

PEO AND NATIONAL ISSUES



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President

SINCE MY LAST message to you, council has moved forward on some key areas regarding national issues that affect the engineering profession. Each provincial association has its own unique challenges, but our mandates are the same and so there are common interests we can and should address jointly. Our national body, Engineers Canada, provides a framework where the provincial associations can work together to better our profession—and we are doing just that. I am excited about the progress we have made this summer.

This month, the Engineers Canada Synergy Task Force, which was created last summer by Engineers Canada's board of directors to examine the relationship between the national body and its constituent members, will present a report to

PEO council. The task force has been coordinating discussions with the provincial associations to find out if there are more efficient and effective protocols that can be used as they move into the 21st century, and to create greater synergy between the two levels in support of protecting the public and the interests of the profession at both the provincial and national levels.

These discussions, and the resulting proposed directions, represent an important step forward in forging a more collaborative, open and meaningful dialogue among all members. PEO's input, along with that of our provincial colleagues, will be presented at the plenary meeting of the Engineers Canada board and constituent members in October and will be key to formulating Engineers Canada's new strategic plan.

At its September meeting, PEO council will also receive an update from its National Framework for Membership and Licensure Task Force. The concept for a national licensing system was unanimously approved by the other constituent members of Engineers Canada in May; however, PEO abstained pending further investigation of the concept. The task force,

created by council at the June meeting, will report on its investigation into points raised by council that had gone unaddressed during the proposal's introduction last fall.

Following the presentation, council will be asked to decide on creating a new, eight-person PEO National Framework Task Force with the mandate to explore the potential value to the public and profession of a national framework and to participate in developing PEO's position on such a framework.

It was also important to fully investigate how a national licensing model would be affected by new government regulations, such as the province's introduction of Bill 175—*Labour Mobility Act* to implement the national Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT). The AIT and *Labour Mobility Act* have made it necessary for PEO to revisit the issue of national mobility. As a result, council approved at its June meeting creation of a National Mobility Task Force to review the current status of mobility throughout Canada and provide recommendations for consideration at the September council meeting.

My involvement in these important issues as a member of the Engineers Canada Synergy Task Force, PEO's National Framework for Membership and Licensure Task Force and PEO's National Mobility Task Force has provided great insight into the dedication of my colleagues across the country to work together to ensure all licence holders are provided the strongest governance possible.

In this spirit of collaboration, I'm pleased to report that PEO council recently approved its support for the Engineers Canada national advertising campaign, which Councillor Chris Roney, P.Eng., will co-chair.

I believe that when tackling issues of national interest, we can accomplish more as a unified group than as separate entities, and that our profession ultimately benefits. I look forward to continuing to work with my counterparts across the country to advance the profession and to strengthen PEO's commitment to our colleagues. Σ