

COUNCIL CONSIDERS FUTURE FOR PEO HEADQUARTERS

By Nicole Axworthy

AT ITS SEPTEMBER meeting, PEO council considered the future of PEO's headquarters at 40 Sheppard Avenue West in Toronto. A new 40 Sheppard Working Group will develop a long-term vision and five-year business plan for the building, overseen by the Executive Committee.

PEO acquired 40 Sheppard in March 2009. Design concepts for the building were established based on a vision of having an "engineering centre befitting a major profession that creates an atmosphere consistent with the image of professional engineering." This included a focus on sustainability, including acquiring LEED certification; high-quality meeting spaces equipped with state-of-the-art technology; and consolidated staff work areas maximizing the use of natural light (see "Why did PEO cross the street?" *Engineering Dimensions*, November/December 2011, p. 51).

As IT and Facilities Management Director Eric Brown, P.Eng., explained in his presentation to council, with the completion of the first two phases of construction, an opportunity exists for council to take stock of what has been done and set a long-term direction for 40 Sheppard, before embarking on further development. Council members received a building update report that summarized capital spending on the building by year, as well as scenarios for further major renovations and their associated costs.

Vice President George Comrie, P.Eng., FEC, Past President David Adams, P.Eng., FEC, and Councillor Roydon Fraser, PhD, P.Eng., FEC, all expressing concerns about PEO's budget and an anticipated draw-down of PEO's cash reserves in 2015, recommended the working group weigh the costs of the suggested future renovations against potential benefits to determine whether new work is necessary at this time.

At the meeting, council stood down the original 40 Sheppard Task Force with thanks, and approved an interim terms of reference for the new task force, which will include President Denis Dixon, P.Eng., FEC, Vice President Rakesh Shreewastav, P.Eng., and Councillor Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng. The new working group is expected to revisit the original design concepts, look at PEO's priorities, and consider the financial impact of various options. The group will present its final report and recommendations to council no later than the March 2013 council meeting, and is expected to give strong consideration in its deliberations to controlling PEO's budget.

2013 ELECTION MATTERS

Council has appointed ComputerShare Investor Services Inc. as PEO's official elections agent and Catharine Redden, former lieutenant governor appointee to PEO council (2001-2008), as the chief elections officer for the 2013 council elections.

Council also considered 14 recommendations of the Central Election and Search Committee (CESC) and approved implementing all but one in 2013. The unapproved recommendation, which involves the roles of the chief elections officer and the CESC, would require a change to Regulation 941/90, so will be considered further for possible incorporation in future elections. The CESC annually reviews the procedures for the conduct of PEO's elections, based on comments and questions in relation to the just-

completed election and consultation with key stakeholders, including the returning officers, the official elections agent, the registrar, senior staff and others, and makes recommendations for improvements to be incorporated in the coming year's procedures.

Based on incorporation of the approved CESC recommendations, council then approved the publicity and voting procedures for the 2013 elections (available on PEO's website and on page 59 of this issue).

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

At its September meeting, council received an action plan to implement policy statement 1 of PEO's approved Equity and Diversity Policy. The action plan, developed by a subcommittee of PEO's Equity and Diversity Committee, was presented by committee chair Márta Ecsedi, P.Eng., FEC.

Policy 1 states:

"That PEO council demonstrate leadership regarding equity and diversity, including review of its own processes and training programs, and seek new ways for PEO to strive to be responsible and answerable to its members, staff and stakeholders on these matters."

The subcommittee identified four priorities for council action. They are that council:

1. becomes aware and promotes awareness of equity and diversity issues as a group and individually;
2. leads by example and avoids limiting timing, location, access, etc., of all events;
3. reaches out for equity and diversity in all nominations (e.g. PEO leadership positions and recognition); and
4. applies a diversity lens to appointments within council and beyond (e.g. council-appointed vice president, and externally to other boards).

The subcommittee anticipated that \$70,611 over a three-year period would be required to implement its recommended actions to address the four council priorities.

Council created the Equity and Diversity Committee at its June 2003 meeting to assess issues of regulatory concern to women, aboriginal members, and other under-represented groups, and to make recommendations to PEO on these issues.

COMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENTS

Paul Ballantyne, P.Eng., FEC, Eastern Region councillor and Regional Councillors Committee (RCC) chair, updated council on the progress of work done to improve communications among licence holders, chapter volunteers and council. The issue was brought to council's attention in April 2012 by Ray Linseman, P.Eng., FEC, chair, Thousand Islands Chapter. Council directed RCC to examine the issue and make recommendations for improvement.

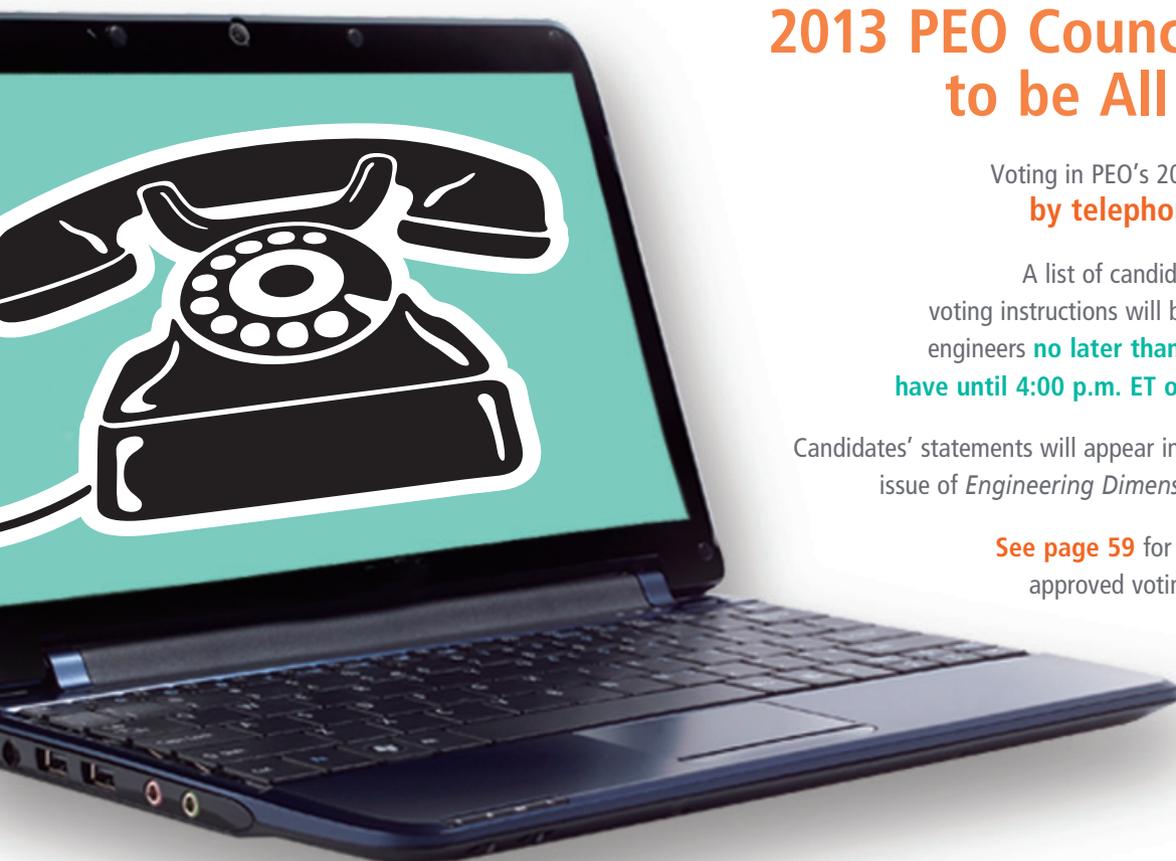
To date, RCC has consulted with chapter leaders during regional congresses, reviewed staff analysis and looked at potential solutions proposed by staff. One concept suggested is a brief, frequently issued electronic newsletter for chapter

leaders, to keep them apprised of developments at head office, with links to supporting documents. Council directed staff to further develop the idea.

GUIDELINE FOR REVIEW OF COMPLETED WORKS

Council approved the Professional Standards Committee beginning development of a *Guideline for Review of Completed Works*. Clients or regulatory authorities often call upon professional engineers to review, verify and, sometimes, to certify the condition of many different kinds of physical property, including buildings, bridges and production facilities. The guideline is intended to identify clearly the legal and ethical responsibilities of professional engineers undertaking such review work, so that they will understand the limits of their roles and responsibilities under the *Professional Engineers Act*.

To develop the guideline, PEO staff and subcommittee members will consult practitioners and other parties, including members of the public affected by professional engineers carrying out this work. When a draft is ready, members will be notified that it is available from the PEO website so that they may provide comments. Σ



2013 PEO Council Elections to be All Electronic!

Voting in PEO's 2013 council elections will be **by telephone and Internet only.**

A list of candidates and detailed electronic voting instructions will be mailed to all professional engineers **no later than January 25, 2013. You'll have until 4:00 p.m. ET on March 1, 2013 to vote.**

Candidates' statements will appear in the January/February 2013 issue of *Engineering Dimensions* and on PEO's website.

See page 59 for the Call for Candidates and approved voting and publicity procedures.