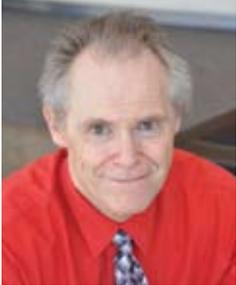


## INNOVATION HAS SPECIAL MEANING IN THIS PROFESSION



Michael Mastromatteo  
Associate Editor

INNOVATION IS A word and a theme that crops up pretty often in engineering circles. It's also been the theme for several issues of *Engineering Dimensions* over the last seven years.

Some might see irony in our editorial repetition of a concept that makes it a virtue to come up with something new, different and better. Nonetheless, if you're planning on revisiting familiar editorial turf, you could do a lot worse than innovation.

At the recent Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy (OCEPP) policy conference, Glen Murray, Ontario's minister of research and innovation, had some choice words for engineers on the subject of innovation, in particular the very real challenges facing the engineering profession in the new global economy. Murray's main point was that Ontario's economy has moved beyond the

traditional manufacturing and natural resource extraction base, to one that depends heavily on research and innovation.

"We have to solve the productivity problem," Murray said at the policy conference. "We can't do it without you, not just individually as engineers, but collectively. And I think your association today is well positioned to play an extraordinary leadership role, and many of us have been waiting to see this kind of leadership from fellow professions across Canada."

Ironically, engineers were key in erecting the foundations of the province's traditional economy, and here they are being called on again to take a leading role in the transition to an economy underscored by a heavy concentration on research, innovation and enterprise. PEO would add public policy influence as an emerging role for P.Engs in this economy.

In fact, Ontario engineers already appreciate the vital interplay among innovation, economic prosperity, security, and the greater public good. It is this interconnectedness that we've emphasized in engineering innovation profiles presented in this issue (p. 44). From something as prosaic as "perpetual pavement" to the almost sublime permutations that enable quantum dots to collect more light for enhanced digital images, Ontario engineers are already major players in the innovation game.

Yet, even in the midst of the new and the unique, there's something to be said for the familiar. As is evident from the cover of this issue, PEO President David Adams, P.Eng., FEC, is back for another term at PEO. A profile of President Adams and discussion about council's priorities for the coming year start on page 27.

By the way, no need to fret about the fate of Jennifer Coombes. The *Engineering Dimensions*' editor is on maternity leave and should be back in action next summer. Congratulations, Jennifer! Σ

# The winds of change





Miniature tornadoes are swirling at Western Engineering with the completion of a functional small-scale model of the new **Wind Engineering, Energy and Environment Dome (WindEEE)** - the world's first large, hexagonal wind tunnel. WindEEE builds on Western's 45 years of wind engineering expertise, with the internationally recognized Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory and Insurance Research Lab for Better Homes.

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