

Ian Smallwood, P.Eng.

Candidate put forth by Self-Nomination

EDUCATION: B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 2003

ASSOCIATION
ACTIVITIES: Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 2009 to present
Voluntary attendance to Council meetings
History of observance and concern
Continuing professional development

OTHER
ENGINEERING/
GEOSCIENCE
ACTIVITIES: Professional Engineer, APEGA, 2016 to present
Member of ASHRAE

EMPLOYERS SINCE
GRADUATION: Nova 3 Engineering Ltd., Professional Engineer, 2008 to present
Loewen, Manufacturing Engineer, 2003 – 2008

QUESTIONS FROM
THE NOMINATING
COMMITTEE:

1) What is the most important issue facing the professions today? Why?

In my humble opinion, based on feedback from professional members and the general public, the most important issue facing our professions today is dealing with the erosion of belief in a good, working system of checks and balances that protects society from problems that may affect them. The public historically looked to us as professionals to ensure that the things they use every day actually are going to work to improve their standard of living, and certainly not harm them. As professionals, we need to know that clear, unbiased systems exist to ensure we can accomplish this noble task.

2) Why is self-regulation, and its associated responsibility important?

If our professions are able to prove to anyone who audits the process, that we have a fool-proof system in place that eliminates bias or ability to corrupt, then we are seen as worthy of self-regulation. Once we are even slightly perceived to allow the possibility of such bias or corruption, we become ineffective to self-regulate and further contribute to the most important issue facing our professions today as indicated in point one (1).

3) Why is diversity important to the professions?

Our professions should absolutely give opportunities for diverse groups of people to become part of our noble profession. There are many untapped areas of our society that may contain excellent engineers and geoscientists if the opportunity is available to them. However, we should never, ever, decrease the high standard of acceptable competency just to make accommodations for those in a

diverse group. It should not matter whether engineers/geoscientists are male, female, white, aboriginal, Canadian, or foreign-born – what is important is that we all meet the standards of excellence required by our professions.

4) What is the public's expectation of engineering and geosciences?

Similar to point one (1) above, the public seems to desperately want smart people to have figured stuff out so they can just go about their lives without worrying. Society has historically looked to our professions to do this. However, through news of engineering failures, alleged corruption in some jurisdictions, and seemingly a lack of accountability within our professions, we must expect the public's expectations of us to plummet. It's time for us to "right the ship" and, through public actions, get society to be confident in our competence again!