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M E S S A G E**ROBERT A. GOODINGS, P.ENG.**  
**PRESIDENT**

**T**his is the first of six messages I will be providing to readers of *Engineering Dimensions*. It is indeed my great pleasure and honour to serve as PEO President for the 2005/2006 term. Our presidents over the years are truly varied in personality and character. I appreciate the special and different contribution each has made to PEO and its members. I have personally worked with the last nine, and assure you that no two of them have been alike. Each of them, and those before them, has put his or her special stamp on PEO.

I think it is appropriate to begin by telling you who I am and what has led to me being your President. I have not always been a president, CEO and then chair of a big consulting engineering firm, chair of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), and now President of PEO. Prior to grad-

tions across Canada. At our firm, we employed engineers and support staff from all parts of the globe. Internationally trained engineers were the backbone of our engineering company.

I tell you this so you will appreciate that my role at PEO today is supported by many years of experience in more than technical engineering, which I believe is a career path shared by many of you. Many of us might not have worked on PEO committees, with chapters and on its Council while we were pursuing our engineering careers, but we have always had a strong desire to be professional and were proud to be professional engineers.

A self-regulating profession such as ours must be in charge of its own agenda. This is in contrast to a commercial entity that must react to requests for proposals and opportunities that, at the beginning of each year, are not really known. Our role at PEO is to keep ahead of such events as the dis-

public interest is protected. At its Annual General Meeting on April 16 in London, PEO unveiled its 2005-2009 strategic plan, which was produced by PEO volunteers and staff over eight months, and involved extensive research and stakeholder consultation (see "Charting a course for regulatory success," pp. 56-57). The plan establishes PEO's strategic change agenda for the next five years by investing in the P.Eng. licence. Some of its initiatives may impact on how engineering is practised in Ontario. The plan's introduction aptly describes the litmus test for all changes proposed:

*"Part of PEO's challenge in this new era is balancing protection of the public interest with the professional engineer's professional judgment, while avoiding the creation of unnecessary bureaucracy."*

PEO will implement the plan's initiatives through a dedicated \$5.4 million Strategic Investment Fund as part of its Operating Reserve, parallel to its ongoing regulatory

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uating, I was privileged to work with surveyors, factory workers, farmers and retail store staff. I began my engineering career as a (not-so-good) draughtsman, and junior engineer until, lo and behold, I was the leader of the well-known consulting engineering firm Gore & Storrie Ltd. (now CH2M Hill). I began my career when Canada's and Ontario's growth was expanding rapidly. What an opportunity given to all of us engineering graduates of that era. Engineering was truly the basis of building our strong municipalities and country. We were equal to the task. In 1951, I doubt there were more than 10 sewage treatment plants in Ontario and most of the municipalities on the Great Lakes treated their drinking water with the addition of chlorine as the only protection for our citizens. This expanding world of engineering allowed me to work with engineers in governments, municipalities, construction companies, suppliers and professional associa-

tions across Canada. At our firm, we employed engineers and support staff from all parts of the globe. Internationally trained engineers were the backbone of our engineering company.

As I begin my presidency, I'm anxious for Council to get down to business right away. In the coming year, PEO will continue to work hard on improving its working relationships with our key stakeholders, including the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT), with whom a new three-phase implementation plan designed to enhance the limited licence provisions under the *Professional Engineers Act* was recently endorsed.

PEO will also take significant steps to further its mandate of regulating the practice of professional engineering so that the

business and operations. These initiatives will be supported by a five-year business plan, which will be updated annually, to ensure that the Strategic Investment Fund can be maintained. In future years, a combination of increases in revenue from such sources as cost recovery, advertising revenue, and fees, as well as shifting priorities and reductions to the annual operating budget, will be required to fund the strategic improvements to PEO's programs and services.

Ours is a truly honourable profession. It has long been considered one of the senior learned professions. Engineering has much to offer and its voice needs to be heard at the highest levels of government and industry to protect the public interest. PEO must take a leadership role before governments do so in matters involving engineering.

This is no easy task, but I challenge our Council, and all my friends and colleagues in the profession, to join me in making it happen. ❖