

Report of the President

As my term as the Association's 105th President comes to a close, I've taken time to reflect on what has been a meaningful and productive year for Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba. Our collective efforts have continued to strengthen the foundation of our organization and position us well for the future. This year, our focus mostly centered around three major priorities: continued advancement of our governance framework; development of our new strategic plan, and the ongoing work to modernize our governing legislation through the Act Re-Write Project.

Strengthening our Governance Framework

This year marked continued progress in strengthening governance at Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba. With support of Governance Solutions Inc., Council and its Committees refined existing policies and developed new policies and processes to ensure our governance model remains modern, effective, and accountable. Highlights include the creation of a Council competencies matrix, a Council evaluation framework, improvements to the nominating process, and a revamped CEO performance evaluation framework. These measures may not always be visible externally, but they are vital to maintaining confidence in our work and the integrity of our decision-making.

Strategic Plan Development

One of Council's key accomplishments this year was the creation of our new 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, which will guide the Association over the next several years. Developed through extensive consultation with members, Council, and staff – and facilitated by Governance Solutions Inc. – the plan reflects a renewed vision: that the public recognizes Engineers and Geoscientists as trusted professionals.

Our mission continues to emphasize setting, upholding, and promoting high professional standards in Engineering and Geoscience, and for the first time, we've formally articulated our organizational values – Trust, Integrity, Stewardship, Professionalism, Collaboration, and Equity. These values will serve as the ethical and cultural backbone of our work moving forward.

The plan identifies four key strategic imperatives including the enhancement of public recognition of the professions, modernization of our regulatory framework, advancement of equity and inclusion within our membership, and ensuring the sustainability of our operations. Each of these imperatives is accompanied by clear objectives, formally replacing the Association's previous "Ends" under the past Carver governance model. To support Council's oversight, consulting firm MNP has been engaged to develop a Balanced Scorecard, which will serve to provide Council with measurable indicators of the Association's progress on these strategic imperatives.

Act Re-Write Project

Finally, the most significant undertaking this year has been the continued advancement of our Act Re-Write Project. This initiative to modernize the legislation that governs our professions is being spearheaded by the Association's Government Relations team with support of external legal counsel Filmore Riley, and with the support of the Government Relations Advisory Committee (GRAC) serving an advisory role – Council is ultimately engaged by the Government Relations team for reviews and approvals at major project milestones. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Scott Sarna, Director of Government Relations, and consultant Eric Schillberg for their considerable efforts in continuing to advance this project.

Over the past year, the project has progressed steadily and reached an important milestone this summer, when senior provincial policy advisors confirmed the government's intent to introduce the new legislation in 2027; they encouraged the Association to take the necessary time to ensure that our Legislative Proposal (LP) is comprehensive before submission. Accordingly, the project schedule has been adjusted to present the draft LP to Council in January 2026, allowing time for additional development, review and consultation.

The LP contains a number of legislative objectives spanning a broad range of issues and topics. Among the legislative objectives I'm particularly interested in are those exploring the regulation of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, clarifying the Association's dual mandate to both regulate and advocate for our professions, and establishing practice management plans and audits, now common in several western provinces. Engagement efforts continue to expand – including renewed Indigenous consultations and coordination with other Manitoba regulators – to ensure consistency and collaboration across professions.

Overall, this progress represents a careful balance of diligence and momentum. The work accomplished this year has meaningfully advanced the Act Re-Write Project – a major project that will shape our professions for decades to come.

As I complete my term, I want to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow Council members, our dedicated volunteers, and our exceptional staff. Serving as President has been both a privilege and a learning experience – a reminder of the importance of collaboration, trust, and shared purpose in serving the public good. The progress made this year lays a strong foundation for the future, and I am confident that Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba will continue to thrive and evolve under the capable leadership of incoming President, Mike Houvardas.

Thank you!