

A WORK IN PROGRESS



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Editor

AT PEO, professional development has been an issue synonymous with struggle for quite some time. In fact, PEO has slogged through debates on the topic for upwards of 30 years—all in an effort to come up with a professional development program that's both meaningful for members and demonstrates that engineers are competent to perform the work they do. So far, little progress has been made.

At a time when the public demands more and more transparency from regulators, not having a defined program whereby members demonstrate their competence is bound to raise a few red flags. It's no wonder that a few years ago PEO earned a failing grade in this area (*Engineering Dimensions*, September/October 2004, p. 59) in a report that went on to con-

clude that “engineers are falling behind other professions.” Let's just say, that's the kind of report card you want to hide from your parents.

Although council remains divided on what a professional development program should look like long term, at least what is considered a minimum level of reporting may soon be put in place thanks to a council decision that all licence holders should declare their competence in any engineering work they do (November/December 2009, p. 51).

It's somewhat of a comfort to know engineering is not the only profession puzzling over how to properly structure a professional development program. Others, too, are under pressure to demonstrate their members are competent and the public is safe. So, for the sake of comparison, we

examine how doctors, nurses, architects and other regulated professions in this province put together their professional development programs (“Regulators weigh in on continuing competence,” p. 40).

This year, *Engineering Dimensions* celebrates its 30th anniversary and, to mark the occasion, we've taken a look back at some of the events—the infamous building code amendments, PEO's foray into public policy, the ongoing climate change debate, PEO's quest for a permanent head office building—that have shaped the organization over the last several years and have played out in our pages (p. 21).

I hope to see many of you at OCEPP's public policy conference, which happens May 7 at the Toronto Hilton, followed that evening by the 2010 Order of Honour gala that will recognize 13 volunteers who have made tremendous contributions to the profession and their communities. Saturday will see members assemble for the annual general meeting. To help you prepare, we've included PEO's audited financial statements (p. 49) and the AGM submission procedures in case you'd like to contribute to the proceedings (p. 39).

See you in May! Σ

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