



PEO's role as regulator central to decisions on core business

417TH MEETING, JUNE 21, 2003

by Sharon Van Ihinger

With President-elect George Comrie, P.Eng., pinch-hitting in the chair for a recuperating Ken McMartin, Council's decisions at its June meeting reflected more than ever PEO's evolution to a more regulatory focus.

For example, the 2003 edition of the *Report on Engineers' Salaries—Survey of Employers*, included in this issue of *Engineering Dimensions*, is the last one to be published by PEO. As of December 31, Council decided, PEO will discontinue its involvement in the salary survey and dissolve the Advisory Committee on Salaries. It's expected that the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (the Society) will propose continuing the survey under its auspices, but the participating employers will decide on the acceptability of this arrangement. The Society has already assumed the former PEO Membership Salary Survey and recently released its first edition (available at www.ospe.on.ca).

However, PEO will continue to participate in National Engineering Week with two positions on, and funding to, the National Engineering Week Ontario Steering Committee. Council's decision is in keeping with the PEO-OSPE Legal Agreement, which identified education outreach—a feature of NEW—as an area in which both PEO and the Society might have a common interest and in which both could participate.

Committees and task force activities update

To enable a smooth transition to PEO's new governance and operating structures,

Council approved extending the term of office of existing committees, including the assignment of chairs, until the Governance Task Force completes its review of committee functions and alignment. The extension is subject to a June 17, 2003, recommended Committee Listing developed by the **Advisory Committee on Committees (ACC)**. The committee listing proposed replacements to fill vacancies in committee membership and recommended new chairs where an existing chair had indicated an inability to continue. Council also reconfirmed the authority of the ACC to continue to deal with the immediate needs of PEO's committees and task forces during the extended term of office. Vice President Bob Dunn, P.Eng., was appointed to chair the ACC.

A paper by Councillor David Sims, QC, *Guiding Principles for PEO Governance*, will be input to the **Governance Task Force's** final report. Sims wrote the paper in an attempt to clarify the wording of PEO's governance principles, which Council approved at its March 31 meeting in Sims' absence. A member of the task force, Sims was also not present at the meeting at which the task force finalized the wording. Rather than approve Sims' suggested revisions in isolation of the task force's other work, Council directed that the task force consider the paper.

Although the activities of PEO's **Women in Engineering Advisory Committee (WEAC)** have transferred to the society, PEO will create an **Inclusiveness Committee** to consider issues of concern to women, aboriginals, and other under-represented groups on engineering regulatory matters and make recommendations to Council. Thirteen Councillors approved establishing the com-

mittee; seven opposed it. The ACC will develop a terms of reference for the committee for Council's approval.

Meanwhile, a motion to approve funding to the Society for the WEAC for one year beyond the end of the program transition period on December 31, 2003, was defeated.

During discussion of the recommendations of the **Consulting Engineer Designation Committee** for designation and redesignation of professional engineers as Consulting Engineers, Councillors agreed that in the future the committee will have to describe the review process and criteria applied to justify its recommendations to designate without examinations. Under Regulation 941, designation as a Consulting Engineer may involve such examinations as Council wishes to assign, but Council is also permitted under section 56(2) of the Regulation to waive the writing of exams. In fact, PEO's designation process has never included examinations.

The **C of A Review Implementation Task Group** is reviewing Recommendations No. 6 and No. 9 (of the February 11, 2002, report by the Certificate of Authorization [C of A] Task Force) against the C of A program's basic principles. Task group Chair James Dunsmuir, P.Eng., a Lieutenant Governor Appointee to PEO Council, and Johnny Zuccon, P.Eng., PEO deputy registrar, standards and regulations, are preparing for Council's consideration draft policies and procedures to implement the remaining approved recommendations of the February report.

Council decided to refer to the Executive Committee the **Professional Practice Committee's (PPC's)** request to produce a

guideline for continuing professional development. Under the proposed new PEO governance structure, the **Executive Committee** will act as a policy and priorities committee to prioritize and steer the work of such committees as the PPC.

Councillor Nick Monsour, P.Eng., advised Council that a *Discipline Committee Handbook* had recently been completed and is being distributed to all members of the committee. Council also approved a motion to encourage the **Discipline Committee** to order that the results of all discipline proceedings where members or holders of temporary licences, limited licences, provisional licences or Cs of A are found guilty of professional misconduct be published with names. This would include those who are the subject of a Stipulated Order. The motion is in line with the approved recommendation of the Admissions, Complaints, Discipline and Enforcement Task Force that the names of all those found guilty of professional misconduct be published, or the Discipline Committee be required to publish an explanation of why it has ordered publication without names. It is also in keeping with the recent change to the *Professional Engineers Act* that opened discipline hearings to the public, except under certain defined circumstances.

Summary of CCPE AGM

Gordon Sterling, P.Eng., a PEO Past President and current president of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE), briefed Council on the Annual General Meeting of the CCPE Board of Directors, held May 23-24. Highlights included the presentation of a draft plan for the engineering profession's response to climate change (see p. 36 this issue); and an update on the From Consideration to Integration Project. A report on the first phase of the project, which examines the need to integrate immigrants into the Canadian workforce as soon as possible in all the professions, will be distributed to the constituent associations/ordre for comment.

A Civil Infrastructure Systems Technology Road Map, developed by CCPE and partners, was presented by Project Manager Michel Langelier, executive director, Canadian Society for Civil Engineering. The road map charts ways to improve the

maintenance and rehabilitation of Canada's road and water systems.

Also, a *National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure* was presented by Project Director Nancy Schepers. The guide contains general information on innovations and best practices. For more information on participating in the process, see Letters to the Editor in this issue.

The presidents of CCPE's constituent members did not discuss a letter to CCPE signed by the presidents of PEO and the Order of Engineers of Quebec (OIQ) expressing concern over increases in the fees paid to CCPE by its constituent members and requesting justification for CCPE spending. Instead, the CCPE Executive Committee will discuss PEO's and OIQ's concerns. Sterling encouraged PEO to let the national body know early on when its work is not relevant to PEO as a regulator.

Registrar's Report

CEO and Registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng., reported to Council on several ongoing issues and initiatives and then invited questions. Councillor Colin Cantlie, P.Eng., asked if PEO was in line to receive any of \$9 million that Human Resources Development Canada is allocating over three years to help integrate foreign professionals immigrating to Canada. Allen reported that PEO is working jointly with

CCPE in this area. He also reported that:

- ◆ PEO staff Process Improvement Teams have made good progress at developing recommendations to streamline PEO processes in such areas as the awarding of the P.Eng. licence, lessening the quantity of incorrectly addressed outgoing mail, and centralizing some filing. Senior management sponsors have now been assigned to assist with implementation on the initiatives;
- ◆ the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) and the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT) have for some time been discussing the creation of the new Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences (see *Engineering Dimensions*, May/June 2003, pp. 14-16, and Letters to the Editor, this issue). Consideration of the initiative predates the recommendations of the Ontario government's Building Regulatory Reform Advisory Group (see news item, p. 12);
- ◆ Under a CCPE Industry Liaison Work Plan, a working group, chaired by David Lapp, P.Eng., will contact CCPE's constituent members about their past and upcoming initiatives involving industry, to ensure that CCPE is not duplicating work already done. Allen said he requested that both PEO and the Society be interviewed. ◆

