

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES



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President

FOREMOST AMONG THE obligations of the engineering profession in Canada is safeguarding the public interest. An important element in fulfilling this obligation is the profession's need to adapt to changing circumstances, whether they are social, economic, technological or political. This process of adaptation includes subjecting the profession's clear, high standards of knowledge, skill, qualification, practise and ethics to continuing scrutiny and review to maintain currency and relevance, and to ensure the profession is fulfilling its responsibilities to the public and exercising the public trust conferred upon it to the greatest extent possible.

While there is no doubt Canadian engineers consistently strive to honour the faith placed in them by the public and their representatives, improvements to the licensing and membership frameworks are both possible and desirable, not the least of which is a more comprehensive definition of the profession itself.

For example, nearly all regulated professions have a mandatory professional development requirement and the public's expectation is that all professionals undertake professional development. To this end, PEO council endorsed a program at its last meeting that will require members to annually declare that they have acquired and maintained knowledge of developments in the areas of professional engineering relevant to the services they intend to provide.

Council also adopted a position to improve national mobility for licence holders to satisfy the new proposed government regulations regarding the province's *Labour Mobility Act* (Bill 175) and the national Agreement on Internal Trade. A national framework is supported by all of our provincial counterparts, and to ensure PEO is well positioned in this effort, council created a task force to explore the value of such a framework to both the public and the profession; participate in the development of PEO's position on a national framework; and support active par-

ticipation at the national level. We are working with our regulator partners in harmonizing the statutory and regulatory provisions nationally to minimize the need for additional requirements. In Ontario, there are no artificial barriers to national mobility for professional engineers seeking licensure in Ontario.

Through my work on these national initiatives, I continue to be impressed by the passion of the leaders from across the country to work together to enhance the engineering profession in the public interest. I am confident that our positive dialogues will result in an improved profession. PEO's relations with the *Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec*, for example, have never been better. This will serve us well as we expect an agreement on enhancing the Ontario-Quebec economic region will be signed this fall to eliminate unnecessary trade, investment and labour mobility barriers within the region.

Significant progress is also being made to enhance the working relationship between the national body, Engineers Canada, and the constituent members through a task force with good representation by Ontario. CEO/Registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng., and I serve on the 10-person Engineers Canada Synergy Task Force that has drafted an interim report on the mandate of the national body and will now tackle issues related to finance and governance. Council has reviewed the report and provided many valuable insights to strengthen the relationship.

As a profession, we are fortunate to have such a talented mix of professionals to lead the governance of engineering in Canada. In closing, I am extremely proud and excited to advise you that one such individual—our very own president-elect, Diane Freeman, P.Eng.—received the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Woman of the Year award in the professional category. Congratulations, Diane! Σ