

[LETTERS]

CONFIDENTIAL CPD

It would be wrong to presume that Mr. Toutant didn't take at least as much time to do some research about CPD programs than he took to write his letter published in the latest *Engineering Dimensions* ("CPD unnecessary," July/August 2012, p. 64). He was aware, I presume, that CPD programs are mandatory for professional engineers in all Canadian provinces and territories except Ontario, and that they exist in most of the other professional regulatory bodies.

He must have noticed in his research that if a CPD program like the one in Manitoba were mandatory in Ontario, he could have logged at least one PDH (professional development hour) under "informal activity" (which includes "self-directed study" and "structured discussion of technical or professional issues with one's peers") for having written his letter. And that he could also earn PDHs for "attendance at meetings of technical, professional or managerial asso-

ciations or societies" (also under "informal activities") or under "participation" by serving on PEO's council or as a member of a PEO committee, where he can present his opinion and discuss the point that the information listed in any CPD log be protected like a professional secret, and how an Ontario CPD program can be implemented and managed.

At the end, Mr. Toutant could make public his point of view and at the same time earn PDHs without anyone publicly knowing about it.

Pierre Lapalme, P.Eng., Laval, QC



CREATING STANDARDS

President Denis Dixon's timely and thoughtful commentary on the Elliot Lake tragedy (*Engineering Dimensions*, July/August 2012, p. 3) points to the centrality of maintenance to any organization. It reminded me that maintenance, a key issue globally, is becoming a crucial competency in realizing a sustainable society, especially when considering the entire life cycle of products and assets. The issue is especially salient, as the asset management community is currently working towards the adoption of the PAS 55

standard for asset management, and from there to an ISO standard. PAS 55 is a Publicly Available Specification, the status of which is between codes of practice and an ISO standard. It offers a framework for a holistic and systematic approach to optimizing management of physical assets. The ISO standard is expected to be ratified in 2014 and will help ensure that tragedies like that in Elliot Lake will no longer occur.

Andrew K.S. Jardine, PhD, P.Eng., Etobicoke, ON



TAP NOT BOTTLE

I was quite surprised to see a picture of President Dixon with a bottle of Perrier on page 30 of my engineer-

ing magazine (*Engineering Dimensions*, July/August 2012). Regulating municipal drinking water to ensure its safety to protect public health is an important engineering responsibility. I do believe PEO made this argument to the Walkerton Inquiry. A glass of excellent Toronto water would have been a more prudent choice. Let's ensure we encourage turning on the tap, not bottled water.

Judy MacDonald, P.Eng., supervisor, drinking water, Nova Scotia Environment, Hammonds Plains, NS

Letters to the editor are welcomed, but should be kept to no more than 500 words, and are subject to editing for length, clarity and style.

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