

Queen's Park reception caps year's worth of GLP triumph

By Michael Mastromatteo



Three of PEO's chapters were presented with Government Liaison Program (GLP) Chapter Awards for their leadership and initiatives in building relationships with their MPPs. Recognized in 2010 were the Windsor-Essex, Mississauga and Ottawa chapters.

Windsor-Essex Chapter board member Andrew Dowie, P.Eng. (centre), accepts an award from Attorney General Chris Bentley, LLB, and PEO President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC.

Left to right: Chris Bentley, LLB, attorney general; Wafik El Sunbaty, P.Eng., GLP Committee chair, Mississauga Chapter; Tapan Das, PhD, P.Eng., chair, Mississauga Chapter; and Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, PEO president.

Left to right: Chris Bentley, LLB, attorney general; Ottawa Chapter member Ray Barton, P.Eng.; Ottawa GLP Committee co-chairs Jonathan Risto, P.Eng., and Guy Boone, P.Eng.; and Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, PEO president.

ONTARIO'S ENGINEERING community reached a new high water mark in political recognition as a result of its fifth annual Engineering for Ontario Day at Queen's Park.

Held September 22 and culminating in a reception in the main legislative building, this year's event attracted almost 50 sitting MPPs, including over a dozen cabinet members. Tim Hudak, leader of the Progressive Conservatives, and Andrea Horwath, leader of the New Democratic Party, also attended.

Engineer-MPPs attending the reception included Phil McNeely, P.Eng. (Ottawa-Orléans), and Norm Sterling, P.Eng. (Carleton-Mississippi Mills).

At one point, Ontario Attorney General Chris Bentley, LLB, quipped that PEO attracted more MPPs to its reception than were present at the legislative chamber.

Themed "Celebrating Change," the 2010 event underscored the efforts PEO has made since 2004 to increase its awareness with the provincial government, and to help bring the talent and expertise of PEO's 73,000 licence holders to bear in developing technically sound public policy.

The annual Engineering for Ontario Day event is a cornerstone of the regulator's Government Liaison Program (GLP), an initiative in which members of chapter-based

GLP committees develop relationships with elected officials in their communities. The GLP also supports encouraging and educating engineers to stand for elected office as a natural extension of their commitment to the public interest, through its candidate college events. Through the GLP, PEO has an ambitious goal to elect 11 engineers to the provincial legislature in 2011.

In welcoming guests to the reception, PEO President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, outlined a number of recent accomplishments of PEO and its engineering partners. In particular, she cited PEO's new headquarters building, its groundbreaking GLP work, and its more recent actions to update and improve the *Professional Engineers Act*.

"As part of PEO's grand vision, which is to become the global leader in professional self-regulation that responsibly improves the quality of life for all, we are always looking at innovative ways to improve what we do," Freeman said.

Freeman later introduced Bentley, the first of several MPPs to address the gathered engineers and special guests.

Bentley expanded on recent accomplishments of the engineering regulator, citing in particular the creation of the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, calling



it “a remarkable centre for delivering practical solutions for some of the solutions the government needs.”

Bentley also referred to the 66 amendments to the *Professional Engineers Act* that PEO had submitted to the provincial government under its Open for Business initiative, as a series of practical changes streamlining engineering regulation in the province.

“We are all enormously supportive of the work engineers do each and every day in Ontario,” the attorney general said. “Thank you for being members of a regulated profession that remains dedicated to the public interest. And thanks, too, for pushing us [government] to recognize some of your contributions.”

The attorney general said he was especially struck by the non-partisan flavour to the evening’s proceedings, and thanked PEO for providing a forum for “harmonious discussion.”

Bentley and Freeman then presented special awards to three PEO chapters for their GLP efforts. Government Liaison Program Chapter Awards went to Tapan Das, PhD, P.Eng., and Wafik El-Sunbaty, P.Eng., of the Mississauga Chapter; Guy Boone, P.Eng., and Jonathan Risto, P.Eng., of the Ottawa Chapter; and Andrew Dowie, P.Eng.,

Clockwise from top left:

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Eric Hoskins, MD (centre), with PEO Lieutenant Governor Appointee Councillor Bill Kossta (left) and PEO East Central Region Councillor Thomas Chong, P.Eng.

Norm Miller, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka, addressed delegates on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.

Andrea Horwath, Leader of New Democratic Party of Ontario and MPP Hamilton Centre, speaks to reception guests.

Helena Jaczek, MD, MPP Oak Ridges (centre), with York Chapter Chair Kam Leong, P.Eng. (left), and Gerry Meade, P.Eng., York Chapter GLP representative.

of the Windsor Chapter for their efforts in 2009-2010 to build stronger relationships between members and their local MPPs.

Special guest speaker at the reception was Eric Hoskins, MD, the newly appointed minister of citizenship and immigration. Hoskins, who along with his wife Samantha Nutt, MD, has been awarded for extensive humanitarian work in the developing world, said the presentations to the chapters are symbolic of the work engineers have been doing to influence public policy in a positive direction.

“These awards represent your migration to the policy-development realm,” Hoskins said. “I want to commend you for your efforts, and I have no hesitation in expressing my great affection and appreciation for the work you do every day.”

Hoskins also saluted PEO’s leading position in helping accommodate internationally educated engineering graduates to the realities of the Ontario marketplace.

“We deeply value our partnership with PEO,” Hoskins said. “You embrace new opportunities with foresight and enthusiasm. Thank you for your contribution to a stronger, better Ontario.”

Progressive Conservative MPP Norm Miller (Parry Sound-Muskoka), whose father, the late Frank Miller, is the only engineer to serve as premier of Ontario, brought greetings from PC party leader Tim Hudak. Miller referenced PEO’s goal of electing 11

NEWS

engineers to provincial parliament in 2011 with a quip about “too many lawyers” currently sitting as MPPs.

NDP leader Andrea Horwath, MPP (Hamilton Centre), one of only two women ever in Ontario to serve as deputy speaker of the Ontario legislature, also picked up on PEO’s plan to elect more engineers to public office. “I think it’s absolutely fabulous that you have this plan to elect engineers to the legislature,” Horwath said. “I want to offer my congratulations to PEO for taking this initiative and for offering your advice and expertise in policy development. I look

forward to working with you in the coming year.”

The evening reception capped an active day for Freeman and other PEO representatives, which opened with a morning meeting with Bentley, followed by an introduction in the legislature during Question Period by Wayne Arthurs, MPP (Pickering-Scarborough East), parliamentary assistant to the minister of intergovernmental affairs; Minister of the Environment John Wilkinson, MPP (Perth-Wellington); and Lisa McLeod, MPP (Nepean-Carleton). The delegation had lunch in the parliamentary dining room with David Zimmer, LLB, MPP

(Willowdale), the parliamentary assistant to the attorney general and, for several years, holder of the “engineering file” at Queen’s Park. It was Zimmer who, back in 2004, encouraged engineers to have a more proactive government relations strategy.

In the afternoon, PEO met with Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Rick Bartolucci, MPP (Sudbury), to discuss upcoming changes to the Ontario Building Code in the context of the 2007 divisional court decision that established PEO’s exclusive jurisdiction over the qualifications and scopes of practice of its licence holders.

MPPs ATTENDING THE RECEPTION WERE:

MPPs PEO MET DURING ITS DAY IN THE LEGISLATURE, INCLUDED:

- Premier Dalton McGuinty, MPP (Liberal, Ottawa South)
- Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rick Bartolucci, MPP (Liberal, Sudbury)
- Rick Johnson, MPP (Liberal, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock), parliamentary assistant to the minister of infrastructure
- Lisa McLeod, MPP (PC, Nepean-Carleton)
- Ted McMeekin, MPP (Liberal, Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale), parliamentary assistant to the minister of training, colleges and universities
- Peter Shurman, MPP (PC, Thornhill)
- Charles Sousa, MPP (Liberal, Mississauga South), parliamentary assistant to the minister of economic development and trade

LIBERALS

- Speaker Steve Peters, MPP (Elgin-Middlesex-London)
- Attorney General Chris Bentley, MPP (London West)
- Minister of Revenue Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP (Hamilton Mountain)
- Minister of Infrastructure Bob Chiarelli, MPP (Ottawa West-Nepean)
- Minister of Labour Peter Fonseca, MPP (Mississauga East-Cooksville)
- Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Eric Hoskins, MPP (St. Paul’s)
- Minister of Natural Resources Linda Jeffrey, MPP (Brampton-Springdale)

- Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur, MPP (Ottawa-Vanier)
- Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities John Milloy, MPP (Kitchener Centre)
- Chair of Cabinet Gerry Phillips, MPP (Scarborough-Agincourt)
- Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Government House Leader Monique Smith, MPP (Nipissing)
- Minister of the Environment John Wilkinson, MPP (Perth-Wellington)
- Minister of Transportation Kathleen Wynne, MPP (Don Valley West)
- Wayne Arthurs, MPP (Pickering-Scarborough East), parliamentary assistant to the minister of intergovernmental affairs
- Bas Balkissoon, MPP (Scarborough-Rouge River), parliamentary assistant to the minister of community and social services
- Donna Cansfield, MPP (Etobicoke Centre), parliamentary assistant to the minister of municipal affairs and housing
- Kevin Flynn, MPP (Oakville), parliamentary assistant to the minister of education
- Helena Jaczek, MPP (Oakridges-Markham), parliamentary assistant to the minister of the environment
- Monte Kwinter, MPP (York Centre), parliamentary assistant to the minister of economic development and trade
- Jean-Marc Lalonde, MPP (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell), parliamentary assistant to the minister of health promotion and sport

- Phil McNeely, P.Eng., MPP (Ottawa-Orleans), parliamentary assistant to the minister of health and long-term care (health)
- Reza Moridi, MPP (Richmond Hill), parliamentary assistant to the minister of research and innovation
- Khalil Ramal, MPP (London-Fanshawe), parliamentary assistant to the minister of citizenship and immigration
- Lou Rinaldi, MPP (Northumberland-Quinte West), parliamentary assistant to the minister of municipal affairs and housing (municipal affairs)
- Tony Ruprecht, MPP (Davenport)
- David Zimmer, MPP (Willowdale), parliamentary assistant to the attorney general

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES

- Leader of the Official Opposition Tim Hudak, MPP (Niagara West-Glanbrook)
- Ted Arnott, MPP (Wellington-Halton Hills)
- Steve Clark, MPP (Leeds-Grenville)
- Garfield Dunlop, MPP (Simcoe North)

- Christine Elliott, MPP (Whitby-Oshawa)
- Randy Hillier, MPP (Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington)
- Gerry Martiniuk, MPP (Cambridge)
- Norm Miller, MPP (Parry Sound-Muskoka)
- Julia Munro, MPP (York-Simcoe)
- John O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
- Joyce Savoline, MPP (Burlington)
- Norm Sterling, P.Eng., MPP (Carleton-Mississippi Mills)
- Elizabeth Witmer, MPP (Kitchener-Waterloo)
- John Yakabuski, MPP (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke)

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- Leader Andrea Horwath, MPP (Hamilton Centre)
- Gilles Bisson, MPP (Timmins-James Bay)
- France Gelinias, MPP (Nickel Belt)
- Rosario Marchese, MPP (Trinity-Spadina)
- Paul Miller, MPP (Hamilton East-Stoney Creek)
- Mike Prue, MPP (Beaches-East York)
- Peter Tabuns, MPP (Toronto-Danforth)

QUEEN'S PARK PASSES OPEN FOR BUSINESS BILL

Ontario's Bill 68, replete with administrative enhancement opportunities for PEO, passed third reading in the Ontario legislature October 21 and received royal assent on October 25.

The bill includes some of the most significant amendments to the *Professional Engineers Act* (PEA) in more than 25 years.

The bill was introduced by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade primarily to overcome trade barriers and promote economic competitiveness in the province, enabling regulatory organizations to propose changes to their own legislation that would help achieve these goals.

PEO seized on the opportunities presented by the Open for Business legislation to realize several long-sought-after updates to the PEA that aligned with the government's goals. Among them is elimination of Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status as a requirement for licensure. PEO research had shown that misunderstanding of the citizenship requirement delayed some internationally educated engineering graduates in applying for their Ontario P.Eng.

A second significant change is an updated definition of professional engineering, which now matches the national definition developed by Engineers Canada and proposed for adoption by all its constituent associations.

As well, PEO won approval from the Ontario attorney general for a number of amendments designed to bring the engineering regulator's licensing and registration practices more in line with an emerging national standard.

Other highlights of Bill 68 include eventual elimination of the contentious industrial exception, and changes to PEO's Certificate of Authorization (C of A), that will allow limited licence holders to hold a C of A to offer or provide to the public engineering services within the terms of their limited licence.

"The 66 amendments to the PEA reflect the provincial government's commitment to a strong engineering profession that can best serve the public and respond to the needs of Ontario businesses and individuals seeking to be licensed to practise professional engineer-

ing," says PEO President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC.

Speaking in support of the legislation at its clause-by-clause review by the province's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in August, PEO CEO/Registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng., said the Bill 68 changes bring clarity, transparency, accountability and greater effectiveness to PEO operations.

The full bill amends some 50 different pieces of legislation, including the PEA. The majority of the amendments to the PEA are effected with royal assent. However, certain changes, including the holding of Cs of A by limited licensees and elimination of the industrial exception will be effective on proclamation at a future date by the lieutenant governor, to enable PEO to draft associated regulation changes and work with industry on implementation. A full list of the revised sections of the PEA and their effective dates will be published in Gazette in the January/February issue and on PEO's website.

Natural scientists take exception to new engineering definition

By Michael Mastromatteo

PEO IS MOVING to address concerns raised by the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) and other natural scientist organizations that changes to the definition of professional engineering—one of several amendments to the *Professional Engineers Act* submitted by PEO as part of the province's omnibus Bill 68 (Ontario's Open for Business legislation)—will make

it difficult for natural scientists to work in Ontario.

The natural scientist groups objected to PEO proposing to adopt Engineers Canada's model national definition of professional engineering, which defines the practice as "any act of planning, designing, composing, evaluating, advising, reporting, directing or supervising that requires the application of engineering principles, and concerns the safeguarding of life, health, property, economic

interests, the public welfare or the environment, or the managing of such acts."

The Ontario definition in use since 1984 includes the clause "but does not include practising as a natural scientist" at the end.

PEO recommended the change of definition not only to help harmonize requirements across Canada, but also to bring greater clarity to the legislation, because a definition by exclusion is not in keeping with the court decision that PEO's exclusive jurisdiction is to define and regulate the practice of professional engineering, i.e. it is not PEO's job to define practising as a natural scientist for the purpose of saying it is not the practice of professional engineering.

In an August 27 letter to Ontario Attorney General Chris Bentley, LLB, CAP President Henry van Driel, PhD, described the proposed revisions to the engineering act as "a major problem" for his organization.

"Removing the exemption [for natural scientists] would have far-reaching and very damaging impacts, not only on the scientific community, but also on Ontario's economy, post-secondary research and education system, and even health care," van Driel writes. "It is for this reason that the CAP argued vehemently and successfully

to have the exemption included in the Ontario [engineering] act in the first place, and has been working consistently over the years to ensure that exemptions exist in each of the provincial acts."

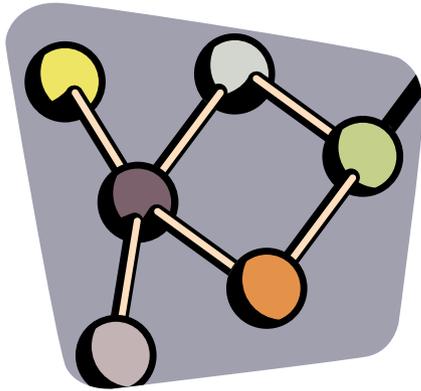
In an August 31 letter to its members to initiate a letter-writing campaign to the attorney general, CAP Director of Science Policy Paul Vincett, PhD, cautioned that failing to exempt natural scientists in a definition of professional engineering might impact across a broad spectrum of scientific research.

"The modification to the [engineering] act contained in this bill (Bill 68), which is soon to be given third reading in the Ontario provincial parliament, removes the exemption for natural sciences from the definition of the practice of professional engineering," Vincett writes. "This could make it impossible for many physicists, as well as other natural scientists, including chemists, biologists and computer scientists, to practise their professions, whether in industry, government or university. The great difficulty in defining engineering principles without implicitly including natural science in the definition is what led to the inclusion of a specific exemption for the practice of natural science in the current act. Removing this exemption will have very damaging impacts on a very broad scale, not only for the scientific community, but also for Ontario's economy, post-secondary research and education system, and even health care."

Vincett added that CAP's position is not aimed at "denigrating" the work of engineers, nor to suggest that scientists should be allowed to practise outside their areas of expertise. Rather, it is to ensure the practice of natural science "does not get swept into the definition of the practice of professional engineering, which is legally reserved to registered engineers."

The letter-writing campaign resulted in over 500 emails to the attorney general, which were also copied to PEO. The attorney general's staff indicated they would prefer PEO to work with the natural science community to resolve the concerns.

On September 2, CEO/Registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng., and President Diane Freeman P.Eng., FEC, met with seven representatives of the advocacy



organizations for natural scientists. At the meeting, it was clear the natural scientists believe the practice of natural science is not the practice of professional engineering, but are concerned that the change in the definition of professional engineering might expose them to undue enforcement action by PEO where the distinction between natural science and engineering is not clear. PEO and CAP came to an understanding that PEO would work toward a solution, and that PEO has no wish to interfere in the practice of natural science, since its mandate is solely to regulate professional engineering.

In a September 9 interview with *Engineering Dimensions*, van Driel said a favourable outcome will enable engineers and natural scientists to carry out their work according to their training and responsibilities.

“We’re pleased that both groups are working together in a cordial fashion to address this issue, important not only to the two groups, but ultimately to the citizens of Ontario,” van Driel said.

During the 1990s, CAP worked with the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (now Engineers Canada) to develop an exemption clause for natural scientists that is meant to accompany the national definition of professional engineering. That clause stated that nothing in an engineering act would “prevent an individual who either holds a recognized honours or higher degree in one or more of the physical, chemical, life, computer, or mathematical sciences, or who possesses an equivalent combination of education, training and experience, or is acting under the direct supervision and control of [a professional engineer] from practising natural science which...means any act (including management) requiring the application of scientific principles, competently performed.”

At its meeting on September 24, PEO council approved forming a joint task force with the natural science community and Engineers Canada to make recommendations to council in February 2011 on how to achieve the intent of the 1996 companion clause (see In Council, p. 62).



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PEO REMAINS FIRM ON BUILDING CODE REVISION

By Michael Mastromatteo

PEO continues to meet with the Ontario housing ministry to sort out the ministry's unresolved issues with the Ontario divisional court's 2007 decision in PEO's judicial review of certain sections of the Ontario Building Code (OBC).

At issue for PEO is the housing minister's tardiness in giving effect to the three-year-old court decision, which acknowledged PEO's exclusive jurisdiction over the qualifications of professional engineers for the practice of engineering, as well as the scopes of practice of its practitioners (see *Engineering Dimensions*, September/October 2010, p. 10).

Although the ministry has since initiated a comprehensive overhaul of the *Building Code Act* (BCA), it has yet to remove a scope of practice table from the OBC, a regulation amendment that should be relatively straightforward to achieve. This is at odds with the court decision, which found the table inappropriate for inclusion in the OBC because the BCA does not provide the regulation-making authority to allocate responsibility between architects and engineers in a regulation made under it.

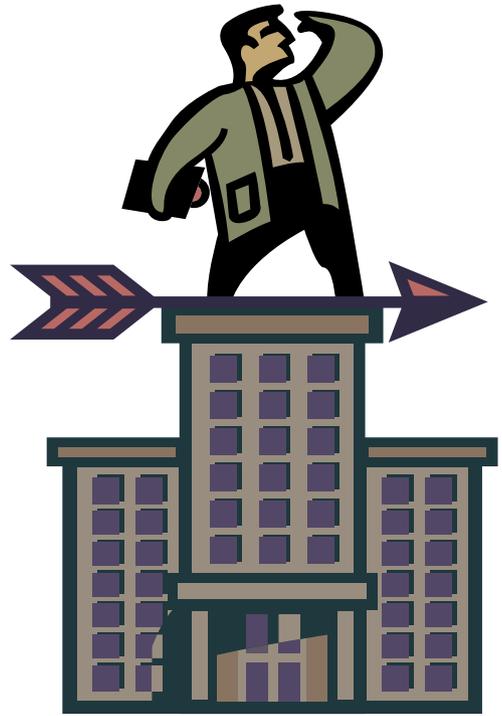
In PEO's September 14 response to the ministry's "policy consultation on professional design and the building code," PEO CEO/Registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng., said the engineering regulator is prepared to support amendments to the BCA that clarify that any designer qualification and registration regime does not apply to PEO licence and certificate holders, as well as any amendments that do not encroach on PEO's exclusive jurisdiction.

"It is PEO's position the Ontario Building Code should play no part in allocating various design activities between PEO licensees and architects because the practice of professional engineering and architecture are defined in the *Professional Engineers Act* and the *Architects Act*," Allen wrote. "The policing of these acts must be left to the regulatory bodies established by these acts for that purpose."

PEO suggested the ministry focus its changes on enshrining in the OBC a table that reflects clearly the areas of designs for which holders of BCINs are authorized to submit for permits. This table would specify the types of architectural and engineering designs that are statutorily exempted from the requirement that the designer be a PEO licence holder or architect under the *Professional Engineers Act* or *Architects Act*.

On September 22, Allen, along with PEO President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, and Deputy Registrar, Standards and Tribunals, Johnny Zuccon, P.Eng., delivered this message to Housing Minister Rick Bartolucci and ministry staff, during a meeting at Queen's Park.

In a follow-up meeting on September 30, Allen and Zuccon met with Deputy Minister Bill Forward and housing ministry staff to discuss the ministry's policy consultation and PEO's submission. Ministry officials



reiterated the minister's position that PEO, the Ontario Association of Architects, building officials and ministry staff are to work toward solutions that align with the government's desire that the building permit process be effective, efficient and timely. They also clarified the ministry does not intend to broaden the role of building officials to include engineering or architectural review of professional design submissions, or is there a desire for the ministry to encroach into the exclusive legislative purview of the *Professional Engineers* or *Architects* acts. Ministry staff said the intention is to provide building officials clear authority not to accept building permit submissions from those who are not holders of BCINs, professional engineers or architects. They suggested PEO provide for their consideration a draft table clarifying which areas of building design are available to other designers under the exemptions in the two profession's acts, which PEO has since provided. For their part, Allen and Zuccon said they believe that using such a table, building officials will have the necessary tools to reject all submissions for permit applications, except those by a licence holder, a person holding a BCIN, or a person owning the residence for which the application is being submitted, which will enable them to focus on reviewing submissions for compliance with the OBC.

Ignatieff cites P.Eng. support of “reality-based” politics

By Michael Mastromatteo

FEDERAL OPPOSITION Leader Michael Ignatieff, PhD, couldn’t resist directing a few pointed remarks toward Prime Minister Stephen Harper during a September 14 town hall meeting organized by PEO’s Oakville and Mississauga chapters.

Fresh off his more than 55,000-km cross-Canada tour, Ignatieff combined praise for engineers’ government liaison efforts with criticism of recent government policy initiatives, most notably its curtailing of the long-form census.

Nearly 400 PEO members attended the town hall, part of PEO’s Government Liaison Program (GLP).

“I admire what you do, I respect what you do, and I respect your concern for facts, for evidence,” Ignatieff said. “It either stands up or it doesn’t. It either works or it doesn’t. There’s something about the values of engineering that I think ought to apply in politics. There is either evidence for what you propose to do or there isn’t, and if there isn’t, it’s just pure ideology.”

In pledging his preference for “reality-based politics,” Ignatieff was aligned with the aims of PEO’s GLP, which fosters stronger links between engineers and policy-makers to enable technically informed public policy. “It’s one of the things about politics that needs to be said more often,” he said. “We really do need reality-based politics, evidence-based politics, no matter how uncomfortable evidence sometimes is in our public life. So many of the values engineers live by ought to be the values politicians live by.”

Ignatieff then segued to an attack on the federal government’s decision last spring to prorogue parliament, and its more recent move to do away with the long-form census.

He accused the prime minister of planting fears about government and of slighting traditional institutions, such as the Supreme Court and the public service, adding that Harper seems intent on bypassing all limitations on prime ministerial power.

“I’m one of those people who think that we’re in politics to respect institutions that keep Canadians free—the Supreme Court, the public service, the professional associations,” Ignatieff said. “I don’t regard all the obstacles and impediments to prime ministerial power



Liberal Party and Federal Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff, PhD, had positive things to say about PEO at a September 14 town hall meeting in Mississauga.

as obstacles to be smashed out of the way. It doesn’t seem to be the way Canadians think about their institutions, but I sometimes fear this prime minister does think about our institutions this way.”

Ignatieff devoted some of his wide-ranging talk to his experience travelling across the country to meet with “ordinary Canadians” and try to win new adherents to the federal liberals’ “big red tent.”

“It was a very centre-of-the-road message,” Ignatieff said of his cross-Canada tour. “It’s about hands-on fiscal responsibility. I said to people on the conservative side, ‘come on into the big red tent.’ I said to people on the other side of the political system, ‘come on into the big red tent.’ We need to get Canada back to that dynamic, reforming, responsible centre, which the liberal party at its best and truest, has always exemplified.”

Ignatieff also used the town hall to outline more nuanced positions on such issues as international trade, educational reform, universal health care, multi-culturalism, and improved relations between the federal government and First Nations communities.

He said it’s time to draw some of the demand out of overtaxed and unsustainable health-care funding, in part by promoting better nutrition, fitness and food labeling.

Ignatieff also called for nuclear power as a key component of Canada’s future energy strategy, saying efforts to offset the effects of climate change must include a role for nuclear energy.

“I can’t see how we can meet the challenge of our energy requirements without a Canadian strategy on nuclear energy,” he said. He criticized the Harper conservatives for their murky approach to Canada’s nuclear industry, including their flirting with the idea of selling off Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd (AECL).

“You are looking at a government whose nuclear strategy over four years consists of ‘Let’s get out of this as fast as we can.’ So we’ve had two shutdowns [of the medical isotope producing reactor] at Chalk River, we’ve abandoned our global leadership of medical isotopes, we’ve got no replacement for the research reactor at Chalk River, no plans to do anything about it, and it appears we’re about to unload AECL. The idea of walking away from 60 years of Canadian nuclear leadership is unthinkable to this leader of this party.”

Following his 45-minute address, Ignatieff accepted a dozen questions from the audience, comprised mostly of professional engineers, EITs and students.

In response to a question about his one-time support of a carbon tax, Ignatieff said it’s important for policy-makers to provide incentives and substitutes for Canadians to opt for less carbon-intensive energy use. It’s pointless, he said, to impose additional taxes on fossil fuels and increase Canadians’ cost of living, without providing any real energy-use alternatives.

He also answered a question about multi-culturalism in Canada with an appeal to the benefits of diversity and inclusiveness. In that vein, Ignatieff praised PEO for its efforts to recognize international credentials and help accommodate internationally educated engineering graduates into the profession’s ranks.

“I’m very heartened to look across this room and see the multi-cultural diversity of the engineering profession in this province,” he said. “This is a tribute to your association. We still have challenges, but I know Professional Engineers Ontario has done a path-breaking job in this area, and I hope you will lead other professions.”

Ignatieff was introduced by Bonnie Crombie, MP (Liberal, Mississauga-Streetsville), who said her career as a parliamentarian was inspired by Ignatieff.

“As scientists and engineers, I know you value basing your decisions on hard facts and evidence,” Crombie said. “And I think that’s what every government needs—the ability to collect data. And I assure you, Michael Ignatieff believes in evidence, not in ideology. He believes in evidence-based policy, not policy-based evidence.”

In his welcoming remarks, PEO Mississauga Chapter Chair Tapan Das, PhD, P.Eng., outlined GLP work as a clear opportunity for government, noting the “73,000 professional engineers in Ontario, including 9000 in the Mississauga and Oakville chapters,” as “an ocean of engineering expertise and talent” governments can “tap into to better formulate and implement policies and projects related to engineering.”

Anita Cwynar, P.Eng., chair of the Oakville Chapter’s GLP Committee, told *Engineering Dimensions* Ignatieff was initially invited to address a group of engineers by Wafik El-Sunbaty, P.Eng., Mississauga Chapter GLP chair, leading to the Mississauga and Oakville chapters’ eventual co-sponsorship. Asked for her impressions of the evening, she cited the calibre of the questions, calling them “well thought out, articulate and insightful. I think Mr. Ignatieff was struck by this as well—that the questions being asked were very intelligent ones.”



A boy works intently on his K’NEX bridge project at the National Engineering Month 2010 kick-off event at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto.

SHARE YOUR PASSION FOR THE PROFESSION AT NEM 2011

By Julia Melnikova

Scheduled for February 26 to March 6, 2011, National Engineering Month (NEM) is just a few months away and volunteers are still needed. Now in its 19th year, NEM is designed to raise awareness of the importance of engineering and technology in our daily lives and to encourage young people to consider the wealth of career possibilities within engineering. Engineers can help make the 2011 events a resounding success.

As part of NEM in Ontario, drop-in K’NEX bridge-building workshops will be held at science centres and children’s museums in Kitchener, London, Sudbury and Toronto. About 300 engineering and technology volunteers are needed to make these workshops a successful, interactive experience for participants. Volunteers will help children ages six and up turn their imaginative ideas into innovative structures using K’NEX, a creative construction toy.

Toronto-area volunteers are also needed to deliver a popular Engineers Without Borders (EWB) “Water for the world” presentation on managing global water resources, followed by a water filter-building exercise. This interactive workshop will be offered on weekdays and weeknights at Toronto public libraries. Dozens of library branches will be involved, with some seeking French presenters for the program.

Want to become a National Engineering Month organizer in your community? There is still time left to organize an event for NEM 2011. Visit the official website, www.engineeringmonth.on.ca, for ideas and information on activities and events (click on Event Organizer Help, then Planning Advice). To volunteer for a drop-in K’NEX construction workshop or EWB workshop, visit the website and click on Volunteer Opportunities to fill out an online volunteer form.

EMPLOYERS REMAIN CAUTIOUS IN 2010

By Jayna Koria and Eleana Rodriguez

SALARY INCREASES BY employers of engineers in Ontario dipped below the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the first time since Canada entered into recession at the end of 2008.

This observation is one of several findings in a recent survey conducted by Mercer (Canada) Limited for the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE). Compensation data for more than 14,700 engineers across six engineering responsibility levels and 14 job types were collected from 146 organizations in the private and public sectors. The 2010 survey reflects data for engineers working in organizations of all sizes, across a broad array of industries located in 17 metropolitan areas in Ontario.

PAY INCREASES MORE TARGETED, BELOW CPI

Results of the 2010 OSPE employer compensation survey show that year-over-year median base pay increased for the majority of engineering responsibility levels, with increases ranging from 0.8 to 2.9 per cent. Increases this year were somewhat targeted, with higher increases going to more experienced employees. On average, increases were lower than

the change in the Ontario CPI for the same period. The entry engineering level (level A) was the only level that saw a year-over-year decrease in median base salary. It is likely that employers were able to hire new talent at lower levels than in previous years. These results may indicate that employers of engineers are now fully experiencing some of the effects of the economic downturn that started in late 2008. Because many employers of engineers work on large, multi-year projects, the effect of the recession may have taken a while to fully take hold in this sector of the economy.

WORKFORCE INTACT DESPITE TOUGH ECONOMY

With the economy still feeling the effects of the recession, Mercer analyzed how employers may have changed their engineering workforce in these difficult and uncertain times. The number of incumbent records submitted to the survey was used as a proxy to gauge changes in participants' engineering workforces. The analysis focused on companies that participated in the survey for the past two years and had submitted data for at least 10 engineers. The survey findings show that the great majority (83 per cent)

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN MEDIAN BASE SALARY—CORE SAMPLE										
Engineering level	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All	3.3	2.4	2.0	3.6	-1.8	2.1	3.4	2.8	3.0	1.4
Level A	8.3	-3.8	0.0	-2.0	3.3	2.0	2.9	4.5	1.8	-0.6
Level B	7.6	-4.1	0.3	2.1	3.6	0.0	2.2	3.0	1.5	1.4
Level C	3.2	0.9	2.7	1.9	2.3	2.7	2.4	2.7	1.8	0.8
Level D	4.0	1.4	0.6	5.3	2.3	2.5	2.8	4.3	2.0	1.3
Level E	4.0	1.1	1.1	3.1	2.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.1	2.6
Level F	6.1	0.6	0.3	2.2	4.4	5.1	3.6	2.2	1.8	2.9
CPI Ontario	3.5	1.2	2.5	2.4	1.9	2.4	1.6	2.8	0.0	1.6

Notes: 2004 figures represent the percentage increase in median salary for common core participants over 2003.

2005 figures represent the percentage increase in median salary over the 2004 total sample.

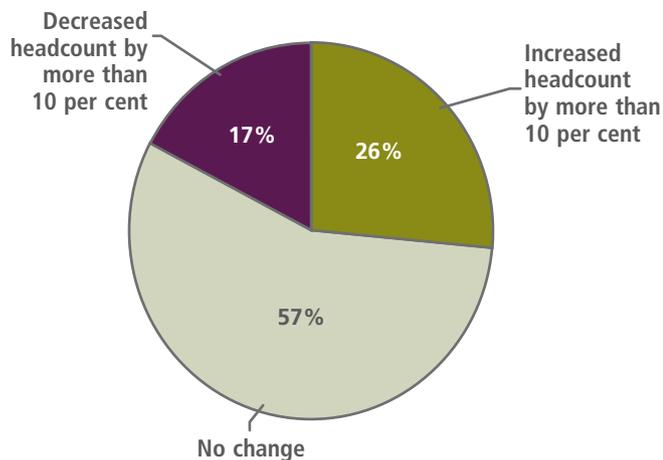
2006 to 2010 figures represent the percentage increase in median salary for common core participants over the prior year.

CPI figures represent the Consumer Price Index for Ontario as of June 2010.

Data are incumbent weighted. The moderate increase for all engineering levels compared to other levels is a result of more incumbents with pay above last year's overall median, the majority of which are in level F.

of participants increased or made no significant changes (+/- 10 per cent) to their workforces. Only 17 per cent of participants reduced engineering staff. Clearly, employers want to retain key talent in anticipation of full economic recovery.

ENGINEERING HEADCOUNT CHANGES



Note: A change in workforce was considered if more or less than 10 per cent of a company's matches had changed.

GENDER PAY GAP MORE PREVALENT WITH EXPERIENCE

New female graduates entering into the engineering field command the same entry-level salaries as their male co-graduates. Data from this year's survey show a less than 1 per cent pay differential between male and female entry-level engineers (levels A and B). The gender pay gap widens between level B and C and becomes more significant with each level. The gap is more than 8 per cent at level F. The survey results also highlight that there are far fewer female engineers entering into and staying in this field of work than males. Male engineers make up more than 75 per cent of the engineering workforce surveyed in Ontario at the entry levels, and more than 90 per cent of level F engineers.

The "Percentage of male and female engineers in survey" graph shows the proportion of male and female engineers at each survey level and the gender pay differential. For example,

2010 COMPENSATION AT A GLANCE

- engineering pay increases more targeted and, for the first time in four years, below Ontario's CPI
- despite a tough economy, most companies kept their workforces intact
- gender pay gap more prevalent with experience

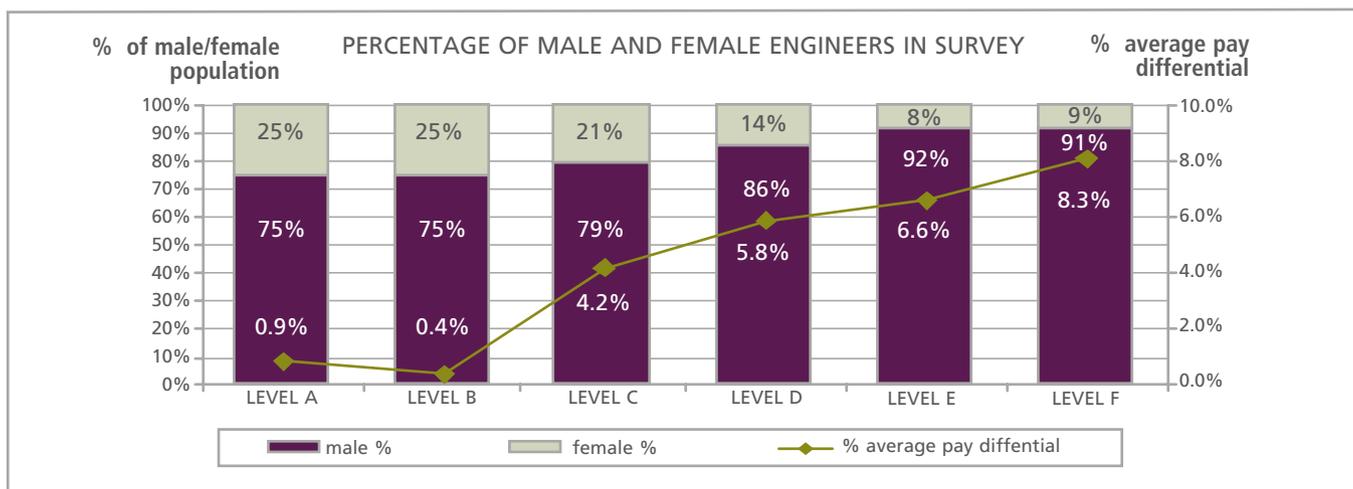
at level D, 86 per cent of the surveyed workforce comprises male engineers whose salaries, on average, are 5.8 per cent higher than those of their female counterparts.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Now in its 57th year, the employer compensation survey of engineers in Ontario helps establish meaningful criteria for levels of engineering responsibility for the benefit of both engineers and employers of engineers and provides data with respect to actual compensation levels for engineering work. The survey results are available for purchase in PDF format for both employers and OSPE members. In addition to the PDF, the survey results are presented in an online format through Mercer PayMonitor®, allowing employers to assess their organization's competitive position and analyze market data.

As in previous years, the design and implementation of the survey were overseen by an OSPE advisory committee comprising representatives from industry, as well as the engineering and human resources communities. The committee ensures the survey remains a current and reliable resource on compensation for engineers. A list of committee members is provided in the published report.

Employers and OSPE members can order the 2010 OSPE employer compensation survey by contacting Mercer at www.imercer.ca/ospe, 800-631-9628 or info.services@mercer.com. OSPE members can access a complimentary copy of the member market compensation summary online at www.ospe.on.ca.



TASK GROUP SEEKS REGULATION of digital communications infrastructure

By Michael Mastromatteo

A committee of PEO engineers is recommending increased regulation of those involved in the design and management of Canada's "critical" digital infrastructure.

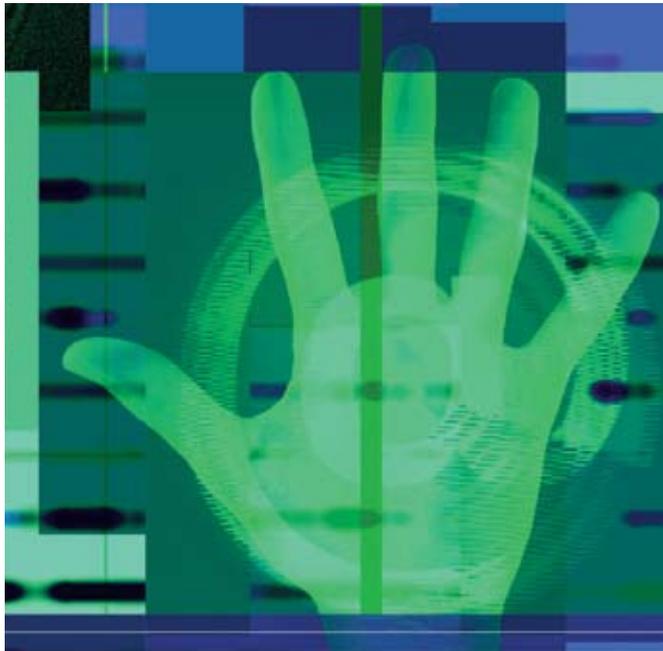
The Communications Infrastructure Engineering (CIE) task group, a subgroup of PEO's Emerging Disciplines Task Force, recently submitted its recommendations to the federal government in response to a call for public consultation on the development of a national strategy for the digital economy in Canada.

In May 2010, Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement invited input from concerned groups on how Canada can take full advantage of the digital economy. The government is working on a comprehensive strategy that takes into account advice and recommendations received from concerned parties. Between May 10 and July 13, more than 2000 Canadian individuals and organizations offered ideas and submissions.

In its May submission, PEO's CIE task group said engineers welcome the opportunity to work with the federal government to develop legislation that ensures all people involved in the design and operation of critical digital infrastructure are appropriately qualified, and this "important field of engineering" is appropriately regulated.

The CIE task group comprises nine volunteer members, including former PEO presidents George Comrie, P.Eng., FEC (chair), and Peter DeVita, P.Eng., FEC, and current councillors Corneliu Chisu, P.Eng., FEC, and Roger Jones, P.Eng.

The task group acknowledged the growing influence of digital communications on Canada's security and economic competitiveness, adding that it's time to consider greater regulatory oversight.



"At the present time, the field of digital infrastructure is largely unregulated from the point of view of public safety," the CIE task group said. "Some vendor-specific certifications exist, but there are no constraints on who can design, operate or troubleshoot networks. Protection of networks against errors, security breaches and malicious attacks is left to corporate policy."

The task group said that while regulations exist to prevent unlicensed or unqualified people from delivering health care or emergency services, there is significant risk in not regulating against digital infrastructure failure, especially in the health care or EMS systems.

The CIE task group also said Canada's engineering profession is being proactive in ensuring professional engineers working in the field of digital infrastructure have the skills necessary to make Canada a world leader in digital infrastructure, not just in terms of access, but also in terms of reliability, availability, security and privacy.

The task group also referred to US efforts to regulate elements of digital communications infrastructure, noting the US senate is reviewing the *Cybersecurity Act*, which looks to enhance national cyber security through closer collaboration between the government and private sector companies.

Although public consultation ended in mid-July, the federal government is encouraging interested parties to review progress of the national strategy on its digital economy website at www.de-en.gc.ca. News and updates will be posted on the site's newsroom and in other prominent locations on the site as they become available.

In early October, meanwhile, Public Safety Minister Vic Toews announced Canada's Cyber Security Strategy, which is to be built on three pillars: securing government systems, partnering to secure vital cyber systems outside government, and helping Canadians to be secure online. PEO responded to the announcement by applauding the government "for taking this important step to protect the Canadian public," forwarding a copy of the executive summary of the CIE task group's

continued on p. 22

continued from p. 20

phase 1 report, approved by PEO council in September (see *In Council*, p. 62), and saying PEO would welcome the opportunity to work with government “in creating effective legislation that improves overall public safety in our critical infrastructure.”

“Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), the body that regulates the practice of professional engineering in the public interest in Ontario under the *Professional Engineers Act*, is working to protect the nation’s critical infrastructure by regulating the systems designers of communications networks,” President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, writes. “After two years of in-depth work by a dedicated task force of industry members, we have defined the core body of knowledge for this area of professional engineering practice, and in September PEO council approved recognizing communications infrastructure engineering as a new discipline in engineering. This work is clearly the practice of professional engineering and by statute may only be performed by a licensed practitioner who is held publicly accountable for the work.”

In her letter, the president cited the federal government’s legislation in the *Railway Safety Act* as a possible model for legislation that would prescribe “the requirements to use properly qualified people to protect the public interest in critical areas of federal concern.”

Emerging Disciplines Task Force Chair DeVita says the CIE task group is now taking up “phase 2 considerations,” devoted primarily to defining the practice of professional engineering within the communications infrastructure field. The CIE task group’s work will likely be the focus of the next policy engagement series presentation sponsored by the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, scheduled for November 25 in Toronto (see www.ocepp.ca for details).

PEO continues development OF PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS

By Nicole Axworthy

SUFFICIENT SPACE HAS now become available to enable the first phase of PEO headquarters’ permanent development at 40 Sheppard Avenue West in Toronto.

PEO’s design team, led by Intercede Facility Management Ltd., is focusing on PEO’s long-term vision to have an engineering centre that is a landmark for all 73,000 members, and to be a centre of activity for the hundreds of volunteers serving on the association’s 30 committees and 36 chapters.

Earlier this year, consultations commenced on the long-term design and build-out of 40 Sheppard, which included an examination of the

designers, architects, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) specialists, landscape architects and mechanical, structural and electrical engineers.

“All the concepts developed reinforce the project objectives and the design principles that were adopted by PEO senior management and the 40 Sheppard Task Force at the outset,” says Intercede lead design consultant Lesley Melliship.

Intercede’s extensive consultations have led to the development of an overall master plan based on several parameters, such as space availability,



mechanical and electrical systems, and office and meeting space design. PEO formed 12 consultation teams comprising more than 60 staff, volunteers and council members to provide input into the building design and to assist the consultant team of interior

lease expiry of current tenants, and programming requirements. The project vision sees approximately 52,000 square feet to be used by PEO as general offices, a conference centre, museum, business centre, tribunal offices, council chamber, auditorium

PEO OFFERS BRANDED LICENCE PLATES

By Jennifer Coombes

and engineers' lounge/dining facility. The overall design concept maximizes the use of natural light throughout and embraces state-of-the-art building automation and communication technology.

At its September meeting, council approved a mechanical master plan, a lighting retrofit and design concepts for office space and for meeting space.

Construction sequencing is based on space availability. "We started with a long-term vision for full-floor occupancy and we worked back to create a viable short-term solution that will migrate seamlessly and cost-effectively into the final design," says Melliship. Future plans involve moving staff to floors 5 and 6, and reconstructing the eighth floor for a council chamber with support rooms and a large dining, meeting and gathering area. When the entire ground floor becomes available in 2014, plans include building out a public space, museum and interactive area, with a direct entrance from the lobby. These plans also provide an opportunity to renovate these floors to a LEED gold standard.

In March, PEO's acquisition of 40 Sheppard was selected as the runner up in the National Association of Office and Industrial Properties' Real Estate Excellence Award under the category of Investment Deal of the Year 2009 (see *Engineering Dimensions*, May/June 2010, p. 16). In June, PEO won a nationwide search to find the greenest information technology department (see *Engineering Dimensions*, September/October 2010, p. 23).

It's not too early to order your PEO-branded licence plates to help raise awareness of the engineering profession across the province.

An initiative of the West Central Region Congress spearheaded by PEO's Brampton Chapter, the licence plates are designed so they do not signify that owners of cars displaying them are P.Engs.

Instead, they're intended to demonstrate a driver's solidarity with members of the engineering profession and promote the PEO brand—an idea that dovetails with PEO's goal of being the "global leader in professional self-regulation."

As part of PEO's partnership with Service Ontario's graphic licence plate program, plates bearing PEO's diamond-shaped logo will be available to the public this December. One of the conditions of joining the program is that PEO is responsible for selling the first 200 licence plates at a cost of \$82.15 each. PEO will incur an initial fee of \$15,800 for the program (\$250 start-up plus \$15,500 to purchase the supply of plates), most of which will be recouped.

Says Phil Maka, P.Eng., West Central Region councillor: "This initiative is a very cost-effective branding activity for PEO that has been in the works for a long time. We're proud that PEO is the only engineering regulator in Canada to offer its members a chance to display their professional pride in this way."

Those interested in placing an order for one of the first 200 plates can reserve any plate in the series, which is numbered consecutively from 01PE01 to 01PE99 and 02PE01 to 02PE99, plus 03PE01 and 03PE02.

Members can also contact Service Ontario at any time after the program is launched if they would like a plate displaying a number other than one in this series (maximum six characters), or would like to order a personalized plate at additional cost.

After PEO's supply is sold, all orders for a PEO licence plate, personalized or not, will have to go through Service Ontario. All fees associated with the licence plate validation sticker are the plate owner's responsibility.

For more information, or to order a PEO licence plate, visit www.peo.on.ca/licenceplates.html.



A sample of PEO's new graphic licence plate

Presidents past and present review PEO landscape

By Michael Mastromatteo



PEO President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, invited former presidents to a September 2 meeting to discuss challenges and opportunities for the engineering regulator. The current and former presidents later assembled for a group photo on the steps of PEO's new headquarters building. Attending the presidents luncheon were: (first row, left to right) Pat Quinn, P.Eng., FEC (1998, 2006), David Adams, P.Eng., FEC (2008, 2011), Nick Monsour, P.Eng., FEC (1985) and Walter Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng., FEC (1971, 1977, 1998, 2007); (second row, left to right) Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., FEC (2009), Diane Freeman (2010), Jane Phillips, P.Eng., FEC (1993), Peter DeVita, P.Eng., FEC (2000) and Harry Angus, P.Eng., FEC (1992); (third row, left to right) Kim Allen, P.Eng. (CEO/registrar), George Comrie, P.Eng., FEC (2004), Bob Goodings, P.Eng., FEC (2005), Robert Gillespie, P.Eng., FEC (1994), Richard Braddock, P.Eng., FEC (2002), Peter Ridout, P.Eng., FEC (1996), Tim Benson, P.Eng., FEC (1979) and John Bate, P.Eng., FEC (1980).

THE COMBINED WISDOM and experience of 16 current and former PEO presidents made for lively discussion September 2 at a recent past president's meeting.

Orchestrated by current President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, the half-day event became an opportunity for the new president to tap into the sagacity of her many predecessors in helping the regulator set a course to become the global leader in professional self-regulation.

Four-time president Walter Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng., FEC, who served his first term in 1971, attended the event, as did Tim Benson, P.Eng., FEC (1979), and Nick Monsour, P.Eng., FEC (1985).

"I value your counsel," Freeman said in welcoming her colleagues. "You're all committed to the profession, and while some of you have not been on the scene for some time, I'm sure you have valuable things to say on how we can better regulate the engineering profession in Ontario."

Freeman described the luncheon as an opportunity for past presidents to meet or re-acquaint themselves with the current president, President-elect David Adams, P.Eng., FEC, Past President Catherine Karakatsanis, MEng, P.Eng., FEC, and CEO/Registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng. She also drew attention to PEO's new headquarters as "an evolving showplace" for the profession, and encouraged discussion of the "major changes" ahead for the *Professional Engineers Act*. PEO was then in the midst of several act changes as part of the Ontario government's Open for Business initiative (Bill 68). Former presidents were especially interested in the removal of the contentious industrial exemption as part of the *Open for Business Act* amendments.

Discussion points on the agenda included the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, the complaints and discipline process, and the new headquarters.

Most of the discussion, however, gravitated to the challenges and opportunities for the engineering profession.

A number of former presidents agreed that the problems facing PEO today are similar to those they faced 10, 15 and even 30 years ago. Others wondered if PEO might be straying beyond some of its core functions, while some suggested that if PEO is to gain more relevance, it must strive to reconnect with the industrial and manufacturing sectors.

Former president George Comrie, P.Eng., FEC (2004), suggested PEO emphasize governance and administrative issues going forward. "Actually, PEO has a unique model for the regulation of the profession," Comrie said. "It's quite frankly a good one, but it's not widely understood."

While some former presidents lamented the problem of recent engineering graduates failing to obtain licensure, most said they maintain an optimistic view for the future. The majority seemed to agree PEO must continually evolve to meet the challenges of a changing profession, and to guard against imposing old, outdated solutions on new problems.

Also emerging was a clear consensus for the idea that PEO better exploit what might be termed its intellectual history. As two-time president Patrick Quinn, P.Eng., FEC (1999, 2006), noted: "There is a huge wealth of talent and experience around this table, but at the same time there is a problem

with former presidents leaving the scene and not being heard from again. This could be a tremendous opportunity to define the pressing problems before us and decide where to go from here.”

Harry Angus, P.Eng., FEC, PEO president in 1992, welcomed the opportunity to meet colleagues and discuss pressing concerns. Active in consulting engineering, he suggested PEO should remain open to changing conditions in the regulation of the profession and beyond. “It is my view that PEO has never taken full advantage of its size and stature in terms of representing the wider view of engineering to the general populace,” he said. “The attempts I have seen have concentrated on technical achievements, not on the overall good to the public.”

Some participants wondered what influence a former presidents panel would exert over PEO council. For example, Benson said past presidents should not be perceived as a sort of senate, with the ability to influence council deliberations. “Our only role should be to offer advice to the president, when asked for that advice,” Benson said.

Freeman responded by assuring the group the meeting was strictly informal and any advice or recommendations the group put forward would be shared with council for advisement. Before concluding the meeting, Freeman solicited participants’ interest in convening on a semi-regular basis. The majority supported the idea.

PRESIDENTS AT THE MEETING

David Adams (president-elect),
P.Eng., FEC, 2011, 2008

Harry Angus, P.Eng., FEC, 1992

John Bate, P.Eng., FEC, 1990

Tim Benson, P.Eng., FEC, 1979

Walter Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng., FEC, 2007,
1998, 1977 and 1971

Richard Braddock, P.Eng., FEC, 2002

George Comrie, P.Eng., FEC, 2004

Peter DeVita, P.Eng., FEC, 2000

Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, 2010

Robert Gillespie, P.Eng., FEC, 1994

Robert Goodings, P.Eng., FEC, 2005

Catherine Karakatsanis (past president),
P.Eng., FEC, 2009

Nick Monsour, P.Eng., FEC, 1985

Jane Phillips, P.Eng., FEC, 1993

Patrick Quinn, P.Eng., FEC, 2006 and 1999

Peter Ridout, P.Eng., FEC, 1996

Engineering gets strong voice at municipalities association

By Michael Mastromatteo



Synergies were at work August 16 to 18 as PEO President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, attended the annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in Windsor.

In addition to her role as PEO president, Freeman is also a Waterloo

municipal councillor. It was as a member of Waterloo council that Freeman was first elected to serve as a member of the AMO board of directors (large urban caucus).

AMO is a non-profit advocacy organization for Ontario’s municipal governments. It supports effective municipal government as an essential, but sometimes overlooked, component of Ontario’s political system.

The PEO president has long advocated AMO as a channel for Ontario’s professional engineers to influence local governments in developing technically sound public policy, including strategies to deal with aging buildings, sewer systems, roadways, transportation corridors and other forms of urban infrastructure.

As was noted by incoming AMO President Norm Sandberg, “We [municipalities] own more infrastructure than any other order of government, and keeping it safe and reliable is one of our chief responsibilities.”

In a 2007 interview with *Engineering Dimensions*, Freeman outlined some of the benefits AMO experience can bring to a PEO president.

“I see the importance of governance through PEO, and I see AMO as a governance structure for all municipalities in the sense that there’s this melting pot of community members and involvement,” she says. “I’ve never been on this really strong advocacy side, and AMO works very strongly in that perspective. I just felt I had a tremendous opportunity to learn there.”

The theme of the 2010 AMO conference was “propelling economic prosperity.” One of its highlights was delegates’ support of a memorandum of understanding with the province, promoting consultation between the province and AMO whenever provincial leaders propose statutory or regulatory changes having significant impact on municipal budgets.

YORK CHAPTER TEAMS WITH RYERSON TO OFFER GUEST LECTURES

By Jennifer Coombes

Conestoga engineering program makes CEAB history in Ontario

By Jennifer Coombes

CONESTOGA COLLEGE'S MECHANICAL systems engineering degree program (MSE) has recently been accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB), making it the first college-level program in Ontario to achieve such standing. Graduates of MSE, a four-year, co-op bachelor's degree, will now meet the academic requirement for licensure in any Canadian jurisdiction.

Only one other non-university in Canada, the British Columbia Institute of Technology, has received CEAB accreditation for an engineering degree program.

In a statement released September 8, the Waterloo-based college calls CEAB accreditation of MSE "the confirmation of the high-quality program set by Conestoga and is one more step in the development to ensure that our graduates will have the required knowledge and skills."

Said Mike McClements, P.Eng., executive dean of Conestoga's School of Engineering & Information Technology: "Whether you're a prospective student or the parent of a prospective student, the accreditation, along with our unique project-based delivery model and high co-op and graduation placement rates, will continue to make this program very attractive for young people considering a career in engineering."

The college says accreditation is also a win for the local community because it enables greater access to quality engineering programs for students in the Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph areas.

President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, attended the September press conference announcing the college's CEAB accreditation, along with Michael Price, P.Eng., PEO's deputy registrar, licensing and registration. Freeman congratulated the college on its achievement and said: "The first step to licensure begins with the right education, so on behalf of the council of Professional Engineers Ontario, I'd like to welcome Conestoga College to the engineering community."



Mohamed Lachemi, PhD, P.Eng., dean of Ryerson University's faculty of engineering, architecture and science

Building on the success of their now two-year-old mentoring partnership with Ryerson University, PEO's York Chapter has recently launched a pilot program called Guest Lecturer for a Day (GLFAD). Twenty-one volunteers from York Chapter, who represent a broad range of disciplines, will deliver guest lectures to fourth-year engineering students in the coming months.

Some of the topics planned for GLFAD include Canadian design codes and standards, professional ethics, globalization, intellectual property and sustainable engineering.

"With GLFAD, we're helping students get experience in what it's like to do engineering in real life," said Kam Leong, P.Eng., York Chapter chair, at the event kick-off October 7.

Added Gordon Ip, P.Eng., the chapter's director of mentorship programs: "When I was in school, I would have loved the opportunity to have someone come in and talk to us. We feel that GLFAD is a fantastic way to reach out to the student population."

Mohamed Lachemi, PhD, P.Eng., dean of Ryerson's faculty of engineering, architecture and science, echoed that sentiment. He told the gathered GLFAD volunteers and members of the York Chapter executive he is proud to offer this opportunity to his students. He said students often ask how they can collaborate more with PEO and added, "One of the reasons Ryerson is attracting such high-quality students is the programs we're offering, such as this type of collaboration with PEO."

Students breaking new ground in policy development efforts

By Michael Mastromatteo



Judith Lau, co-founder of Citizen Engineer



Citizen Engineer co-founder Jane Chui during the OCEPP public policy conference in May 2010

ENGINEERING STUDENTS and recent graduates continue to find new ways to apply their learning to public policy development and to bring leadership to their workplaces and communities.

Last summer, *Engineering Dimensions* reported on the University of Toronto's Leaders of Tomorrow program, which encourages engineering undergraduates to embrace a community-support view in their lives and careers (July/August 2009, p. 20).

Now the student-led Citizen Engineer has arisen to encourage engineering students to own a role in public policy and to inform students about engineers' roles in public policy.

Judith Lau, a 2009 engineering graduate of the University of Toronto, co-founded Citizen Engineer with 2010 graduate Jane Chui.

Lau says the program provides engineering students with the opportunity to learn more about public policy and how they and practising engineers can help make better decisions for their communities.

"I think engineers have a lot to offer in the public space, with our logical approach and desire for efficiency," Lau says. "We can offer a more objective view and are able to support our arguments with facts, and that is really important as we go forward to deal with today's and tomorrow's challenges, such as the environment, clean water, security and health."

Chui, Citizen Engineer's current president, says that during a typical academic year, the group invites guest speakers to address leadership and public policy issues with undergraduates. Topics typically include sustainability, energy, transportation and civil infrastructure. She says a highlight of the last academic year was an "Engineers in Parliament" workshop attended by engineer-MPPs Norm Sterling, P.Eng. (Carleton-Mississippi Mills) and Phil McNeely, P.Eng. (Ottawa-Orleans).

Chui, who just entered studies for a doctorate in environmental studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, recently claimed one of

the prizes in the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy's essay competition. Her essay, "Managing Ontario river restoration projects" (*Journal of Policy Engagement*, August 2010), highlighted the challenge for policy-makers in balancing environmental objectives with employment and economic growth.

Chui is also the recipient of one of the 2010 Engineers Canada national awards for engineering achievement.

Chui says Citizen Engineer members often become involved in research and discussion of engineering-public policy issues, which allow for a more thorough understanding of how engineering fits into the world.

Objectives include increased active participation of engineers in public policy by engaging current engineering students, establishing a sense of "global awareness" in the wider engineering community, and encouraging all engineers to take responsibility for more effective public policy formation.

Citizen Engineer is planning a number of information seminars for the 2010-2011 academic year. Topics of discussion include energy supplies, the role of engineering in society, bioethics, and the World Bank.

Fourth-year U of T engineering student Rafal Dittwaud will act as vice chair and moderator for Citizen Engineer for the coming year.

For more information, visit citizenengineer.skule.ca.