

SHAKING UP THE ACT



Jennifer Coombes
Editor

TECHNICALLY, OUR FOCUS this issue is licensing, but it's difficult not to lead off my note with the biggest news PEO has had in a long time—the passage of Bill 68, otherwise known as the *Open for Business Act, 2010*.

The passage of the bill in the Ontario legislature on October 21, and the accompanying 66 updates to the *Professional Engineers Act* (PEA) made possible by this legislation, signal sweeping changes for PEO, many of which were designed to simplify processes and help align the practices of engineering regulators across Canada for the collective benefit of professional engineering (p. 11).

Said Kim Allen, P.Eng., PEO CEO/registrars, of the act changes: “PEO is leading in the effort to create a national framework where all Canadian jurisdictions have the same requirements to

best serve the public interest. The changes will eliminate unnecessary requirements and harmonize complicated requirements, all within a national framework.”

Some of the more high-profile and, in some cases, controversial changes to the PEA include:

- eventual elimination of the industrial exemption;
- a new definition of professional engineering that adopts the national definition; and
- elimination of the residency requirement for licensure.

(For a complete list of act changes, see Gazette in our January/February 2011 issue.)

Of course, many of the act amendments mean changes for PEO's licensing and registration process and the Certificate of Authorization, which we spell out in detail in “PEO finds window of opportunity for licensing enhancements” (p. 28).

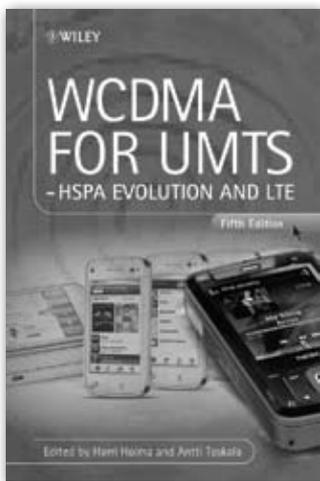
Keeping to our licensing theme, and in the spirit of PEO council's desire to raise awareness of the value of the licence and encourage pride in the licence (p. 39), we interviewed four P.Engs and an engineering master's degree holder on her way to licensure, for “P.Eng. designation a lifetime of value” (p. 34). They offer their views on what the licence means to them, both professionally and personally.

We also tackle a fascinating aspect of the licensing process this issue—assessing character. To become licensed in Ontario, you must be 18 years old, fulfill all of PEO's academic, experience and other requirements, and also be of good character. But if you've ever wondered just how PEO identifies someone with good character, Steven Haddock explains in “Assessing the character of PEO licence applicants” (p. 48).

Finally, Bob Hindle, P.Eng., FEC, chair of the Complaints Committee, was kind enough to sit down with me and talk about what may seem to many P.Engs a mysterious process. In “Understanding PEO's complaints process” (p. 54), he explains why the process exists and what happens to complaints against engineers from the moment a complaint form is received by PEO to when the complaint leaves the committee's hands and is resolved.

He also has some sage advice for engineers to follow so they never become the subject of a complaint. Σ

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