

FC2I OFFERS A HELPING HAND



Jennifer Coombes
Editor

ALTHOUGH JUST a single feature this issue is devoted to our theme of integrating international engineering graduates (IEGs), this in no way reflects the importance of the issue to PEO. Helping those trained outside Canada realize their dream of entering the engineering profession, while not forgetting our high standards to protect the public, remains one of PEO's top priorities. In fact, PEO programs abound that help the internationally trained, including the Engineering Intern Training Financial Credit Program (click on Licensing & Registration at www.peo.on.ca) that allows eligible IEGs (and also graduates of Canadian accredited engineering programs) to apply for a

P.Eng. licence at no cost. There is also the provisional licence, which was designed to help international applicants obtain that often difficult-to-attain yet all-important year of Canadian experience required for licensure.

Another program giving IEGs a leg up is Engineers Canada's From Consideration to Integration (FC2I) program (p. 37), which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. FC2I was developed to help IEGs through any bumps in the road leading to the licence—from immigration right through to starting an engineering career in Canada—and covers all of the culture and language issues along the way. The results of FC2I have been impressive so far.

If you weren't able to be there in person, you'll find full coverage of our May 9 annual general meeting on page 8, including the somewhat controversial remarks of the outgoing president and the hopeful remarks of the incoming one.

It's no mistake that we chose "Great expectations" for the title of our profile of President Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng. (p. 24). Many are looking to the new president to chart a different course for PEO, although she herself, a big believer in teamwork and consensus building, feels "no special pressure from council or staff to make groundbreaking achievements."

Already, Karakatsanis' presence has instilled a sense of calm and order to a somewhat ruffled council of late, even as her own life these last few months has become just the opposite, popping up as she has in and out of the province at the National Engineering Summit (p. 40), licensing ceremonies, various related annual meetings (p. 15) and countless other meetings requiring presidential input.

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