

## Council Candidate Questions

1. The need for qualified, knowledgeable and registered professionals to assess and make recommendations with regards to Alberta's most precious resource, the very land itself, is evident in the news headlines. Whether it is stories regarding our resources in the oil and gas sector or the impact that intensive livestock and food safety can have, the public of Alberta are demanding that the government ensure that those involved are held accountable. It is the job of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists to ensure that those practicing Agrology are held to acceptable standards of education and competency.
  
2. a) Having sat on council for three years now my eyes have been opened wide regarding the diversity of our institute both provincially as well as at a national front. Part of the challenge is to understand that we all have at some core point in our practice of Agrology is a "love of the land". Everything that an Agrologist does at some point relates directly or indirectly to this core value. Keeping this in mind has helped my immensely in challenges related to the diversity of Agrology. I have often said in council meetings that "we all play in the same dirt".  
  
b) While representing at council our job is to lead the institute with all Albertans in mind. This can be exceedingly difficult as many of us interact in our professional lives with the Public that are either registered members or directly aware of what members of the institute do. To try to gauge the diverse opinions of Albertans I try to look to the media to see what makes the headlines. When issues related to Agrology are present in the media this is a reflection of the interests of the "Public". I may not always agree with the representation that we receive in the media but it does provide a temperature of the public so to speak.  
  
c) It is very important to understand the role that we play in advocacy of the profession. When we disagree with the public perception it is our job to educate the public and to ensure that they have the correct information. In my experience sitting on council as well as involvement with other organizations it is important to listen to public perception and to understand that it is what it is, not disregard it because we believe that it is based on misinformation. We must work with public perception not against it.
  
3. a) Both on council and through my work I have had to focus on the "bigger picture". I try to approach much of what I do in life from that perspective and work my way down as it applies. With regards to the AIA, it is so important to think about the organization 5, 10, 25 years out. I think back to many of the more common professions and draw comparisons to what it would have been like for them when mandatory registrations were enacted as well as what life was like before their professional body ensured that the public was protected from practitioners. Many of us likely have had a grandparent or a great-grandparent get medical advice or treatment from individuals who did not have a medical license, none of us would even consider it today. I believe that one day the idea of getting advice from someone who is not a registered member will have the same mental connotations as having a tooth pulled by a vet. Not even imaginable.  
  
b) The strength in council is the diversity of the group. It is imperative to the process that all of the individuals at council share their opinions based on their experience and background. I am a confident individual who understands that although not all may not agree with my opinions, that they are important to the process itself. I am willing to share my thoughts and opinions with the group and am not afraid to say "I don't know, show me, explain to me etc". It's what makes council work.
  
4. a) Monitoring through the governance process has made me better at conducting performance reviews as well as holding those conversations with my own superiors. The governance process when implicated as intended leaves no room for questioning the performance of your CEO. Either council requests more information from the CEO or else council is charged with developing a

policy to ensure that the CEO's interpretation will be acceptable to council. It works and is a great approach.

b) My experience with the Governance process would help enhance future councils. Having had the opportunity to have training with Policy Governance on 4 occasions I am well versed in how this process can enhance the job that council has to do.

5 a) the opportunity to deliberate within a diverse group has presented itself many times in my career. It is so important to listen to the perspective and opinions of the group as individuals so that the opinion of the group can find strength in the process. We have been gifted with two ears and one mouth this is a ratio that we should use in life. Listen twice as much as we speak.

b) They would say that I am a natural leader. I have been elected chair of council twice and I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to guide council deliberations. I would be described as forthwith and fair.