

ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE



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President

AS A PRACTISING engineer, I care deeply about the profession and its obligation to the public. Through active volunteer service in the engineering community for almost two decades, I know first hand that we have much to be proud of as an association. We are fortunate to have so many individuals with a strong desire to improve our profession: the more than 800 volunteers who serve on task forces and committees, chapters and our Government Liaison Program; the wonderful staff who work diligently to execute our regulatory duties and help council make informed decisions; and my intelligent, capable colleagues at the decision-making table, who sacrifice much to advance our profession. So it is with a tremendous amount of pride, honour and privilege that I begin my term as president of PEO.

In recent years, we have made great strides to become more transparent and effective. As a result, PEO has stood out as a self-regulatory body and has earned recognition from government, whose ongoing support for our profession has been tremendous. In

order to build on this success, I believe we need to address issues of relevance and value in a long-range strategic plan. Such a plan does not currently exist and I think it is essential going forward.

To create such a plan, my first initiative as president is to conduct a workshop at which our leadership will work together to determine an “envisioned future” for PEO and will define three or four strategic intents that will be necessary to move us towards this destination. The plan will serve as a guide and will help focus council over the long term. Continuity is essential through a succession of new presidents and new members of council in order to advance significant and worthwhile policy direction and initiatives. It almost always takes more than one year to make informed policy decisions and implement significant change.

As we define and develop this plan, we must also continue to build on the progress made last year, led by my predecessor, Past President Dave Adams, P.Eng. During the past year, PEO has demonstrated continued diligence in preserving our mandate as a self-regulating profession through proactive government relations, the creation of the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy and through the definition of areas of practice.

Still, many important matters facing PEO remain unresolved. One significant issue that will be addressed this year is the creation of a professional development system for licence holders. As part of our mandate, PEO has a responsibility to establish, maintain and develop standards of qualification, knowledge, skill, practice and ethics for the practice of professional engineering and to ensure that licence holders have met, and continue to meet, those standards. Similarly, all practitioners have a responsibility to maintain their knowledge and PEO holds them publically accountable for this. I believe that a system in which all licence holders participate is necessary to continue to ensure transparency to all PEO stakeholders, including the public.

I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead and to working closely with council to make our profession an even stronger one. With your support, co-operative relations with our engineering partners, including the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, Consulting Engineers of Ontario, Engineers Canada and the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists, and my commitment to work on your behalf, we can continue to strengthen the value and relevance of the profession and the P.Eng. licence. Σ