

## LET'S GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT



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WELCOME TO 2012, the 90th anniversary year for PEO. It will be interesting to see what regulatory challenges bedevil us 10 years from now when Ontario's engineering regulator celebrates its centenary.

At the risk of getting a little ahead of ourselves, we hope the 100th anniversary piece is a fitting sequel to Peter DeVita's reflection on PEO's beginnings in this issue of *Engineering Dimensions* (p. 26). In one of my first assignments with this magazine in 2004, I had the pleasure of hearing Peter hold forth on the history of engineering in this province. As I recall, Peter's general point was that there are more scientists and engineers practising today than in previous centuries combined. Dedicated as the engineering profession is to greater public good, Peter's factoid should mean good things—and big challenges—to the profession.

It is to be hoped that in the years leading up to PEO's 100th birthday, the regulator can claim success in realizing its ambitious vision of becoming the world leader in professional self-regulation that responsibly improves the quality of life for all.

The closing months of 2011, however, were filled with challenges for PEO on its road to this goal. The raucous town hall meetings in November and early December clearly indicated that PEO members are concerned about issues of leadership, governance, succession planning and the faithful stewardship of the profession's human and financial resources. Be sure to check the news pages in this issue for a report of how it all went down at the town halls.

As well, the recently completed member referendum on terminating the legal agreement between PEO and our sister organization, the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), was top of mind throughout the fall. Again, be sure to check the news pages for the final vote count.

Finally, let's say a few words about the manufacturing theme of this issue. We're featuring a timely update on the work of PEO's Repeal of the Industrial Exception Task Force (RIETF) and its effort to prepare the province's industrial sector for the repeal of this much misunderstood subsection of the *Professional Engineers Act*. The change to this subsection received royal assent in October 2010, as part of the province's *Open for Business* legislation, but won't be proclaimed until PEO lets the attorney general know industry is aware of the change and prepared for it. RIETF Chair Peter Broad, P.Eng., FEC, walks readers through the work of the task force over the last several months (p. 38).

Meanwhile, there's a companion item about PEO's endorsement of the Take Back Manufacturing initiative (p. 34). By throwing its weight behind the Society of Manufacturing Engineers' campaign, PEO is adding its voice to the call for a big rethink of manufacturing and its contributions to Ontario's security, economic competitiveness and long-term prosperity. It's a chance to see if policy influencing, for the sake of Ontario manufacturing and the regulation of those practising engineering there, pays any dividends. Σ

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