

Council moves forward on Strategic Plan

JUNE 19, 20 MEETING

by Joan Bailey

In support of its mandate to strengthen PEO's regulatory role, PEO Council endorsed the implementation priorities for the strategic goals and strategic initiatives in PEO's Strategic Plan (see www.peo.on.ca/member/StratPlan/stratplan_home.htm). The priorities were the result of a session at Council's May workshop (see *The Link*, June/July 2002, p. 1). Council also received the first report on the Strategic Plan's implementation status, and agreed that staff would in future report quarterly on progress.

Core business

In the area of discipline and enforcement, Council approved in principle a memorandum of understanding (MOU), which had been reviewed by PEO legal counsel and the Complaints, Discipline, and Enforcement committees. The proposed agreement was the result of discussions in 2000 and 2001 among provincial/territorial association staff responsible for the discipline and enforcement functions. It formalizes the current ongoing spirit of cooperation on interprovincial discipline and enforcement matters. The Council motion also directed that the amendments to the MOU suggested by PEO's legal counsel be proposed to the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE), which facilitated the discussions among the discipline and enforcement officials, for incorporation into the final MOU.

In other core work of the association, Council was briefed on a PEO submission to the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia concerning the proposed merg-

er of B.C.'s technicians and technologists into the B.C. engineering licensing body, prepared by PEO's Technologist Licensure Task Group (see "Future Team," this issue, pp. 30-33).

Regarding the Regulations to the *Brownfields Statute Law Amendment Act*, Council was briefed on a meeting of PEO and the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (APGO) with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to discuss the definition of Qualified Person (QP) in the Regulation. PEO and APGO are taking the position that a QP under the legislation should be a licensed professional (P.Eng. or P.Geo.) and that they can grant limited licences to non-professionals with demonstrated expertise in contaminated site assessment and remediation.

PEO Manager of Professional Practice Bernard Ennis, P.Eng., updated Council on Bill 124, the *Building Code Statute Law Amendment Act*, and its implications for PEO (see this issue, page 13).

Council also received the interim report of the Governance Task Force (available on PEO's website at www.peo.on.ca/publications/Reports/Governance_interim2002.html).

Operations

Council received the 2003 budget assumptions approved by the Finance Committee in June. These include projections regarding membership statistics, staff salary increases (3 per cent), inflation rate (3 per cent) and interest rates, which will be used to develop the budget.

Council also received a revised 2002 budget and adopted a five-year plan. The plan assumed PEO fee increases of \$20 on February 1, 2003, and \$10 on February 1, 2004; an increase in the CCPE assessment per full-fee-paying P.Eng. of \$2.40 in 2003, \$2.40 in 2005 and \$2.00 in 2006; an inflation rate of 3 per cent; and

interest averaging 4.5 per cent from 2003.

In 2000, PEO's auditors suggested putting in place a conflict of interest policy for staff and volunteers. Council reviewed a draft policy proposed for approval, which had gone through several revisions to incorporate suggestions from the Finance and Audit committees. Council approved a motion to table discussion of the policy to its next meeting, and strongly suggested that there be two policies, one for volunteers, one for staff.

CCPE update

Past President G. Gordon Sterling, P.Eng., one of PEO's three directors on the board of the CCPE, brought Council up to date on CCPE initiatives. He said the CCPE board has approved a national policy on certification and specialization on which PEO had input (see "Demanding qualifications and competence," *Engineering Dimensions*, May/June 2002, pp. 34-36, 43). The board also approved the CCPE Strategic Plan, which had been revised substantially to incorporate almost all of the PEO comments on the draft plan.

Sterling reported that CCPE is asking the provinces to consult with their Councils on a proposed increase to the CCPE assessment. A letter from CCPE CEO Marie Lemay, P.Eng., outlining the reasons for the proposed increase and efforts to review and refocus CCPE's operations and revise its budget, was distributed to Council. The actions taken by CCPE include eliminating temporary and some permanent staff and standing down two boards, the letter said. Sterling noted that the last CCPE assessment increase had been in 1993, and that the CCPE board members from all of the provinces seem to be in favour of an increase.

Sterling also reported that he has been elected to the CCPE Executive Committee for 2002-2003 as president-elect, meaning that he would serve as CCPE president in

2003-2004. Other members of the Executive are: Hollis Cole, P.Eng., president (New Brunswick); Pierre Boucher, ing., past president (Quebec); and directors Geoff Emberly, P.Eng. (Newfoundland) and Bob Lorimer, P.Eng. (Yukon).

Following the briefing, Council approved a motion to accept the proposed CCPE assessment increases in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Registrar's report

Registrar Roger Barker, P.Eng., supplemented his written report with an analysis of the recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry, Part Two report, which included recommendations for PEO's continuing role. The report was released on May 23, 2002. Barker said the next steps would be a letter to the environment ministry to offer assistance in the areas outlined (see this issue, p. 14).

Discussions with the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities (MTCU) regarding the enabling of Ontario's 24 colleges of applied arts and technology to award applied degrees were also reviewed (see *Engineering Dimensions*, March/April 2002, p. 11). Barker reported that a meeting was scheduled between PEO and the MTCU at which PEO's concerns regarding the naming and content of some of the courses would be discussed. The primary concern is that students may develop false expectations that the courses will lead to licensure. In September, PEO will convene a meeting of representatives of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists, the heads of technology at the colleges, the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board and others to ensure that the criteria for licensure are understood and properly presented to potential students in the new programs, he said.

A question concerned a proposed licence reciprocity agreement between Michigan and Ontario. Barker reported that a proposed Michigan Senate Bill that would have cleared the way for such an agreement has not gone forward and further negotiations with the Michigan State Licensing Board are not scheduled.

A question was raised about the

province's draft *Privacy Act*, from which PEO and other regulatory bodies are seeking exemption (see "PEO seeks exemption from privacy bill," *Engineering Dimensions*, May/June 2002, p. 11). Barker reported that PEO is working with the attorney general's ministry on what amendments to PEO's legislation might

be required to implement aspects of the draft act relating to PEO's administrative and personnel information. He said he understands that it is likely that the regulatory bodies will be exempted from the privacy legislation in so far as the information they need to fulfill their regulatory responsibilities is concerned. ♦

