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President

In the October/November issue of *The Link*, there was an article about an important meeting: the first of PEO's National Representatives Forum, a committee comprising the PEO members who sit on the standing committees of our national body the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE). I believe this new forum will be invaluable in assisting PEO Council to stay in touch with and have input into the activities that CCPE undertakes on behalf of its constituent members.

The national organization of the provincial and territorial associations/ordre that regulate engineering practice and license Canada's 157,000 professional engineers, CCPE was established in 1936 to deliver national programs that ensure high standards of engineering education, professional qualifications and ethical conduct. It has no regulatory authority over the engineering profession in its own right.

CCPE is governed by a board of directors, on which its constituent members have representatives. Ontario and Quebec each have three seats on the board; Alberta and British Columbia each have two representatives; the remaining members each have one seat. All the CCPE board members, as well as those who serve on its standing committees, are volunteers. I am one of PEO's directors on the CCPE board, as are Past President Peter DeVita, P.Eng., and three-time President Walter Bilanski, P.Eng.

Reporting to the board of directors are three standing committees. The Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) was formed in 1965 to accredit Canadian undergraduate engineering programs. Graduates of accredited programs are considered to have fulfilled the academic requirements for licensing. This saves PEO countless hours of having to assess indi-

vidually each applicant's academics and ensures a high degree of consistency in assessment from province to province, enhancing transferability of licences. CEAB also assesses the equivalency of the accreditation systems used in other countries, relative to the Canadian system, and monitors the accreditation systems of the engineering bodies with which CCPE has signed mutual recognition agreements.

The Canadian Engineering Qualifications Board (CEQB) creates national guidelines on the qualifications required for admission to the profession and standards of practice and ethics. It publishes the national Examination Syllabus, which enables those without accredited or recognized engineering degrees to write technical exams to make up identified gaps in their academic qualifications for licensing, and the List of Foreign Engineering Educational Institutions and Professional Qualifications, which assists provincial admissions departments to assess non-Canadian degrees and qualifications.

A relatively new activity for CEQB is convening national and regional continuing professional development forums with industry, the associations/ordre and continuing education providers to enable information exchange. I attended one of these forums some years ago and found it very worthwhile.

The third of CCPE's four standing committees is the Canadian Engineering Resources Board (CERB), which conducts national research with Canadian universities and CCPE constituent members to identify trends in engineering student enrolment, numbers of engineering degrees awarded, demographics of Canadian engineers, and professional engineer licensing. It is responsible for CCPE's Engineering Work in Canada research project, an ongoing study to assess the technical and non-technical skills employers look for when they hire engineers, the nature of engineering work in Canada, and the value employers place on engineering licensing and regulation. You'll have read or heard about the results of some of these studies in *Engineering Dimensions* or at last year's Annual General Meeting, and we found them to be useful input to PEO's Strategic Plan. CERB also developed CCPE's policies on stu-

dent liaison and women in engineering, and oversees their implementation.

The Canadian Engineering International Board (CEIB), the newest of the standing committees, is dedicated to enhancing international awareness and understanding of Canadian engineering licensing requirements. CEIB also negotiates mutual recognition agreements, and works with the necessary authorities to ensure that public safety and the rigorous qualifications required for licensing as a professional engineer in Canada are maintained in the face of globalization.

CCPE's study on the future relevance of licensing and regulation in engineering, sparked by its CERB research and the experiences of some of its constituents in trying to change their legislation, has stimulated programs to increase recognition of the P.Eng./ing. licence among engineering students and employers and to influence federal public policy having the potential to affect professional engineering licensure and regulation.

CCPE is also active, through its Emerging Science and Technologies Committee, in examining emerging technologies that encompass engineering and must be incorporated into our profession. These include software engineering, bio-engineering and environmental engineering, and others we haven't yet dreamt of. It's important that our profession include all areas of professional engineering so that the public will continue to be protected.

CCPE also provides programs to meet the needs of professional engineers, like insurance and scholarships, engineering awards, and National Engineering Week. Yet PEO and the Quebec ordre are uncoupling their regulatory and member services into separate organizations. CCPE will have to reconcile this separation in future strategic planning. In fact, CCPE is embarking on a revised strategic plan, scheduled for approval next June. I believe the perspectives brought to CCPE's meetings by its Ontario representatives will be of value to our national body.

I intend to maintain a positive dialogue with our counterparts across Canada, and through CCPE help to bring our 12 viewpoints together toward a common purpose—a stronger profession to protect the public interest. ♦