



Recognition of C.E.T.s gets the go ahead

SEPTEMBER 12, 13, 2002 MEETING

by Sharon Van Ihinger

Recognizing the expertise of other members of the engineering team, Council approved the recommendations of the Technologist Licensure Task Group (see *Engineering Dimensions*, September/October, p. 30.) The recommendations include that PEO grant a “licensed engineering technologist” (L.E.T.) title to certified engineering technologists who meet the academic, experience and other requirements.

The group’s report, originally submitted to Council at its March 2002 meeting, was distributed to stakeholders for feedback. Since then, reported task group Chair Councillor Laurier Proulx, C.E.T., the task force has met to discuss stakeholder feedback and modify the report’s recommendations where needed.

One area of discussion was how limited scopes of professional engineering practice for L.E.T.s and other limited licensees would be defined for the purposes of applying for Certificates of Authorization (C of A). One of the task group recommendations, which was approved, was that L.E.T.s and the other limited licensees be allowed to hold Cs of A to enable independent practice within the scope of their limited licence. It was noted that a mechanism already exists to define the scope of practice for current limited licence holders, which could also be used for L.E.T.s. But by whatever method limited scopes are defined, it will be necessary to amend the C of A provisions of Regulation 941 before the recommendation can be implemented, since a C of A does not currently restrict the holder to any particular scope of practice.

Councillors also debated whether the independent practice of engineering technologists might lower professional standards. Roydon Fraser, PhD, P.Eng., said that engineers “look at the breadth and depth” of an engineering problem. “Limited licensees have depth in one area. By removing the P.Eng. from some areas, we could be removing the breadth of knowledge that might see where other problems may arise.” Others felt that some engineering work is so codified that engineering technologists should be able to take responsibility for their own practice in these areas.

The *Technologist Licensure Task Group’s Final Report* is available under Publications on the PEO website, along with a list of the approved recommendations, the wording of several of which was modified for Council approval in response to stakeholder feedback. Recommendation 9 of the report was amended by Council as follows: “That Council consider taking steps to amend the *Professional Engineers Act* such that all limited licence holders and L.E.T.s would become members of PEO with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities attendant thereto.”

Proulx requested that an implementation plan for the approved recommendations be prepared for discussion at the next Council meeting, and that the Registrar regularly include a section on implementation progress in his report to Council.

Coincidentally, Council was provided with and asked to comment on a white paper entitled *Model for Licensure of Other Applied Scientists*, prepared by Vice President George Comrie, P.Eng., chair of the External Groups Task Group. The paper stems from the PEO Strategic Plan initiative to “study the public interest implications of alternative models for governing allied applied science practitioners, e.g. *Regulated Health Professions Act*, regulated under PEO legislation....”

Comrie asked Councillors to review the paper and provide comments, which will be incorporated in the task group’s final report to Council. PEO members are also invited to comment on the White Paper, which is available from the External Groups Task Group page under the Council, Committees and Task Groups section of PEO’s website.

International mobility

Task Force Chair Norbert Becker, PhD, P.Eng., presented to Council a summary of the recommendations of the International Mobility Task Force Report. Copies of the report, which Council received in November 2001, had been sent to CCPE’s constituent associations/ordres and other stakeholders for feedback. In August, he said, the task force reviewed the feedback and prepared its final Brief to Council, which discussed its responses to the stakeholder input. (For a listing of the approved recommendations, see “Setting the Rules,” pp. 32-33 of this issue. The full *Report of the International Mobility Task Force* is available under Publications on PEO’s website.)

Not surprisingly, the greatest amount of discussion concerned a recommendation that was narrowly defeated, which was that Council reconsider its previous decision to eliminate the Canadian citizenship/permanent residency requirement for professional engineering licensure from the *Professional Engineers Act*. Those in favour of Council reconsidering its previous decision cited a perceived inability to regulate the practice of those who are not Canadian citizens or do not live here. Those supporting the previous decision described citizenship and permanent residence as an artificial barrier, and highlighted PEO’s ability to revoke the licence of any its members for negligence or professional misconduct, no matter where they live.

Policy and business issues

Councillor Gul Nawaz, CA, chair of the Finance Committee, outlined the draft 2003 Operating and Capital Budgets, which Council received. It was noted that the five-year forecasts presented to Council previously were made before the draft 2003 budget, and so should be revised to take into account the draft budget. As part of its budget discussion, Council approved a \$20 P.Eng. licence fee increase, to take effect February 1, 2003. Council is scheduled to approve the final 2003 budgets at its meeting on November 15.

Council approved selected recommendations in the START II Implementation Report. Eastern Region Councillor and Vice President Allen Lucas, P.Eng., said that the cost of implementing these recommendations would be approximately \$120,000 in 2003. He suggested that a separate line in the 2003 chapter budget be added so that START II implementation expenses could be tracked. Council also stood down the START II Committee and referred the 12 remaining recommendations from its report to the Regional Councillors Committee for further consideration.

Council approved a PEO education policy statement that defines PEO's interest in education as ensuring that "prospective engineers are properly educated and trained to fulfill their mandate to serve and protect the public, and remain so throughout their careers," and that "the public at large understands the need for a self-regulating engineering profession and values its contribution to our society." George Comrie, a member of the Education Committee, said the policy is intended to define PEO's interest in education in broad terms and not to suggest that PEO should deliver education programs for professional engineers.

CCPE activities and issue

PEO Past President and CCPE President-elect Gordon Sterling, P.Eng., reported on highlights from the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers Board of Directors Meeting, September 7-8 in Whistler, B.C., as follows:

- ◆ PEO does not support CCPE's assessment of the engineering education

qualifications of prospective immigrants to Ontario, since these immigrants can apply to PEO to begin the Ontario licensing process from outside Canada. However, PEO recognizes that the program is valuable to other provincial associations.

- ◆ The Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and PEO are to meet to discuss and resolve issues regarding the offering of member services. Because the Society now offers group home and automobile insurance, it believes that CCPE should refrain from offering its national program in Ontario.
- ◆ CCPE's Canadian Engineering Resources Board (CERB) and the Canadian Engineering International Board (CEIB) have been replaced by International and Research committees, which will act as advisors to CCPE's Board of Directors.

Ian Eng, P.Eng. deputy registrar, complaints, discipline and enforcement, also reported to Council on this year's national meeting of discipline and enforcement officials, held in Calgary. Eng reported that the discussion focused on: the Microsoft Certified Software Engineer designation; licensing of federal government engineers; engineering titles; teaching of engineering courses at the university level being the practice of engineering; and use of electronic seals.

Connie Muckelstone, director of communications, reported briefly on the national communications meeting, held in Ottawa on July 15-16, 2002. The meeting had two objectives, she said. The first was to look at what the associations want CCPE to do for them in terms of communications; the second was to look for opportunities for the associations to share resources.

Registrar's report

Roger Barker, P.Eng., updated Council on the following:

- ◆ The Complaints Review Councillor has begun his examination of the association's procedures for handling com-

plaints and will submit a report to Council with his findings and recommendations, if any.

- ◆ PEO and the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario have submitted a letter to the environment ministry on the *Brownfields Statute Law Amendment Act* (Bill 56) asserting that the legislation as written will require that a Qualified Person be a professional engineer or professional geoscientist (see Brownfields news article in this issue). If this position is not accepted, Barker said, PEO might have to take enforcement action against QPs who are not professional engineers.
- ◆ PEO volunteers have been involved in preparing for registering and qualifying practitioners under the amendments to the Building Code (Bill 124), that will require professional engineers and others involved in building code-related work to be qualified through an examination that tests their building code knowledge (see *Engineering Dimensions*, Sept./Oct. 2002, p. 13).

In the question period, Barker was asked about the status of the discussions with Microsoft Canada over its Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer designation (see *Engineering Dimensions*, Sept./Oct. pp. 12-13). Barker said that each association will be looking at its legislation, to provide CCPE with information on what evidence would be required to succeed in an enforcement action against a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. CCPE has also written to Microsoft USA's chief executive officer, he reported, asking that a meeting be arranged to discuss the situation further. At press time, no response had been received.

In relation to the new college applied degrees, Barker was asked: "What can be done to ensure that the government understands the requirements for licensure as a professional engineer?" He replied that PEO had arranged a meeting for the following week of the government, colleges, and licensing and certifying groups to share information and discuss the issues. (For meeting coverage, see this issue, page 12.) ◆