

A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW



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Editor

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY that a PEO department gets placed in the superhero category (and okay, maybe our cover is a little over the top). But, then again, not every department is standards and tribunals (S&T).

This four-member powerhouse has been, up until recently, sole custodians of PEO's primary legislation, the *Professional Engineers Act*. In recent years, this has involved the department in some fairly high-profile slugfests to protect self-regulation and the act against incursions. (You may recall that small matter with the building code that began some years ago.)

The department has seen a great deal of change in the last two years.

Formerly the standards and regulations department, S&T has retained the responsibility for developing standards and dispensing professional practice advice and, to some extent, is still involved in act and regulation changes. But the department now also supports PEO's Discipline and Registration committees, groups formerly under the wing of the regulatory compliance department. This move, intended to eliminate the appearance of bias, effectively separates tribunal processes

from investigative and prosecutorial functions, which, in turn, only increases the transparency and consistency of PEO's operations.

Well, a complicated subject to be sure. But after breezing through our three features this issue (pp. 26, 45, 48), you will know all there is to know about the S&T department.

Don't miss our expanded GLP Journal in a special centre section this issue. There, David Smith highlights our third annual Engineering for Ontario Day, held September 24. We had a great turnout this year. Over 30 MPPs and cabinet ministers, Attorney General Chris Bentley, LLB, and MPP David Zimmer, LLB, parliamentary assistant to the attorney general, came out to meet with members, representatives of PEO's chapters and staff.

Zimmer, a tireless supporter of the engineering profession who also refers to himself as a "closet engineer," got a particular kick out of attending our event. He was presented, once again, with PEO's President's Award, an honour originally bestowed on him at our Order of Honour gala this past May.

And, finally, to everyone who has emailed me wanting to know if they've won the iPod touch in our digital edition contest, there is no way to say this delicately other than, sorry, you didn't. In fact, the much-coveted iPod went to Dave Gray, P.Eng., from Brockville (p. 16).

But even though the contest is over and the prize awarded, you can still sign up for the digital edition. To go digital, just visit the Members' Area of www.peo.on.ca, licence number in hand, and click on Subscriptions. Σ