

CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM



Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC
President

INDUSTRIALIST AND ENTREPRENEUR Andrew Carnegie once said, “Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives, and it is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” PEO is fortunate in having access to a tremendous pool of talent we can draw on—councillors, other volunteers, and a very professional staff—to assist us in fulfilling our mandate of regulating engineering practice and governing practitioners. It is indeed my great pleasure, privilege and honour to work as a part of this larger team to serve as PEO president for this term.

During the next 12 months, I will build on the momentum of progress initiated by Past President Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., and the 2009/2010 council that successfully undertook more work in one term than I can recall ever having been completed over the years I have served on council.

Continuity is essential through a succession of new presidents and new members of council 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, lasting change.

It is in this context that council is preparing a document for peer review and comment from our licence holders as to how PEO selects its president.

Other Ontario regulators have moved to a model where the president is appointed by council from the democratically elected members of council. This allows members of council to observe leadership qualities prior to appointment. It also enables the president to count on the support of council from the moment he or she takes office. Such a change at PEO would see us following the example of our colleagues in self-regulation, but would have us demonstrate leadership amongst our provincial counterparts by being second only to OIQ to appoint the president from elected members of council.

All governance changes need to be undertaken with meaningful consultation and peer review. It is for this reason that time will be dedicated at our council workshop in June to consider how future councils might be structured, and what changes in

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the elections process and terms of office might be needed. As well, regional councillors will be seeking advice and input at the June congresses. We will be looking to all of you for input, comments and recommendations. It is my sincere hope that you will seize this opportunity and others to comment on the governance of your association over the coming months.

Through my volunteer work in the engineering community for almost two decades, and my work as a city councillor, I know first-hand that we have much to be proud of as an association.

I look forward to building on the tremendous work of last year and capitalizing on the opportunities that lie ahead. I invite you to join me in continuing to strengthen the value and relevance of our profession and the licence. With your support, I will work diligently with council towards PEO's goal of regulatory excellence. Σ