

## BUILDING ON SUCCESS



Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC  
President

SINCE I WAS PASSED the ceremonial gavel at PEO's 88th annual general meeting last May, my colleagues on council and I have been united in our commitment to build on the momentum of progress initiated by Past President Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., FEC. The most significant initiative undertaken was council's changes to the *Professional Engineers Act* under the Ontario government's Open for Business initiative. These 66 changes were passed in October 2010 through Bill 68, legislation that included the first major amendments to our act in more than 25 years. One of the most noteworthy changes—the elimination of the requirement to be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada to obtain a licence—will affect the lives of thousands of new Canadians seeking entry to the profession.

Throughout my term as president, I also had discussions with leaders in the engineering community on how PEO can contribute to the profession on a national and international scale. Ideas were exchanged with our provincial counterparts about how to strengthen Engineers Canada at the annual general

meeting of our national body in Vancouver, as well as at provincial AGMs in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Quebec and Prince Edward Island.

With a global perspective in mind, I recently had the pleasure of representing PEO at the 10th annual national conference of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). This event was wonderful! I was so inspired by the more than 1000 participants, of which over half were women. Our participation was in support of the partnership agreement that PEO signed with EWB in 2010, which emphasizes the important role professional engineers can play in the areas of technical design as well as social policy.

Our achievements during the past 12 months have been the result of a lot of hard work by volunteers on council, chapters, committees and task forces. I was fortunate to meet many of you at various events across the province. At the Grand River Chapter, I presented a licence certificate to my colleague from Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (CRA), Dana Lauder, P.Eng., for whom I was a reference, invigilated her professional practice exam and signed her licence. Moments such as this are very special for me. I also attended a Windsor-Essex Chapter licensing event at which I spoke about the development of the Butterfly Learning Centre, a child-care centre in Waterloo that I worked to see constructed some 10 years ago. This centre served as an introduction to my future career in municipal politics.

I am always impressed by the enthusiasm and devotion to the profession by those who give freely of their time for our benefit. Your contributions have helped us reach many milestones on our journey toward becoming the global leader in professional self-regulation, in what has been a prosperous term for PEO and, as a result, a gratifying one for me as president. Many of you have also come to know my family very well over the past years and have willingly embraced the attendance of my children, Scott and Adam, and my husband, Peter, at events. On behalf of my family, I would like you all to know that our participation has created memories that we will cherish for years to come and we thank you for the kindness and friendship you have shown to us.

I would like licence holders to know that the work we do as volunteers could not possibly be done without the tremendous staff at PEO. In this last message, I would like to formally thank them on your behalf for the work they do in regulating the profession.

As well, I would like to recognize the leadership shown by my engineering company, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. CRA is a forward-thinking employer that knows that by supporting the work of PEO, the strength and relevance of the profession is enhanced.

Thank you to those of you who have shared kind words of support over this past year and your willingness to show faith in my leadership. I would like to thank the members of PEO council, specifically, for their tireless commitment to moving us forward.

It has been my sincere pleasure to serve the profession as president for 2010-2011. Σ