

BOARD CANDIDATE (3 to be elected)



Michelle Mahovlich, P.Eng., P.Geo. | Langford, BC

I am the current Vice-Chair of the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Board. If elected I plan to put my name forward to become Board Chair.

As a dual licensed professional, I have experience in engineering and geoscientists realms having worked in the private and public sectors and now as a sole proprietor.

Our human resources can be our greatest asset. Encouraging our young professionals is important to me.

I was on the Board reviewing the current Engineers and Geoscientists BC Strategic Plan and recognized that risk management is a key component of it.

Board members must be financially literate. I understand budget to actuals and financial projections.

As a former municipal employee and an elected City Councillor, I am well versed in governance. As Vice Chair of the Board, I have enhanced my applicable governance experience.

I have the time to give to the role of a Board member and would be honoured to serve our diverse membership.

EDUCATION

MEng (Geological Engineering), University of British Columbia, 1994
BSc (Geology, Minor in Biology), McMaster University, 1991

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Self Employed, 2023–present
Director of Engineering & Public Works, Langford, 2012–2023
Deputy Director of Engineering, Langford, 2009–2012
Land Development Manager, Three Point Properties, 2006–2009
Senior Project Manager, SLR (Environmental) Consulting, 2004–2006

ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS BC ACTIVITIES

Vice Chair, Engineers and Geoscientists BC Board 2022–2023
Chair, Engineers and Geoscientists BC Governance Sub-committee, 2021–2022
Engineers and Geoscientists BC Audit Committee, 2020–2021
Vice Chair, Investigation Committee, 2019–2020 (Member, 2018–2020)
Mentor, 2019–present
Treasurer, Municipal Engineers Division, 2019–2020
Champion, 30 by 30 Group, 2018–present
MED Stream Coordinator, Annual Conference, 2019 and 2020

RELATED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Board Member, VI Construction Association, 2016–2019
Member, Public Advisory Committee Lake Cowichan Water Use Plan, 2018
Member, District of Highlands Groundwater Task Force Committee, 2008–2012

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Board Member – UVic Inspire STEM for Social Impact, 2022–present
Sorooptimist International 2019–present
Establishment of the 30 by 30 Women in Engineering Award, University of Victoria, 2019
Gaming and Floor Allocator, JDF Lacrosse, 2016–2018
Field and Facilities Manager, JDF Soccer Club, 2009–2012
Coach, JDF Soccer Club, 2003–2011
Elected City Councillor, District of Highlands, 2005–2008
CRD Committees: Environment, Parks, & Family Court Youth Matters, 2005–2008

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Fellow, Canadian Society of Senior Engineers, 2022

National Philanthropy Giving Hearts Award (Fundraising Category), 2021

Environment Award, Engineers and Geoscientists BC, 2007 (team)

Mine Reclamation Award, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, 2007 (team)

Canadian Urban Institute/National Brownfield Association Remediation Award, 2007 (team)

Q&A WITH CANDIDATES

Engineers and Geoscientists BC is the regulatory authority charged with protecting the public interest with respect to the practice of engineering and geoscience in the province of BC. What is the key challenge facing the organization?

One of the key challenges we face as a regulatory body will be functioning within the realm of the Professional Governance Act (PGA). While Engineers and Geoscientists BC is likely the most sophisticated organization to be included in the PGA, it will be important for our organization to remain engaged in the PGA process, continue to move forward in good faith, all while maintaining our identity as registrants of Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

As we work toward establishing the Regulations that will enable the new Act, I anticipate that we will continue to be the leading regulator in this process. Protecting the public's interest shall always remain key to our regulatory body and is something that we must continue to enable through the Regulations under the PGA and in our Best Engineering and Geoscience Practices.

Staffing our operations at the Engineers and Geoscientists BC office will be important to be able to address the requirements of the new PGA. This will include the Chair and Board working directly with the CEO to ensure that there are sufficient human resources, hard resources such as working space and tools and the budget to properly manage our responsibilities.

What are the key issues facing the engineering and/or geoscience professions?

A key issue that I have experienced throughout my career is the challenge that professionals have convincing clients that our work is necessary for the protection of the public interest and the environment while at the same time convincing them that there must be sufficient budget allocated for these services.

This will continue to be a challenge as our economy is now in flux with the recent COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the aftereffects of spending our way out of the pandemic, climate change, war, supply chain challenges, housing challenges and a fluctuating economy.

As professionals our expertise will continue to be sought after, however we must also be able to morph our expertise even more now toward the social engineering aspects of our work in these challenging times.

Educating the public, new graduates and stakeholders regarding our collective roles will continue to be a challenge.

Artificial intelligence is emerging at the forefront of regulatory concerns. Engineers and Geoscientists BC must be alert to the risk of AI to our organization and its registrants.

Strategizing in a changing environment will be key. We must remain constantly agile.

Looking five years ahead, what is your vision for Engineers and Geoscientists BC as a professional regulatory body in BC?

Then next five years will see lots of change. Change as we embrace the PGA and change as we grapple with climate change in an era of aging infrastructure and continued population growth.

Climate change will continue to steadily challenge our thought processes and our resources. Engineers and Geoscientists BC's Climate Change Action Plan is a key part of our registrants educating themselves and the public. For our registrants to effectively manage climate risk in our professional practice we will need to stay very well informed.

Engineers and Geoscientists BC is viewed as a regulatory leader in Canada with respect to practice guidelines, programs, and resources. We must continue to uphold our professionalism in this regard, budget to continue to provide professional practice resources and appropriate staffing levels.

As a professional regulatory body, I envision Engineers and Geoscientists BC to continue as a leader in the country as a regulatory body.

As a regulator we must continue to be fluid and engaged in this process.

For the Board to achieve its goals and meet its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board has identified the need for diverse voices on the Board, with a blend of the following skills and competences: leadership, financial literacy, risk management, human resources, strategy, regulatory understanding, governance and technical proficiency. Please highlight the areas of strength you bring to the role.

I bring a blend of experience in most of the skills and competencies required for the Board to meet its goals. I was the Director of the Engineering and Public Works department for the City of Langford for the past 11 years, leading a diverse team of employees and contractors with the largest capital and operating budget in the City.

I managed several diverse construction projects as well as the City's road maintenance and operations budgets. Each capital project had its own set of technical, financial, and regulatory challenges.

As both a former elected City Councillor and a municipal employee I have gained good experience in governance and regulatory understanding from both sides of the proverbial table. This has continued over the last three years of my term on the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Board.

In my former role at Langford, I strived to plan prudent and fiscal responsibility for the City developing both short term and long term plans for both human resources and tangible assets. This mimics the planning we do at Engineers and Geoscientists BC and is therefore very applicable to the role as a Board member.

Over the last year as I have served the Board as Vice Chair I have become more proficient in risks specifically as they apply to Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have had a diverse career that has crossed over into the fields of engineering and geoscience in addition to working very closely with the other disciplines that are now part of the PGA.