



One vision of the future

Wouldn't you know? The biggest news this year, and possibly in PEO's history, and it breaks just when the May/June issue of *Engineering Dimensions* is rolling off the press! A last-minute flyer tucked in with the magazine was not how I'd envisioned we'd inform members of the long-awaited outcome of the *Ontario Building Code* (OBC) judicial review, when the time came.

That little yellow slip also belied the importance of a ruling that represents the release of a huge source of stress for thousands of engineers involved in building design work throughout the province. Past President Pat Quinn, P.Eng., who led the legal action against the government on the OBC issue, graciously summed up PEO's victory: "This outcome clearly shows how

valid our concerns were and how justified our efforts have been. I am very proud at how we, as engineers, have stood in defense of our profession and of all self-regulating professions, who have contributed so greatly to our society."

So, engineers who have been anxiously awaiting the ruling since our day in court last October, can finally exhale. The court's decision was effective immediately it was issued on May 17, making Building Code Identification Numbers unnecessary for professional engineers (p. 12). For complete details on the court challenge, including Qs & As and the court's reasons for judgment, click on the "breaking news" icon at www.peo.on.ca.

With the court case behind us, it's definitely time to move on—an appropriate

sentiment considering our theme for July/August: The Next 10.

This issue, we thought it would be fun to give readers an idea of what the profession might look like 10 years from now from the perspective of people who might be able to take reasonable stabs at the subject. So, in May, we convened engineers from different backgrounds and areas of specialization, and one MPP, to engage in a little crystal ball gazing. Their best predictions of the seven issues and trends that might shape the profession the most in the next decade resulted in our feature, "Engineering in the Next 10" (p. 54). Topping their issues list? Teaching engineering students more than just technical skills, with an eye to producing more well-rounded engineer citizens.

Certain to be front and centre in PEO's most immediate future will be new President Walter Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng. Bilanski is, in fact, no stranger to his new office, as many long-time members will know, having tackled the PEO presidency no fewer than three times since 1971. Energizer Bunny indeed, as Michael Mastromatteo describes him (p. 50).

This time around, Bilanski's top priority is, unquestionably, education. In fact, he's so adamant in his quest to bring engineering education and registration into the 21st century, as he says, he put together a whole conference on the topic. He invited deans and other engineering education stakeholders from Canada, the US, and the UK, to speak to the subject at the day-long Future of Engineering Education and Licensure Conference on June 21 (p. 19).

Okay, since I'm so forward-looking, it's time now to start putting together the September/October issue!

Jennifer Coombes
Managing Editor

