

2026 COUNCIL ELECTION PLATFORM

Vaibhav Banthia, P.Eng., FEC

Candidate nominated by Council

EDUCATION:	BEng Civil Engineering, University of Pune, India, 1997 MSc Civil Engineering, University of Manitoba, May 28, 2003, Winnipeg, Canada
ENGINEERS GEOSCIENTISTS MANITOBA ACTIVITIES:	Professional Engineer of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, 2004-present India Members Chapter, founding member, advisor, Chair (2017-2019), 2016-2026 Awards Committee, member, Chair (2025-present), 2021-present Engineer-in Residence Program, member, 2022-present Council, 2018-2020 Audit Committee, member, 2019-2020 Ownership Linkage Committee, member, 2018-2019 By-law Re-write Task Group, member, 2018-2019 Academic Review Committee, member, 2014-2018
OTHER ENGINEERING/ GEOSCIENCE ACTIVITIES:	Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, 2011-present – Regional Vice President, Prairies, 2019-2023: - Webinar Task Force/Tech Talk Webinar Coordinating Committee - Membership Committee - Finance Committee - CSCE Executive Director Taskforce - Section and Region Revenue Taskforce - Successful bid for 2025 CSCE Annual Conference in Winnipeg - Technical Chair of 2025 CSCE Annual Conference in Winnipeg – Manitoba Section Executive, 2011-2017: - Served as Chair from 2015-2017 - Secretary from 2011-2015 - Serving as Advisor since 2022 Association of Consulting Engineering Companies, Manitoba – Judging Committee, 2023-present – Mentorship program, 2013-2015 – Image Committee, Speaker's Bureau Coordinator, 2013-2015 Project Management Institute, Manitoba, Projects for Social Good Committee, 2022-present Hindu Society of Manitoba, 2019-present – Ellice Temple Renovation Committee – Hindu Seniors Residential Complex Planning Committee

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EMPLOYERS SINCE GRADUATION:	Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, Winnipeg, MB, Director - Bridges and Highway Structures, 2023-present City of Winnipeg, MB, Bridge Projects Engineer, 2016-2023 Tetra Tech, Winnipeg, MB, Senior Structural Engineer and Project Manager, 2002-2016 University of Manitoba, Research and Teaching Assistant, 2000-2002 T.M.Ghate and Associates, Raipur, India, Junior Structural Engineer, 1997-1999
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PLATFORM PART 1 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please tell us why you are interested in serving on Council and what you bring to the role.

I bring nearly 30 years of professional experience across consulting, municipal, and provincial government roles, with a strong focus on public safety, infrastructure stewardship, and accountable decision-making. In my current role as Director of Bridges and Highway Structures with Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, I lead complex, high-risk programs that require sound governance, ethical judgment, and alignment with legislative and public-interest obligations, experience that directly supports the responsibilities of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Council. I am committed to service to the profession and have been actively involved with Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba and its India Members Chapter, supporting member engagement, inclusion, and mentorship initiatives. Through this work, I have developed a strong appreciation for Council's role in protecting the public, upholding professional standards, and maintaining trust in the profession. I bring a governance-focused mindset, informed by senior leadership experience, that emphasizes risk-based thinking, policy interpretation, and respectful, constructive oversight. I am particularly passionate about mentorship, early-career development, and supporting internationally educated and under-represented professionals. I believe a diverse, inclusive, and well-supported membership is essential to the long-term strength and relevance of the professions. I would be honoured to contribute my experience, judgment, and commitment to Council in service of both the public and the profession.

PLATFORM PART 2 – 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 primary responsibility of Council is to protect the public interest, and effective governance is essential to achieving that mandate. In my view, Council must do this by maintaining strong oversight of the regulatory framework, making risk-informed decisions, and ensuring that professional standards, ethics, and competence remain relevant as societal expectations evolve. Based on my experience leading large, safety-critical infrastructure programs, good governance starts with clarity of purpose. Council should consistently anchor its decisions in public safety, ethical practice, and trust, even when those decisions may be difficult or unpopular. This requires a strong understanding of risk, both technical and reputational, and a willingness to take a long-term view rather than responding reactively to short-term pressures. Council also plays a critical role in ensuring financial and organizational sustainability. Sound financial oversight supports effective regulation, disciplined use of member funds, and transparency, all of which are essential to public confidence. Similarly, clear governance structures, defined roles, and respectful management oversight enable Council to focus on strategy rather than operations. Finally,

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Council should actively foster an inclusive, competent, and future-ready profession. From my people-leadership and mentorship experience, I believe governance in the public interest includes supporting professional development, fairness in licensure and discipline processes, and thoughtful engagement with diverse member perspectives. When professionals are well supported, well regulated, and held to clear standards, the public is best served.

PLATFORM PART 3 – THE ASSOCIATION

Council sets the expectation for the Association through the Strategic Imperatives and Outcomes within the Strategic Plan. What is the most important Strategic Imperative and why?

In my view, the most important Strategic Imperative in the 2025–2029 Strategic Plan is the modernization of the Association's regulatory framework, because public trust is built and sustained through credible, effective regulation. The public's confidence in engineers and geoscientists depends on knowing that professionals are regulated to high, current standards and held accountable through fair, transparent, and well-governed systems. Modern regulatory frameworks demonstrate that the Association is proactive in protecting public safety, responding to emerging risks, and adapting to changing technical, environmental, and societal expectations. From my experience leading safety-critical infrastructure programs, trust is essential and easily eroded if oversight is perceived as outdated, inconsistent, or opaque. Regulatory systems that are clear, risk-informed, and defensible strengthen confidence not only in individual practitioners, but in the profession as a whole. Modernizing regulation also enables other strategic imperatives, such as enhancing public recognition and advancing equity and inclusion by ensuring processes are accessible, fair, and credible. For these reasons, regulatory modernization is foundational to maintaining public trust and fulfilling the Association's mandate.

PLATFORM PART 4 – THE COUNCIL

Council sets out the core characteristics of what it considers to be a good councillor in GP-6 Councillor Roles and Job Description. What is the most important characteristic of a good councillor and why?

In my view, the most important characteristic of a good councillor is the commitment to linking with legal and moral ownership. This characteristic is foundational because Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba exists to govern and regulate the professions in the public interest, and Council's ultimate responsibility is to the people of Manitoba and not to individual members or sectors. This commitment requires councillors to act as stewards of the organization, understand the diversity of the public and professional community, and consistently exercise fiduciary responsibility. From my experience in senior public-sector leadership, effective governance depends on maintaining this clear line of accountability, particularly when decisions are complex, contentious, or carry long-term consequences. Without a strong ownership lens, there is a risk that governance drifts toward advocacy or operational management, rather than principled oversight. Linking with the legal and moral ownership also reinforces public trust. When Council decisions are transparently grounded in public interest, they enhance confidence in both the regulatory system and the professions themselves. For this reason, I believe this characteristic underpins all others and is the cornerstone of effective Council service.