been a great privilege, a challenge, and a tremendous learning experience. Thank you to everyone.

Mike Houvardas, P.Eng.
EngGeoMB President 2025-2026