

MAINTAINING MOMENTUM



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President

AS WE TURN THE calendar on another new year and many around us resolve to make changes, I am pleased to report that PEO council is delivering on its own set of “resolutions.”

Eight months ago, the current council met for the first time and made a commitment to each other and to all licence holders in the province to provide effective, forward-thinking leadership for the engineering community over the subsequent 12

months. Since then, the group has made some important and progressive decisions.

In anticipation of the *Labour Mobility Act* becoming law at the end of 2009, for example, councillors worked diligently and proficiently over the summer months to ensure PEO complied with all significant aspects of the legislation, which is designed to ensure that a worker certified to practise in one province or territory can be certified in that occupation in Ontario without having to complete additional material training, experience, examinations or assessments.

This spirit of co-operation is evident at the national level as well, where PEO, along with its provincial colleagues, is working closely with the Engineers Canada Synergy Task Force to forge a more collaborative, open and meaningful dialogue among all constituent members. As a result, the task force has developed five guiding principles to assist in establishing a governance proposal for our national body. These include:

- to provide full and fair representation by constituent associations;
- to ensure the commitment and engagement of the constituent associations;
- to provide role clarity on the activities/initiatives where the constituent associations need Engineers Canada to develop a national consensus and provide leadership, where appropriate;
- to ensure open and transparent communication; and
- to ensure timely decision making.

I want to compliment our colleagues across the country as we work together for the benefit of the profession; everyone involved is committed to full and fair representation. The synergy task force has produced our final recommendations for constituent member consultation. The report will be discussed at our February council meeting and our council's views will be presented at Engineers Canada's plenary session next month in Ottawa.

Closer to home, I am excited by the move into our new headquarters at 40 Sheppard Avenue West in Toronto. PEO licence holders are to be commended for their progressive view of our profession, having indicated that our building should make a bold statement for the profession. We are only in the first phase of the transformation and have successfully moved into our new premises. The long-term plan for the building will be innovative and cutting-edge. We have engaged our closest stakeholders in the PEO family, including staff, councillors and chapter chairs, to assist in developing our plan. I was delighted at the dynamic discussions that took place at each of our two visioning sessions in November, which allowed for input on how to create an environment that best reflects the values and principles of PEO. The ideas taken from these sessions will be incorporated into our long-range plan for the building.

As our association moves forward on these and other issues of importance, continuity in our leadership team is vital to ensure that progress continues. As PEO President-elect Diane Freeman, P.Eng., shares the vision of our current council and is committed to maintaining a culture of collaboration, I am confident that PEO is well positioned to capitalize on the opportunities that exist to advance our goal of becoming the leading regulator in the world. Σ

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