

I have served on the DGC Ontario Executive Board for seven years, first as Directors' Caucus Rep and for last three as First Vice Chair. It has been an encouraging time to be involved as the actions of the Ontario District Council have been clear and decisive in several crucial areas and have contributed to the health of the Guild and to a more positive sense of identity among the membership.

I feel there is a greater sense of respect for our agreement both among Members and engagers, largely because we have not flinched from taking action to address behaviour transgressive of the terms or ethics of our agreement. Membership numbers have grown dramatically, and our training programs have been greatly expanded and are widely attended. Our staff have done great work to increase our profile and build industry connections throughout the country and internationally.

There is always more to do and room for improvement, of course. Another round of negotiations is not far off and we need to continue to make gains, especially for our Members who are not as well remunerated as they should be. The Guild's rapid and steady growth has outstripped its original structure, and the relationship between the District Councils and DGC National is currently under review. The larger councils (Ontario, BC and Québec) will have to work closely with National on this issue, which is fundamentally about finding more effective ways to represent the Members. The process has already begun, due in part to initiatives originating with the Ontario Board.

Members who sit on DGC boards and committees across the country, and those who attend meetings do this on their own time. We need a higher level of engagement from everyone if we are going to grow stronger and meet the challenges of the shifting landscape of our industry. Things are changing rapidly and we have to keep up.

I'm standing for another term as First Vice Chair because I believe that much of what I've learned about the Guild and the wider industry can be useful to the organization as we face the future.

TW Peacocke