

## 2021 COUNCIL ELECTION PLATFORM

### Daniel Asrat Balcha, P.Eng.

Candidate nominated by Council

- EDUCATION:** PhD Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 2014  
MSc Mechanical Engineering, University of Manitoba, 2010  
BSME, University of Minnesota, USA, 2005  
BSc Double Major, Applied Mathematics and Physics, University of Winnipeg, 2004
- ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES:** Professional Engineer, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 2013-present  
Ethio-Eritrean Members Chapter, Advisory Board member, 2019-2020  
EngGeoMB-CTTAM Joint Board member, 2017-present
- OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:** Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering (CSME) member  
American Society of Engineers (ASME) member  
Canadian Standard Association (CSA): Fuels and Appliances Technical Committee member  
CSA Technical Subcommittee for Gas Operated Agricultural Equipment member  
CSA Propane Autogas Technical Committee member  
Interprovincial Gas Advisory Council (IGAC) member/Vice Chair
- EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:** Government of Manitoba:  
  - Municipal Relations Safety and Technical Engineer, 2020-present
  - Growth, Enterprise, and Trade, 2016-2020
  - Labor and Immigration, 2014-2016NSCC-Nautical Institute-Marine Engineering Department, Faculty, 2013-2014  
University of Manitoba:  
  - Research Associate, 2009-2013
  - Research Assistant, 2007-2009

### 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?**

The Council ensures the public that those engaged in professional activities affecting their lives are competent to do so. The reason for this is that the public should be able to be confident that qualified and ethically accountable professionals make engineering decisions affecting their lives.

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### **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?**

The expectation of the Ends for the Association is to make sure legislators and the public understand the value of professional engineers, encourage professionals to continue their professional development throughout their careers, and keep current in their specialty fields by engaging in professional and ethical practice. It is critical that the Association reinforces the trust that society has in the expertise and professionalism of professional engineers. In order to achieve this goal, the Association is required to set the education standards for engineering programs that provide the underpinning knowledge and understanding required to practise engineering. Setting standards for professional development in collaboration with the professional engineering community, the Association needs to continue to ensure that those who become professionally registered are not only competent and committed to the profession, but are able to work in an ethical, sustainable, and safe manner. The Association also responsible for ensuring that no barriers exist for anyone appropriately qualified to become professionally registered and promoting diversity and inclusion policies and practices across 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?**

The most important characteristic of a good councilor should be the commitment to linking with the legal and moral ownership that requires understanding of Council's collective stewardship for the organization comprised of diverse people. This is an important characteristic, because in order for the decision-making of the Council to be ethical, due consideration must be given to all members – as a whole – not as individuals. By connecting with the ownership, the Council is able to determine what business the Association is in to actively seek to access and understand that diversity, promote diversity, broadly defined by modeling equity and inclusion through its policies and practises.

### **PLATFORM PART 4 – THE CANDIDATE**

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

I work as a technical and safety engineer with a focus to safeguard both persons and property from fire and life safety hazards. This is accomplished through education, investigation, emergency response and code application, all of which heavily depend on engineering science. This real-life application of engineering practice allows me to be a good councillor who can inform our members and society-at-large of how the engineering profession affects their lives, study, and work, and to support the society's advocacy and members' engagement of policymakers at all levels. As a councillor of global experience, I can contribute to the Association's effort to expand its membership base, promote member engagement, celebrate the rich diversity and breadth of its membership, gather member input, serve member needs, and connect members to each other and the broader communities of stakeholders,

As an internationally educated engineer, I have witnessed the Association come a long way toward valuing foreign credentials. However, we are not there yet in giving the deserved recognition to such sought engineering skills brought to the province. As a councillor, I would like to contribute to the

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Association by embracing business improvement techniques to ensure all registration processes remain efficient and easy to understand. In addition, I would like to be a voice to the next generation of internationally educated engineers to have diversity and inclusion policies and practices of accepting foreign credentials and experiences in place. It is my strong belief that by streamlining the processes and reducing persistent information gaps, we can create a more inclusive economy and society for Canada. At the same time, it is possible to ensure all practising engineers in the province of Manitoba are held to exacting educational, experiential, and ethical standards, with licensure only granted to those who meet or exceed those standards.