

## Incoming President's Address

Donald D.J. Himbeault, P.Eng.

It is an honour to begin my term as President of your association and I look forward to having very active and enjoyable year.

I have served on your council under three very capable presidents, Dr. Digvir Jayas, Robyn Taylor, and most recently Tim Corkery and I hope to meet the high standards they set for the position.

I'll start by saying just a few words about myself;

- Born and raised in Winnipeg
- U of Manitoba Graduate in Mechanical Engineering, then to Waterloo for my Ph.D.
- First job with National Defence Research Establishment, Valcartier
- Then Atomic Energy of Canada, Whiteshell Laboratories
- Revenue Canada, and now Deloitte
- Married with two sons, studying physics and computer science.

The end of my term will mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association. You would think that after all that time, the regulation of our profession would have reached a level a maturity that it could run by itself, and that the President's job would be sit back and enjoy the ride. I can say from observation that much of functions of the Association runs like a well oiled machine, and this through the excellent attention and efforts of the Association staff. However, as in all things, change is all around us, like with my mutual fund portfolio, requires continually adjusting our course of action.

Some of the changes or issues that I foresee, many of which that Tim is gladly passing off to me, include.

- The development of regulations under the Fair Access to Regulated Professions act – as the newly/to be appointed fairness commissioner writes the rule book for this act that has the power to supersede ours, it will be important to see that these regulations are things we can live with.
- Labour mobility under the Agreement on Interprovincial Trade (AIT) – what will happen to our not-withstanding clause, or due diligence clause, which allows us to assure the public is protected by reserving the right to investigate individuals where concerns are identified? (As has been noted earlier) use of the clause is in no way widespread, having been used in less than 1% of mobility cases across Canada.

- Government relations - It will be important to keep the lines of communication open between the Government and our association. In this way, we can have a better influence on the content of new legislation or regulations while they are in concept or drafting stage.
- Continuing professional development- While the PD reporting requirements vary considerably across the different Canadian jurisdictions, many are looking to introduce systems to make these more accountable to the public. In Manitoba we should be looking at our system order to not be left behind.
- Technicians and technologists – while not a pressing issue in Manitoba at the moment, the way in which Technologists are recognized within the regulation of the profession is receiving a lot of attention in some of the other provinces. There will undoubtedly be lessons to be learned by observing how Technicians and Technologists are treated within the Associations in the other provinces.
- Coordinating and aligning our processes with other provincial jurisdictions – Driven by the greater need mobility, there is a general willingness, albeit long term one, among all the Canadian regulators to have one basic model for licensure and regulation across the country. While starting out under one act nearly 100 years ago, many differences have evolved among the different provinces that can raise issues when members look to be licensed in other provinces.

Thus, exciting times lay ahead. I welcome the new councillors that were declared today, and I look forward to working with them and the returning councillors in this new term.

Thank You.