

Cheryl Lashek, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Council

EDUCATION:	B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 2002
ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:	Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, registered 2006 Committee for Increasing Participation of Women in Engineering (CIPWIE), 2016 30 by 30 mentor, 2015
OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:	Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), 2017 Volunteer at elementary schools to educate students about engineering during STEM curriculum Participation on National committees that work to harmonize code requirements across Canadian Jurisdictions, with a focus on public safety
EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:	Office of the Fire Commissioner (Province of Manitoba), Director of Inspection and Technical Services, 2011-present Workplace Safety and Health (Province of Manitoba), 2008-2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director of Engineering, Ergonomics and Hygiene• Engineer Standard Aero, Service Engineer and Configuration Control, 2002-2008

PLATFORM PART 1 - THE PUBLIC OF MANITOBA

The Association governs and regulates the professions in the public interest. What is, or what should, Council be doing to ensure that its governance is in the public interest and why?

In my opinion Council should focus on encouraging involvement of professionals on committees that are responsible for writing codes and standards. By acting as voting members on technical code development committees, such as CSA, ASME, ANSI, and other national code and standards, professionals have a direct impact and influence for what is contained, defined, and required.

Often code committee members are heavily weighted in larger provinces, often where there are different climate conditions (i.e. dramatic variations in conditions, or extreme cold weather conditions), lending Manitoban professionals to be bound to specific codes that may not be particularly the best solution for the ultimate safety of the Manitoban population.

Having a bigger voice at the ground level (code development), and using Council as a platform to help professionals gain awareness and access to be members on these technical committees, will build a more relevant base for requirements that take account directly the conditions specific, or potentially unique to Manitoba.

The result would be an increased awareness by professionals of code changes, and less potential for disparity or variances from codes and standards, making safety of the public a top priority.

PLATFORM PART 2 - THE ASSOCIATION

Council sets the expectation for the Association by defining the Ends. What is, or should be, the most important End and why?

In my opinion the most important End is “Stakeholders understand and value the contribution of the professions”.

The reason for this is that in my experience as working as a government regulator, there are several significant factors that come into play when involving engineers with the installation or design of (specifically) mechanical equipment.

The first is that often regulation, and policies that drive the implementation of codes and standards by government agencies are often developed without sufficient consultation, if any from professionals. This results in differences in interpretation, incomplete understanding between written code and what is experienced in the “real world” with respect to what can actually be achieved or complied to.

The interaction between different disciplines such as engineers and architects can conflict with each other, even though they are both required to comply to the same regulations, codes and standards (i.e. National Building Codes - each discipline is often only focused or readily aware of what their particular discipline and is ignorant to the implications that they may impose to the other. An example of this is when dealing with the distance to combustibles for installation of a gas fired appliance and the size of the space designed to install or vent the appliance). Often phrases like “must comply with all building codes/gas installation codes etc.” are found on drawings, wherein they cannot be reasonably met, given the reality of the situation, resulting in professionals having to devise alternate methods (often to no avail, or at significant expense) to find a safe alternative.

It is my opinion that the lack of consultation with professionals with stakeholders and potentially the lack of understanding by professionals of other disciplines that may need to be involved, results in requirements for unnecessary design, which can often be interpreted, and subsequently rejected by a regulatory authority because the original intent of a code article appears to be circumvented for financial reasons, and not for proper engineering rationale.

Involving the professional community with the development of enforcement policy and regulation may help to reduce these types of discrepancies.

Speaking from first-hand experience in this area, when the professions are not involved in contributing to the development of regulatory items, it results in the inspectors representing the government agency to often “question” the validity of professional designs. I truly believe that this is a direct result of both parties not clearly understanding their individual roles of professionals and regulators.

It is in the best interest of both professionals and regulators to be involved and highly connected so that we can reach the point where all professional designs etc. are accepted without hesitation by regulators, essentially leading to Government and regulators understanding and supporting self-regulation of the profession.

PLATFORM PART 3 - THE COUNCIL

Council sets out the core characteristics of what it considers to be a good councillor in Clause 1 of GP-6. What is, or should be, the most important characteristic of a good councillor and why?

In my opinion I consider “Enthusiasm and Commitment to serve the Council” the most important characteristic defining a good councillor.

The critically fundamental word in this characteristic for me is “Enthusiasm”. In my opinion it is easy to make a commitment to attend meetings or perform a task. However, to have the enthusiasm to serve the Council shows willingness, and desire. In my opinion a Council full of enthusiastic councillors only motivates and encourages other Council members to actively participate and serve at the highest functioning level.

PLATFORM PART 4 - THE CANDIDATE

Please provide any additional information you would like as to why you would make a good councillor.

I am the mom of two daughters and believe in encouraging the awareness of engineering for young girls and women. They also love telling their friends that their mom is an engineer and that her name is in all the elevators! To me this shows a sense of pride, which I would love to be able to share with all young women that are considering a career in science and engineering.

My decision to pursue a career in engineering began in grade seven when a young female engineer attended my science class and literally blew my mind that “girls could be engineers”. Because of her influence on me, I take every opportunity I can to try and share the same passion that she had, in hopes that I can also encourage more young women to pursue a career in engineering.

On a more professional level, as the current Director of Inspections and Technical Services with the Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner, I deal on a day-to-day basis with regulations, codes and standards as an authority over the safe installation of mechanical equipment in the province of Manitoba.

On a daily basis I work with professionals, installers, inspectors, code developers, and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure the compliance to published codes and standards governing the safe installation of mechanical equipment. These tasks have allowed me to develop extensive first-hand experience with what the challenges are between designs, and actual installations.

I am hoping to use my position as the Director, and hopefully as a member of Council to strengthen both sides of the equation to remove or clarify differences in interpretation, and change (whether to loosen or tighten) regulation to ensure that all mechanical equipment is designed and installed in a manor to safeguard the public.

I feel that I have the necessary expertise in the engineering field, understanding of the dynamic between professionals and regulators, the knowledge and ability to employ significant change to increase safety of mechanical equipment with respect to regulation, codes and standards for both design and installation. And the enthusiasm to participate as an active and influential member of Council. I truly believe that if you love what you do, you’ll never “work” a day in your life!