



## STEPHANIE PESHEAU, C.E.T.

### Volunteer Bio

Being an active OACETT member has allowed me to contribute meaningfully; each roll strengthening my commitment to our Association and Members. I began as the Women in Technology Representative in 2019/2020 in the Thunder Bay Chapter, where I led the launch of the Women in Technology Social. The event continues to be a social staple, (100+ attendees) and has supported the partnership between the local OACETT and PEO Chapters.

In 2020, I became Vice Chair, and in 2021 I briefly served as Chair; leaving with Chapter support to volunteer as the Northern Regional IETO Representative on OACETT's Council.

During my time with IETO, I contributed to the Education and Exam subcommittee, with revising the OACETT eBook and updating the college course material to reflect the new governance model. Additionally, I have been teaching Professional Practice Law and Ethics at Confederation College since 2020, preparing students for the OACETT PPE exam, ensuring graduates are well equipped for this profession.

Currently, I serve as Northern Regional Director for the Board, and Chair of the Registration and Professional Practice Committee. The RPPC are championing many initiatives including simplifying the CPD program and will be launching the Asynchronous Professional Practice Exam Prep Course, which will be available to all colleges across the province for integration into all Engineering Technician and Technology programs, ensuring graduates are ready for certification.

I played an active role in the development of OACETT's 2025-2027 strategic plan, witnessing that Member and Chapter input is actively shaping our direction. My interest in community engagement led me to pursue the course "Community Engagement" at the University of Michigan to enhance my abilities to foster meaningful community connections and relationships. This has helped me develop insights into listening actively to diverse perspectives and will guide my leadership to ensure collaboration.

Through my volunteer work, I've developed strong conflict management skills, understanding that diverse perspectives often lead to innovative solutions. I prioritize being accessible to members, offering support on education, certification, and professional practice matters, while actively listening to their feedback.

In addition to my OACETT involvement, I serve as a Director on the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Board, and chair Thunder Bay's Young Professionals Taskforce. With separate diplomas in Strategic Management and Project Management, coupled with a "Management in Engineering" course from MIT, I bring a broad skill set to my volunteer roles and remain dedicated to fostering OACETT's growth and success.

### **What key issues will you champion during your 6-year term as President-Elect, President and then Past-President, and how do you intend to address them?**

Throughout my six-year leadership commitment to our Members, I will champion initiatives aligned with OACETT's strategic plan while maintaining a member-first approach that prioritizes engagement, adaptability, and relevance in our profession.

My leadership approach will focus on championing members' voices, encouraging and adapting to feedback. Being an adaptive leader is one of my strengths; a critical skill as the membership considers decisions around potential changes to designations/titles and our Associations name. Members need more information. I will stand firm in supporting the Membership's decisions regardless of outcome and foster transparency throughout the process. If

Members signal a change in direction, I will prioritize responsiveness and collaboration, ensuring OACETT evolves in alignment with the vision of our Members.

Transparency builds trust. I would press that Regional Directors receive uniform speaking notes and be re-invited to participate in regional meetings. While these meetings should continue to be led by the MESC Representatives, Regional Directors should again be included to provide updates on behalf of the Board and listen to regional Members' concerns. After all, Regional Directors are elected to represent their respective regions with the regional MESC Representatives.

Enhancing recognition of OACETT Members is critical to reinforcing our value as professionals. I will work to expand our advocacy efforts with industry partners, government, and the public to elevate the visibility of our certifications and ensure members are recognized as professionals and industry leaders.

Membership growth and retention will remain a key priority. Streamlining the certification process, to make it as efficient and accessible as possible for new and existing members, while maintaining high standards will be an important step in this initiative. This will help us continue to attract a diverse membership and foster an inclusive environment reflective of the communities we serve.

Member engagement continues to be foundational to OACETT's success. Engaged members are vocal advocates, while others prefer to honour our certifications without direct involvement. I will support initiatives that create meaningful opportunities for all members, embracing the spectrum of engagement and meeting diverse needs.

Technological advancements present both challenges and opportunities. I will advocate for integrating emerging technologies into our certification standards for additional disciplines, equipping members to excel in a changing industry. Strategic partnerships with academia and industry will further support professional development and innovation. By focusing on these priorities, I will ensure OACETT remains an engaged, inclusive, and future-ready organization, empowering our Members and strengthening our profession.

**How do you see your key issues as identified in Question 1, aligning (or not) with current strategic priorities and Board activities?**

The key issues I have identified in my candidacy application create a natural synergy that supports our ongoing activities and future goals. I participated in the development of the 2025-2027 strategic plan, which was based on Member and Chapter responses. At its core, the strategic plan reflects the active feedback and direction of our Members, and my current strategy supports the plans strategic pillars.

Enhancing the recognition of OACETT Members directly supports the Expand Recognition pillar. By raising the visibility of our Members' expertise with industry partners, government, and the public, we will ensure that all Certified Members are acknowledged as professionals and industry leaders. This advocacy aligns with our strategic plan, and I will champion it by leveraging existing relationships and exploring new opportunities to position OACETT members as essential contributors to infrastructure, innovation, and sustainability.

Supporting membership growth and retention aligns with the Grow Membership pillar. I will work to attract a more diverse membership base, including students, young professionals, and experienced professionals who are not yet certified, while focusing on retaining our current members. This will require ensuring our certification processes are as efficient and accessible as possible for new members, which ties into enhancing member services and experience. By fostering an inclusive environment, we will continue to strengthen OACETT's ability to support the professional development of a broad range of all our Members.

Member engagement is a cornerstone of OACETT's success, and my approach aligns with the Enhance Services pillar. I will continue to support initiatives that engage all members. When members are engaged, they become OACETT's strongest advocates; making it vital to amplify their voices and perspectives. At the same time, we must respect the preferences of members who prefer less active engagement while continuing to meet their professional

needs. This aligns with the efforts to improve communication and enhance services, making OACETT more accessible and responsive.

Finally, the integration of emerging technologies into our certification standards and programs aligns with the Emerging Technologies pillar. Exploring how emerging technologies will impact certification standards, disciplines, and training programs, and by advocating for this integration, we will ensure that OACETT members, and the association, are equipped to navigate the rapid technological changes in our industries, positioning all of us to thrive.

By aligning my key priorities with OACETT's strategic pillars, I will ensure we continue to evolve and adapt, supporting our members while strengthening the profession overall.