

Panel Discussion: Limitation of Actions - Changing of Legislation

Limitation of Actions legislation for professional engineers varies across Canada's provinces and territories. As part of signing on to the New West Partnership Trade Agreement, Manitoba has committed to removing barriers to trade between the accord's partnering provinces, and variations in practice legislation applying to professional engineers has been proposed as a possible barrier.

The aim of this Government Relations Panel Discussion is to engage stakeholders in and gauge feedback surrounding pursuing changes to Manitoba's Limitation of Actions Act. The Limitation of Actions Act, other provincial and territorial limitation of actions Acts, possible changes to the Act, the act change process, and past attempts at changing limitation of actions will be discussed. The panel discussion will be hosted by the Association's Director of Government Relations and will feature a panel of experts from various industries with connections to different levels of government.

Panel: James Blatz, P.Eng. FEC, Michael Gregoire, P.Eng. FEC, Allan Silk, P.Eng. FEC, and moderated by C. Scott Sarna.



Dr. James Blatz, P.Eng. FEC, obtained his B.Sc. (1996) and PhD (2000) in Civil Engineering from the University of Manitoba and completed an NSERC Post-Doctoral award at the GeoEngineering Centre at Queen's-RMC. He joined the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Manitoba in 2001 and served as the Associate Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and also served as Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Programs) in the Faculty of Engineering prior to his current appointment as the Associate Vice-President (Partnerships) at the University of Manitoba. His research as a Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering focusses in the areas of risk management for civil engineering infrastructure and technical aspects of temporary and permanent flood protection works. James is also the founding President of TREK Geotechnical, a consulting engineering services firm located in Winnipeg with over 20 employees that provides geotechnical consulting services in Western Canada.



Michael Gregoire, P.Eng. FEC, is the Director of Professional Standards at Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, where he has been working for approximately 10 years. Prior to joining Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, Mike worked in consulting engineering for five years with a focus on structures and building envelope design and remediation, marrying his academic background in engineering with his undergraduate from the Faculty of Architecture. In the spring of 2017, Mike completed his MBA with a focus on Leadership and Corporate Sustainability.

As Director of Professional Standards, Mike's role includes development of practice standards and guidelines, legislation, investigations of complaints against practitioners, the continuing competency program, and compliance with the Engineering and Geoscientific Professions Act.



Allan Silk, P. Eng. FEC, graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering. For most of his career, Allan has specialized in operational planning at Manitoba Hydro. During his career, Allan has participated in and led many inter-utility taskforces and committees investigating transmission capability. Allan also has worked on international projects for Manitoba Hydro International in Guatemala, Saudi Arabia, and Tajikistan.

Allan is a professional engineer in the Province of Manitoba. In November 2004 he commenced a one year term as President of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba. In 2008, Allan was awarded a Fellowship from Engineers Canada. Allan is a member of IEEE.



C. Scott Sarna is an accomplished leader and consultant, specializing in business and politics. He was born in Winnipeg and has lived in Canada, Australia, and the United States. His political background started as a co-campaign manager and brought him to his role today as Director of Government Relations at Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba. In 2010, he ran as a candidate for Member of Parliament. He has been a business consultant and business leader for his entire career, in addition to being the CEO of Royal Sire Ltd.