



# Minutes of the 84th Annual Business Meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006—CHAIR: R.A. GOODINGS, P.ENG.

The 84th Annual Business Meeting, Professional Engineers Ontario, was held in Salons A and B, of the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, on Saturday, April 29, 2006. The meeting was called to order by President Robert A. Goodings, P.Eng.

Before declaring the business meeting open, the President thanked the Regional Councillors Committee (RCC) for its work in organizing and hosting Friday's Chapter Leaders' Conference.

In 2004, he said, Council officially recognized the role of chapters as a vehicle to help deliver on the additional objects prescribed for PEO in the *Professional Engineers Act*, and any strategic objectives that arise from them. It is important to ensure that the chapters have a meaningful role in PEO. Yesterday's conference clarified the connection between the chapter system and its volunteers and the association, and promoted ways in which collaborative efforts can better the profession. The update on the progress of the Government Liaison Program showed that chapters can have a bigger role in what the association is doing.

President Goodings referred to the previous evening's Order of Honour gala, and to the six exceptional individuals who had received the Order of Honour for their significant lifetime contributions to the engineering profession in Ontario. He congratulated them for their outstanding and dedicated commitment to the profession.

The President reminded the members that following the business meeting there would be a luncheon with Marc Seifer, PhD, as the keynote speaker. Seifer is an expert on Nikola Tesla, an inventor and pioneering engineer. The 433rd meeting of Council would take place following the luncheon, as well as training sessions for chapter delegates.

## Introduction of Council

As the first order of business, the President introduced the members of the 2005-2006 Council.

The Executive Committee: Robert Goodings, President; Patrick Quinn,

P.Eng., President-elect; Allen Lucas, P.Eng., Vice President; Diane Freeman, P.Eng., Vice President; George Comrie, P.Eng., Past President; Richard Weldon, P.Eng., Councillor-at-Large (absent); and Nancy Hill, P.Eng., LLB, Lieutenant Governor Appointee. The remaining members of Council: Councillors-at-Large: Bruce Clarida, P.Eng., Denis Dixon, P.Eng., and Richard Weldon (absent). Regional Councillors: David Robinson, P.Eng., and Seimer Tsang, P.Eng., (Northern Region); Cliff Knox, P.Eng., and Nick Colucci, P.Eng., (Eastern Region); Daniela Iliescu, P.Eng., and Jeff Mark, P.Eng., (East Central Region); John Vieth, P.Eng., and Diane Freeman (Western Region); Colin Moore, P.Eng., and Philip Maka, P.Eng., (West Central Region). Lieutenant Governor-in-Council Appointees: Peter Frise, PhD, P.Eng., Ravi Gupta, PhD, P.Eng., Henry Hill, Nancy Hill, James Lee, P.Eng., Gul Nawaz, FCA, Catherine Redden, Chris Roney, P.Eng., Rakesh Shreewastav, P.Eng., and Derek Wilson, P.Eng.

PEO's Directors to the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE) for 2005-2006 are: George Comrie, and former Presidents Kenneth McMartin, P.Eng., and Richard Braddock, P.Eng.

The President then introduced representatives from provincial and national engineering associations from across the country:

- Bob Ito, PhD, P.Eng., president, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia;
- David Chalcraft, P.Eng., president, Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta;
- Neil Windsor, P.Eng., executive director and registrar, Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta;
- Robyn Taylor, P.Eng., president-elect, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba;
- Grant Koropatnick, P.Eng., executive director and registrar, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba;

- Gaetan Samson, ing., president, Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec;
- Jon Gillies, P.Eng., president, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan;
- Dennis Paddock, P.Eng., executive director and registrar, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan;
- Steve McLean, P.Eng., executive director, Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- Colin Smith, P.Eng., president, Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE);
- Marie Lemay, P.Eng., chief executive officer, CCPE;
- Chris Cragg, P.Eng., president and chair, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE); and
- Sharon Glover, P.Eng., chief executive officer, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers.

The President said each association had been invited to provide a written report on important matters to the engineering profession in its jurisdiction. These reports were included in the AGM registration packages.

## Order of business

President Goodings said there was a full business agenda. He then referred to the order of business for the meeting, as outlined in Section 22 of By-law No. 1 and in the agenda distributed at the meeting.

## In memoriam

The President then asked all present to stand for a moment of silence in remembrance of those members of the association who had passed away in the year 2005.

## Adoption of the Minutes

President Goodings referred the members to the Minutes of the 2005 meeting, which had been published in the January/February 2006 issue of *Engineering Dimensions* and distributed at the meeting.

It was moved by Kim Allen, P.Eng., and seconded by David Robinson that the Minutes of the 2005 meeting, published in the January/February 2006 issue of *Engineering Dimensions* and distributed at this meeting, be adopted.

*Motion Carried*

### Business arising from the Minutes

The President reminded members that last year time did not permit all of the resolutions submitted to be presented to the meeting. However, all of the resolutions (passed, defeated or postponed) had been reviewed and the President outlined actions taken by Council.

#### Resolution No. 1

The resolution read: "That in order to receive an allotment for the next year, a Chapter must provide the RCC with a business plan for the current year and a detailed account of the Chapter activities for the previous year, i.e. list of events showing the total number of dollars spent for each event together with the number of people who participated in each event."

**Action/Progress:** This action was to confirm an agreed-upon procedure that began in 2004. As per the resolution, all chapters submitted 2004 activity reports and 2005 business plans prior to receiving their allotments for 2005. The same procedure will be applied for the 2006 allotment process.

The chapters are invited to comment annually on the adequacy of their business planning guidelines, so that the appropriate changes can be made to the guidelines. This input should be made to the Chapter Manager for consideration by the Regional Councillors Committee.

#### Resolution No. 2

The resolution read: "Resolved that PEO designate the year 2006 to be the year of Nikola Tesla."

**Action/Progress:** To honour the innovative spirit of all engineers, PEO has, in fact, declared 2006—the 150th anniversary of Tesla's birth year—the "Year of Nikola Tesla."

To recognize Tesla's accomplishments, the January/February 2006 issue of *Engineering Dimensions* included an article profiling Tesla. Building on this theme of recognizing engineering achievement, issues throughout 2006 will profile other innovative engineers.

In addition, Tesla is the subject of our AGM keynote speaker at noon.

#### Resolution No. 3

The resolution read: "Resolved that:

- A. To maintain adequate financial support of Chapters, funding to Chapters should remain at the level established over the past decade;
- B. To simplify the allocation of funding and reduce the frustration of volunteers, Chapters should receive a "primary" funding allocation based solely on the number of members in each Chapter, and a "secondary" additional funding allocation when sufficient justification can be presented for this;
- C. To encourage Chapter funds to be spent rather than accumulated, an individual Chapter's request for funding should be reduced by the amount that its reserves at the end of the preceding year exceed the amount calculated for its primary funding allocation."

**Action/Progress:** This motion is quite complicated and was referred by the Executive Committee to the Regional Councillors Committee to consider.

The result was that the 2006 budget for chapter allotments was submitted at the 2005 level plus a Council-approved increase.

Previously, funding had been based only on membership, with the result that active chapters did not receive adequate funding and less active chapters did not spend all the money provided.

As a result, the RCC adopted a system that requires chapters to submit business plans outlining their planned activities for the upcoming year, on which their funding is based.

The RCC believes this is a reasonable approach and, in reviewing the resolution, concluded it was not necessary to change the current system at this time.

#### Resolution No. 4

The resolution read: "Be it resolved:

That Council acknowledges that there is more than a suspicion that apathy, indifference and hostility to PEO exists to an unhealthy degree, and that this be addressed in a series of town hall meetings, exploring the issues and potential responses.

**Action/Progress:** Establishing a method of determining and monitoring the pub-

lic's confidence in both the P.Eng. licence and PEO is part of the strategic plan.

One of the important publics, whose confidence will be determined and monitored, is the membership itself.

Projects relating to precisely this issue are under way and will continue as scheduled.

#### Resolution No. 5

The resolution read: "Moved that:

- The committee studying the C of A give priority to establishing the modifications necessary to make the C of A fairer and more accessible to sole proprietors, sole practitioners and small practices with less than three employees;
- That this committee report within six weeks on this matter; and
- That Council treat the committee's recommendations as urgent and implement regulation changes as may be required."

**Action/Progress:** This area has been included in the strategic plan initiatives. The project team has been established and project work is continuing as scheduled.

The President agreed with the mover that the matter is urgent, that it must be settled, and that it must be done as quickly as possible.

#### Resolution No. 6

The resolution read: "Moved that Council, in guidance to the Discipline Committee, recommend that discipline panels levy reasonable costs only in egregious cases of obstruction and, whenever costs are levied, that written, detailed reasons are published for this action."

**Action/Progress:** The resolution was referred by the Executive Committee to the Discipline Committee for comment. It was then discussed at the 430th and 431st meetings of Council.

The Discipline Committee clarified for Council that the current practice is, in fact, to publish written reasons for penalty decisions, including cost awards. It concluded, however, that the action proposed in the resolution was inconsistent with the committee's legislated independence.

Council, therefore, discussed instead how the Registrar might be instructed as to when to seek cost awards. At its 431st meeting in December, Council considered three options:

1. To seek cost awards in all discipline matters where there is a finding of guilt;

2. Not to seek awards on any discipline matter; and
3. Only seek awards in discipline matters where specific criteria are met.

After some debate, Council carried a motion that it direct the Registrar to seek cost awards in all discipline matters where there is a finding of guilt (which is the current practice).

The Discipline Committee will further discuss penalty considerations at its annual meeting this year, and the proposer of the 2005 resolution has been invited to attend.

#### Resolution No. 7

The resolution read: "Moved that the election timing process be modified, by changes in the regulations, so that:

- First, nominations for all vacancies close September 30th.
- Second, that election material be published in the November/December issue of *Engineering Dimensions*.
- Three, that ballots are sent out by November 1; voting close on December 7th; and the results are to be available by December the 19th.

And that the President-elect be installed at the first Council meeting following the elections, but not later than January 31, and will take office as President in the following April Annual General Meeting."

**Action/Progress:** The matter was referred to PEO's Election Procedures Task Force, which met twice in 2005 and included, as a participant, the proposer of the resolution.

The task force's interim report was presented to Council in June, after which proposals for several changes to the election process were presented to the Regional Congresses in September, and feedback sought.

The task force met again earlier in the same week as this annual meeting, and is expected to present a final report to Council at Council's meeting in June.

#### Resolution No. 8

The resolution read: "That the election process have a level of openness comparable to a public election, and that candidates and/or their designated representatives are given reasonable access to scrutinize the storing, handling and counting of the ballots.

The result of the final count shall be released to candidates immediately as it is confirmed to PEO.

In electronic voting, similar guidelines for openness be adopted."

**Action/Progress:** As with the previous resolution, the matter was referred to the Election Procedures Task Force, which will report to Council in June.

#### Resolution No. 9

The resolution read: "Moved that clause 11 of Regulation 941 (which requires that a President be out of office at least five years before being eligible for election again) be removed, and replaced with a provision that a President shall not be eligible to serve more than two terms in succession, and that Council make the changes to the regulations to implement these changes before September 2005."

**Action/Progress:** This matter was also sent to the Election Procedures Task Force. Possible changes to the term limits for all Council positions were among the changes on which it consulted with the chapter executives.

#### Resolution No. 10

The resolution read: "Moved that the class of Life Member be formalized by appropriate regulations, and be expanded to include all members who:

- are over 60 years of age,
- whose ages plus years of membership in PEO exceed 90."

**Action/Progress:** Potential changes to the Regulation to create classes of members and development of appropriate fee structures for these classes are among the initiatives in PEO's strategic plan. This resolution is input for that work.

In concluding the "business arising" section of the agenda, President Goodings suggested members monitor the progress on these resolutions by checking the PEO website periodically, and by reading *Engineering Dimensions*.

#### Financial Report

The President referred to the Auditors' Report and the financial statements, which appeared in the March/April 2006 issue of *Engineering Dimensions* and were included in the 2006 Annual Report distributed at the meeting.

He also referred to the booklet entitled *Questions and Answers on PEO Operations*, included in the registration package. While not directly related to the financial statement, it does address questions raised by members on various aspects of PEO's operations. This booklet will be published on the PEO website, and chapters can obtain additional copies by contacting their Regional Councillors.

It was moved by Cliff Knox, seconded by Dave Adams, P.Eng., that the financial statements as presented be received.

*Motion Carried*

#### Appointment of auditors

It was moved by Chris Roney, P.Eng., seconded by Jeff Mark, that the firm of Deloitte and Touche be appointed as auditors of the association for the 2006 financial year.

*Motion Carried*

#### Submission from the members

The President pointed out that the discussion of submissions at the annual meeting is a new procedure. Historically, members had submitted resolutions to the annual meeting, which were voted on after debate. Because resolutions were not binding on Council, a task force of the Executive Committee examining the issue recommended that the voting be dropped and that what had been resolutions become presentation of submissions to be discussed at the annual meeting, according to available time. Council approved this recommendation.

Council and the task force believe the member submission portion of the annual meeting agenda is important, and that presentation of submissions and the ensuing discussions will be of value to the members and to Council.

President Goodings then stated that, as noted in section 17, of By-law No. 1, which relates to the association's administrative affairs, PEO's Annual Meeting is held for the following purposes:

1. To lay before members reports of the association's Council and committees;
2. To inform members of matters relating to the affairs of the association; and
3. To ascertain the views of the members present at the meeting on matters relating to the affairs of the association.

He said resolutions presented to the annual meeting serve as a vehicle for members in attendance to express their views on matters related to the affairs of the association.

Members making submissions have been requested to describe clearly the issues being addressed, and to indicate how the submission would advance the objects of the Ontario *Professional Engineers Act*.

The President encouraged members not to wait for the annual meeting to bring issues to Council. Issues may be submitted at any time, he said, through PEO's Policy Development Process, using the available Issue Identification Form.

The submission to be discussed at this annual meeting will be published in the July/August issue of *Engineering Dimensions*; it was available on the PEO website within two days of its receipt at PEO.

The President said the mover and seconder of the submission would be given up to 10 minutes to present their submission. If time permits, members would each be allowed to comment for up to two minutes on the submission. During the discussion, speakers should use one of the floor microphones and identify themselves prior to making their remarks.

The President said that when he feels that viewpoints on the submission have been given a fair airing, the discussion will end. The mover and/or seconder would then be allowed two minutes for a closing statement.

He said Council considers the issues raised at the annual meeting important and will address the submission expeditiously.

#### Submission No. 1 "Council Meetings"

Whereas current PEO Council meetings are scheduled by the President, and

Whereas "The Act" mandates at least four meetings per year, RSO 1990 c.P28 s. 3(12), and

Whereas "The Act" defines "Council as the Governing Body" (above staff or Executive Council) s. 3(1), and

Whereas, past Council meetings have been adjourned without completing all business properly tabled, it is proposed:

THAT Council should agree to hold no fewer than six full business meetings in a calendar year, and that By-Law No. 1, section 11 be reworded to set the same (six meeting minimum) standard.

Attendance at these meetings need not be "physical" incurring additional cost, and may include teleconferencing, or electronic meetings as permitted by section 26 of By-Law No. 1 (amended February

2002) and should set its own standards to ensure a representative quorum.

(Moved by Peter Broad, PEng.,  
seconded by Peter DeVita, PEng.)

During discussion, some of the points raised included:

- Over the years, Council has met, on average, slightly over four times a year, which complies with the minimum standard. However, the minimum standard may not be good enough. At times, debate must be cut short because there is too much to discuss at one meeting.
- During 2005, enforcement was fairly low. Council seems to take up all its time with things like governance and strategic planning, which are important. But how important are they compared to enforcement?
- The proposal is asking Council to agree to meet six times a year, which complies with the minimum standard of four and would require no change to the Act.
- When meetings are held every three or four months, it is necessary to spend time reviewing what happened at the previous meetings. With more frequent meetings, this would not be necessary. Therefore, six meetings would be more effective.
- PEO has approved electronic systems of attendance, so there would not be an increase in travel costs.
- Both complaints activity and discipline hearings actually increased in 2005.
- It is not really the business of Council to manage the organization or to manage the activities of the organization, such as matters like discipline. Council's mandate is to govern.
- Over the years, the number of meetings goes up and down. Typically it is four or five a year, and that is adequate.
- In conducting a Council meeting, the President faces a challenge to get through the agenda. More meetings would appear to lessen that challenge. Given the overwhelming nature of the agendas, additional meetings would permit more healthy and timely debates, which would be of benefit to both Councillors and the membership.
- Having more meetings does not necessarily mean more effective meetings. There is always the challenge of setting the agenda properly in the first place.

- There is the demand on Councillors and staff. Staff sit as observers at Council meetings. Council should take another look at how many staff members have to actually be there.
- In 1998, 1999 and 2000, Council did have nine to 10 meetings a year and it was a lot easier on Councillors to actually keep up with all the material. As a result, Council was a lot more progressive and able to move agendas forward.
- Lawyers (benchers) in Ontario meet 18 times a year and have a four-year term; those benchers come up to speed very quickly. Compare that to PEO Council. Which group is more progressive in keeping up with current issues? As a profession, PEO must face this issue. Six meetings a year is actually very minimal.
- PEO business on behalf of the public and members is run by the President and Council. If more meetings are required, it is entirely possible without making a change to the by-law, which is a long and miserable process.
- While electronic meetings are possible, with the size of Council they could become a shambles. A single issue could be effective, but holding a regular Council meeting this way is impractical.
- Councillors do a lot of work outside Council at committee meetings, where a lot of discussion goes on and information is brought forward to Council. Councillors should not be unduly overloaded; if they are overloaded, it will be difficult getting people to serve.
- The last two or three meetings of Council finished on time with no business left over. Some business does not require a lot of discussion, but where necessary, plenty of time is devoted to the issue. There are times, however, when some items on an agenda are not discussed until a later meeting.
- Most Councillors are on two or three committees. Some are on five or six, but the average is three. The time commitment that people make to be on Council is over 60 days a year. If an issue arises requiring that Council must meet, Council can do that.
- Council has the ability to have as many meetings as it wants. Presidents of the day are able to call those meetings without getting into onerous changes to the Act and Regulations.

- President-elect Quinn remarked that over the next business year, there are seven Council meetings and five Executive Committee meetings scheduled for a total of 12 meetings. That is equivalent to one a month and, under the present system, probably not much more can be squeezed in.

The process in place requires copious briefing notes and details, and there is much pressure on staff to produce this material. Under the present circumstances, it is the best that can be done. Today's comments and discussion have been heard and the concerns will be addressed.

In summing up the discussion, President Goodings stated that the business of Council would be handled as required and as often as required. It will be under the jurisdiction of the President who knows what he or she wants to accomplish.

## Greetings from the government

President Goodings introduced Greg Sorbara, MPP for Vaughan-King-Aurora.

Mr. Sorbara said he had never had an opportunity to speak with a group of engineers and he was delighted to be at the annual meeting. The work that engineers do continues to be of absolute critical importance to society, the economy and a community like Ontario. Unfortunately, most of the work of engineers is invisible to the average citizen. The work that engineers do collectively as a profession is really the heart and soul of how we live, how we conduct our daily lives, he said, touching everything we do.

He then said he wanted to spend time on two themes. The first was what the McGuinty government is all about. The second had to do with the profession's work and, in particular, PEO's government communications program.

*Highlights from Mr. Sorbara's speech were published in the July/August 2006 issue of Engineering Dimensions.*

## President's Report

President Goodings began his report by thanking members for the honour accorded him to be President. He then thanked Councillors and PEO staff for their team work and for all the work that had been accomplished during the past year. While there had been stress and anxiety at times, Councillors and staff

were able to move ahead on many programs, which are all in the best interest of the profession.

The President then drew members' attention to some of the results attained:

- *LET*: In cooperation with the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists, PEO had moved along to begin to implement something that was started some time ago. The first stage in creating a licensed engineering technologist (LET) category has been completed and, hopefully, the program will be ready soon.
- *EITs and chapters*: Council, with the concurrence of the chapters, acted on a recommendation to give engineers-in-training (EITs) the right to vote in chapter executive elections and to hold office in chapters. This is a very positive move.
- *Government liaison*: PEO launched a Government Liaison Program (GLP) that integrates Council's central planning with all chapters and engineers throughout the province to create and maintain a strong political contact with all MPPs in Ontario.

Council has approved four position statements on various subjects so that those PEO members dealing with politicians are speaking from the same page on what PEO is thinking. The Regional Councillors Committee oversees the local efforts.

Activities have also been reorganized so that the professional standards, environment and government affairs committees have been reset to fit into the program.

- *Northern Regional Office*: The Northern Regional office in Thunder Bay had reported significant activity and successes in assisting members in northern Ontario and engineering students to register as EITs. This has been a major effort by the Regional Councillors Committee, which has been very diligent in making it happen.
- *PEO headquarters*: Members and staff on the Accommodation Task Force have been charged with the task of looking to see where PEO's office will be after its current lease expires in 2009. While Council has resolved that the location should be in downtown Toronto, the facts of life are proving that this may not be feasible. Your Council has agreed that it is in the best

interest of PEO to own its own building. So the process will deal with how PEO handles its money and its reserves.

Council has given the task force two set limits: the net investment in the building, and the size of the down payment. Council has authorized the Executive Committee and the President to negotiate on these conditions, but Council's final approval will be required.

- *Strategic plan*: The President said the introduction of the strategic plan for 2005-2009 (called *Investing in the Licence*) had been central to his personal interests. There are 39 initiatives, 17 of which are being strongly acted on by both Council and staff at the present time. There is a strong commitment to ensure the budget will not be exceeded in the next three to five years, so that it does not impact financially beyond what is expected.
  - *Finances*: The Finance and Audit committees have been vigilant in keeping PEO's financial position sound by strongly examining expenditures, along with revenues and reserve funds. These committees have established an elaborate internal control system that meets the auditors' approval.
- The Q & A booklet contains several pages on PEO's financial state, including the case for a fee increase. The planning, deliberations and recommendations to Council on this subject came from the Finance Committee. The fee increase was recommended to support the budget. Because the proposal was rejected, Council will have to rethink its spending and revenue forecasts in the coming year.
- *Bill 124*: This bill requires practitioners to pass a building code knowledge test if they want to be in the building application business. The Bill 124 Task Force, along with senior staff, have been aggressively resisting this bill for the last four or five years. PEO has tried almost everything to change these amendments to the *Ontario Building Code*.

Council has now agreed to undertake a legal challenge to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing to establish the qualifications of licensed professional engineers. While it is under way, it is too early to make any predictions as to its success. Although there is only a small

group of members involved in the building code issue, this is an attack on the legitimacy of the *Professional Engineers Act*, with respect to PEO managing its own internal affairs. The cost may be high, but the housing ministry and Bill 124 struck a key element in the *Professional Engineers Act*, namely PEO's right to exclusively govern the practice of engineering. It is not in the public interest to have two acts that control the practice of engineering.

- **Meetings:** The President referred to meetings he had attended during the past year and to the various people he had met.

He said he had had the privilege of meeting 300 or 400 new professional engineers at their licence certificate presentations at various chapter events, and had been very impressed by them.

He had met with 30 or 40 MPPs, either in their riding offices or at Queen's Park. There had also been an engineering reception at Queen's Park, which provided an opportunity to meet with all kinds of politicians. The success of this event was due to planning by staff and by PEO's government communication and public affairs consultants. Through these events, PEO is making itself better known to both the government and the opposition, and is getting its message across that the *Professional Engineers Act* is a powerful Act.

- **Volunteers and committees:** The President said volunteers on committees and task forces and the staff do the background work at PEO to move its agenda along, and to meet its obligations under the *Professional Engineers Act*.

The President said much of his interests were in the committees and he had attended as many meetings as possible in order to become quite informed on what these groups were doing and deciding. It is their recommendations that are often on Council's table for debate and resolution. Therefore, it is equally important that Councillors give them direction when needed, so that Council resolutions are sound and within the scope of what must be done under the *Professional Engineers Act*, and for PEO members and the public.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, President Goodings again thanked PEO's licence holders and Councillors.

He said it had been his personal privilege and pleasure to have had the opportunity to serve the profession. It was a time he would always treasure, but without the help of Council, staff and volunteers it would not have been as productive nor as interesting.

He said the association has a sacred duty to uphold the principal and additional objects of the *Professional Engineers Act*, which regulates the practice of engineering in Ontario, governs practitioners, and protects the public.

## Presentation to outgoing Councillors

President Goodings said the members of the 2005-2006 Council had worked diligently to move the profession forward. He thanked them for their service to the profession during the past year.

In recognition of their service, he presented certificates and desk plaques to retiring members of Council: George Comrie, Allen Lucas, Bruce Clarida, Daniela Iliescu, David Robinson, and Peter Frise.

## Questions from the floor

The President said that before introducing the new Council, he would take a few questions from the floor. During discussion, the following comments were made:

- With reference to why members' proposals or motions are not voted on, it was explained that, in the past, there had not been adequate opportunity to fully discuss all of the resolutions. As a result, good motions had been defeated and were not considered by Council.

Accordingly, last year Council decided to consider all resolutions, regardless of whether they had been carried, since more importance needs to be placed on the discussion rather than on the vote.

In February, a draft proposal was circulated to and discussed by the Regional Congresses to secure feedback from chapters. Subsequently, Council approved a proposal that submissions from members would not be voted on at the annual meeting, but would instead be discussed adequately and then referred to Council.

In a final comment, the questioner stated his belief that democracy was being taken from the members.

- Four suggestions were made:
  - try to reach university students by, perhaps, having student representation at Council meetings;
  - have a pension or retirement plan for engineers, similar to teachers or municipal plans;
  - have a place on PEO's website requesting comments, recommendations, or suggestions from members on specific projects or issues that might be of concern to them; and
  - have a "floater" chapter, or a group under PEO's Education Committee, covering all Francophone engineers in Ontario. This group could provide and organize French speaking engineers to volunteer and give presentations, and to have competitions during National Engineering Week, at French schools.
- With reference to the Government Liaison Program (GLP), there is a Joint Relations Committee existing between the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and PEO. It is important to have an increased number of individuals meeting with members of provincial parliament in their ridings, and also to have separate individuals representing separate ideas. Under PEO's GLP, a member would have to choose to be a member of the PEO program or of the OSPE program. The messages are being coordinated both at head office and in the training sessions for the individuals who choose to be part of the two programs.

Although municipalities are not a key focus of the GLP at the present time, municipal politicians have become provincial or federal politicians so there is tremendous value in individuals considering to expand their own personal efforts within their community to include municipal politicians. This could be a goal for the program in the future.
- In response to the suggestion concerning a pension plan, it was stated that this is something that OSPE could be doing, as well as the other issues raised.
- Concerning PEO's website, there is already a Members Forum, where all kinds of topics are discussed, such as

elections and strategic planning. There is also a section where people can ask technical questions. All members have to do is go to the site and join in.

- With reference to providing statistics concerning the status of membership, this information has been provided in the past as part of financial planning. It is something worth doing again, and will be taken into consideration.
- The comment was made that, as an engineering organization, PEO should get involved in meeting the challenge of our society to deal with solid waste. PEO should help the government and politicians to head in the direction of incineration.
- With reference to PEO's financial situation, Council and members of staff were congratulated on bringing forth a surplus.
- A request was made that Council consider the membership or constitution of Council to reduce the size. This would require major changes to the *Professional Engineers Act* and should be a long-term proposition.

## Introduction of the 2006-2007 Council

The President asked members continuing on the 2006-2007 Council to stand and be recognized:

President Patrick Quinn; Past President Robert Goodings; Appointed Councillors Ravi Gupta, Henry Hill, Nancy Hill, James Lee, Gul Nawaz, Catherine Redden, Chris Roney, Rakesh Shreewastav and Derek Wilson; Councillors-at-Large Denis Dixon and Richard Weldon; Regional Councillors Cliff Knox and Nick Colucci (Eastern Region); Jeff Mark (East Central Region); Phil Maka and Colin Moore (West Central Region); John Vieth and Diane Freeman (Western Region); and Seimer Tsang (Northern Region).

New members of the 2006-2007 Council were introduced: President-elect Walter Bilanski, P.Eng., Vice President Ken Lopez, P.Eng., Councillor-at-Large Márta Ecsedi, P.Eng., Northern Region Councillor David Euler, P.Eng., and East Central Region Councillor Thomas Chong, P.Eng.

## Closing remarks from Patrick Quinn

President Quinn began by noting the importance of perceptions. In the old days, there

was the perception that a resolution voted on at an annual meeting would really have something happen to it, but then there were members who put forward resolution after resolution for many years and nothing happened. So Council decided to have submissions discussed at the annual meeting without voting on them, but with the intention that the submissions would be given more attention.

He referred back to 10 or 15 years previously when he had become involved in the issue of women and engineering. He had wanted to change the way engineers were seen. Unfortunately, he felt engineers are still seen in the same way, and he apologized to everyone at the meeting for remarks that had been made earlier in the meeting by Greg Sorbara.

President Quinn referred to the strategic plan and the feeling at PEO that the strategic plan is the answer to everything. Parts of it will answer many questions; however, when someone says: "It is being taken care of in the strategic plan," the question should be asked: "How is it being taken care of in the strategic plan?"

He said there are very serious problems facing the profession. The *Ontario Building Code* amendments are something that should be considered unhealthy for the profession. PEO may be right or may be wrong, but first it must try to get the issue clarified. Therefore, legal action has been taken to clarify the jurisdictional issue: "Are we truly the regulators of our profession, or are there other people who feel it's their obligation as well?"

He said the world is changing and the business of self-regulating professions is changing and changing dramatically. A book called *The Death of the Guilds* (a study of medicine, engineering, accountancy, and architecture, the major professions) concluded that in a global economy, the guilds were going to die. Indeed, the issue of government beginning to regulate in specific areas may well be the death of the guilds in the engineering situation. The association may well go back to being more of a learned society with other people dealing with the issues of regulation. The strategic plan does not deal with this problem and it will not deal with it.

With reference to education, the association should be concerned that many graduates coming out of engineering school don't see themselves as part of PEO.

President Quinn then outlined some of the positive things the association had been involved in during the past year, including:

- *Participation in public life as a profession.*

The association has decided to tackle the issue of energy. Engineers are involved in all aspects of energy, such as transmission, generation, and gasification. Nuclear power is a concern to some people.

So the association has put together a paper on energy, which will be presented to Council later in the day. This is PEO's first attempt recently to get into the public arena as a real participant. It is offering to sponsor with government a process to help government come to some credible conclusions around the energy issue.

As a start, the fundamental issue of conservation will be dealt with. Why spend \$4 billion on a small nuclear plant, if by spending \$4 billion on educating the public and giving them the tools, the need for that nuclear plant would be reduced.

The government has already received all kinds of advice. The association's advice will be different, because it has no axe to grind or no vested interests. It is offering the whole of the profession to look at the issues in an engineering way without boundaries.

- *The association's building.* The association needs to talk about what type of building it needs and how it can be seen as part of the profession.

The President said he believes there should be a centre of engineering, similar to the Centre of Architecture and the Centre of Science. It could be the repository of the history of the profession, and would bring together not just PEO but OSPE, the learned societies and any people who have an interest and participation in engineering. It should be a building that is green and modern, and has a great social sense. By building the type of building that it can, the association will be given greater visibility.

The first step in making anything happen is to have a dream and then start to work to make it a reality. If the plan is right and if the dream is right, the association can afford whatever it wants to build. The President said the real question is what is PEO's dream, and it is one of the things he would like to try to make a reality.

- *Public life.* The Government Relations Program (now the Government Liaison

Program) was established to explain the association/profession to the government—what it is doing, what its contribution is to society, how it is important for the profession to be recognized by the government and the government to recognize the profession.

However, to make an impact on society, association members must be sitting at the decision-making tables, starting at the municipal level, as well as the provincial or federal level. The profession has to participate to be there when decisions are being made that affect it and society. It should be participating in the greater role of society.

The President said if the profession wants to participate, there must be a way of making it possible for young engineers to get into politics. He would like to set up scholarships in public service to be offered to those people who have shown a particular aptitude of articulating issues. This would be a positive way of getting started. The profession has a lot to offer. It should be making its contribution to public office and sitting at the decision-making tables.

President Quinn concluded by saying he hoped to deal with some of these problems in the coming year.

### Installation of the new President

Past President Robert Goodings then swore in Patrick Quinn as President for the 2006-2007 term, and presented the gavel of office to him.

The new President then presented Goodings with a ceremonial gavel of office, a certificate of lifetime membership, a sculpture, and a Past President name badge.

President Quinn thanked Past President Goodings, on behalf of the association, for his service during the past year and for his great contributions. He said it is not often understood the dedication that volunteers bring and the level of dedication that is brought to the presidential situation. Just saying “thank you” does not seem to be an adequate way of dealing with it.

### Adjournment

The President then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The 84th Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

*Kim Allen, P.Eng.  
CEO and Registrar*

