

# PEGO Election Survey Questions

## Preamble to the Professional Engineers Government of Ontario (PEGO) Election Survey:

PEGO represents approximately 575 members of the Ontario Public Service that are employed as professional engineers and about 25 Ontario Land Surveyors. PEGO members are comprehensively involved in the design, operation and maintenance of Ontario highway infrastructure; ensuring safe drinking water, work-places and food; environmental protection and resource extraction; fire safety and the Ontario building code.

The intent of this survey is to inform PEGO members with responses from each political party to the following questions as members consider their choices in the upcoming Ontario provincial election in June 2018. PEGO may publish the results of the survey on its website, [www.pego.on.ca](http://www.pego.on.ca).

Although each question affords a Yes or No response, you may wish to elaborate on your responses. Also, feel free to contact us at the telephone number below or by emailing us at [pego@pego.on.ca](mailto:pego@pego.on.ca) if you wish to meet with representatives of PEGO.

**Fact:** Going into this election, there are only two licensed professional engineers sitting in the Legislature.

### **1. Do you believe it is important to have engineers in your caucus?**

**Fact:** Historically, more than 1,000 engineers were employed by the Government of Ontario. Over the last 20 years that number has gradually fallen to around 600 – despite the increasing complexity and volume of engineering work, especially with the expansion of public infrastructure.

### **2. Do you value the role of in-house engineers in the government's policy and planning processes?**

**Fact:** The Province's spending on its own in-house engineers is subject to a cap, but since 2003, the Ministry of Transportation's spending on external engineering consultants has quadrupled from \$85 to \$315 million.

### **3. Do you believe that the government's in-house engineering expertise can help reduce infrastructure costs and protect public safety?**

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Fact: On December 9, 2014, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk said this: “For 74 projects that were either completed or under way under Infrastructure Ontario, tangible costs, such as construction, finance and professional services, were estimated to be nearly \$8 billion higher under the Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) approach than they were estimated to have been if the projects had been delivered by the public sector.”

## **4. Would your party look to find efficiencies in the delivery of infrastructure projects?**

Fact: Under the AFP model, the government is increasingly dependent on outside contractors rather than its own engineers – who have a mandate to protect taxpayers. PEGO believes that the Province is overpaying for infrastructure because it does not have enough in-house engineers to oversee these contracts.

## **5. Would you support a review of the contracting model to determine the proper level of oversight to be provided by the government’s own engineers, aiming to improve safety and deliver better value for taxpayers?**

Fact: Ontario has a Chief Medical Officer of Health, Chief Science Officer and others protecting the public interest.

## **6. Would you support strengthening Ontario’s public safety regime with the addition of a Chief Engineering Officer to oversee and provide advice on engineering issues related to government and infrastructure?**

Fact: Governments in the US and Europe have teams of professional engineers that pro-actively audit complex industrial facilities – such as petroleum refineries – to improve public safety. For a modest \$5 million per year your government could create an authority with a mandate to reduce the risk of fires, explosions and accidents in Ontario.

## **7. Would you support the creation of an Ontario Public Safety Authority?**