

Building code win prompts information flurry

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Now that PEO has been successful in its challenge of recent amendments to the *Ontario Building Code*, the regulator must help ensure that affected engineers, the public, and building officials, are aware of the impact of the court ruling.

The court ruled in May that certain provisions of the building code, introduced by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, are invalid and conflict with the exclusive regulatory jurisdiction of PEO, and do not apply to licence and certificate holders under the *Professional Engineers Act* (PEA).

“There are two main questions that members in the building design and construction area are repeatedly asking,” says Bernard Ennis, P.Eng., manager of practice and standards at PEO. “Members want to know if the insurance requirements have changed, and what they should do with a BCIN (Building Code Identification Number) renewal notice from the housing ministry.”

As to the former, Ennis points out that professional engineers no longer need to comply with insurance requirements set out in the building code. Instead, they must comply only with insurance requirements spelled out under the PEA and the Certificate of Authorization.

Regarding BCIN renewal notices, Ennis recommends that engineers who already have the BCIN contact the housing ministry to have their names removed from the ministry database. “Though professional engineers no longer need to have a BCIN designation, the ministry’s database does not identify a BCIN holder as a professional engineer,” Ennis said. “Therefore, when renewal notices are sent out, they are sent to all people listed in the database.”

In June, PEO published a detailed Question and Answer fact sheet under the legal challenge link of its website at www.peo.on.ca. The housing ministry, meanwhile, has published its own building code-related Frequently Asked Questions

(FAQ) at www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca/Page2955.aspx.

In its decision, the court also said the remedy should be available equally to the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), which was an intervenor in PEO’s case. Accordingly, representatives of the OAA and PEO met on July 24 to review ongoing communication to members, government, building officials and the public regarding the court decision. The meeting reconfirmed the commitment of both organizations to continue to work together to resolve issues of mutual concern and interest, particularly as they relate to government initiatives and legislation, as well as the building code.

The OAA and PEO have also agreed to issue a joint publication to help building officials understand the rules under

the architects and professional engineers acts governing the requirements for architects and professional engineers to prepare or provide designs for and carry out general review of construction, enlargement or alteration of buildings. The court found that Article 2.3.1.1. of the building code was not authorized by s. 34(1) 10 of the *Building Code Act* and was invalid to the extent that it purported to allocate responsibility for designs between professional engineers and architects. The joint publication will fill the information gap now that this section has been found invalid.

OAA Council has now approved regulation changes that will terminate its parallel Building Code Designation System (BCDS). These regulation changes are with the government awaiting approval.

Accomplished P.Engs to receive accolades at gala

By NICOLE AXWORTHY

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards, a program founded by PEO to recognize individuals for engineering excellence and community service. Since 2005, the awards have been presented jointly by PEO and the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE). This year's nine awardees will be honoured at a special gala on Saturday, November 10 at The Carlu in Toronto. For ticket information, visit the OSPE website at www.ospe.on.ca.

Professional Engineers Gold Medal

Anna (Anne) Maria Sado, P.Eng., MBA, president, George Brown College (GBC), is the recipient of the premier award of the profession, the Professional Engineers Gold Medal. As president of GBC since 2004, she has spearheaded efforts to integrate immigrants into the economic mainstream, provide outreach to at-risk communities, and build strong partnerships with industry. Beginning her career at Bell Canada in 1977, Sado rose steadily from her first position as manager, traffic order

writing, to become senior vice president, business processes and operational effectiveness. Upon leaving Bell, she became a principal in Helix Commerce International, where she supported initial development in this now successful professional service business. Her community involvement includes service with federal, provincial and community advisory groups, including her work as a director of the Trillium Health Centre, one of Canada's largest tertiary care community hospitals. She is also a current member and chair of the Wardens of Camp One for the Ritual of the Calling of the Engineer, and a former director and president of the YWCA Toronto. A past director of OSPE, Sado was also selected as one of 14 women to participate in the International Women's Foundation Leadership Program in 2001 and 2002. A recipient of the Ontario Professional Engineers Citizenship Award for contributions to her community, she has also been recognized with the University of Toronto's Arbour and Mid Career Achievement awards, and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal-Canada.

1997. A fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, Liebermann has also contributed to the profession through involvement with the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CSCHE) and the American Institute of Chemical Engineering (AIChE). He has mentored and coached many chemical engineers and scientists during his distinguished career. His current Lean Six Sigma Black Belt assignment at Xerox uses his expertise as the Canadian Research Centre onsite coach for green and black belt candidates.

Engineering Medal—Entrepreneurship

Howard D. Goodfellow, PhD, P.Eng., is the recipient of the Engineering Medal for Entrepreneurship for demonstrating to the international steelmaking community the important role technology can play in optimizing combustion processes and reducing the effects of emissions on the environment. Following a 16-year tenure with Hatch Associates, he founded Goodfellow Consultants Inc., a niche engineering company focused on ventilation, industrial hygiene, and healthy buildings. The company received the 1992 Canada Award for Business Excellence in the environment field for developing DECSIM, a computer program to design specialized air pollution control systems. In 1996, he was responsible for developing and marketing the award-winning Goodfellow Electric Furnace System Optimization Program (EFSOP), which is designed to optimize the steelmaking process and reduce contaminant emissions from electric arc furnaces. Currently, as president of Tenova Goodfellow, he leads and oversees the corporate operations of the Tenova Centre of Excellence for Clean Technology. In May 2005, Tenova Goodfellow received a \$4-million grant from the Sustainable Development Technology Canada Foundation to fund projects demonstrating the application of the

Engineering Medal—Engineering Excellence

The recipient of this year's Engineering Medal for Engineering Excellence is **George Liebermann, PhD, P.Eng., FCAE**. Since 1981, he has held various senior scientific and managerial positions at Xerox Research Centre of Canada, and is currently senior engineering fellow. He is recognized by the international technical community as a chemical engineering process research and scale-up expert, whose work has yielded more than 40 US patents. His technical strength is credited as a key reason Xerox has been able to deliver so many imaging materials inventions to market. To recognize his success, he was presented the Xerox President's Award—the company's highest honour—in



Anna (Anne) Maria Sado, P.Eng., MBA

Goodfellow EFSOP technology to basic oxygen furnace steelmaking, cement production and thermal electric power. Goodfellow has been an adjunct associate professor in the department of chemical engineering and applied chemistry at the University of Toronto for more than 20 years and until recently was a professor at the university's Lassonde Mineral Engineering Program.

Engineering Medal—Management

One of two Engineering Medals for Management will be presented to **Jan Carr, PhD, P.Eng.** In 2005, Carr was appointed as the first chief executive officer of the new Ontario Power Authority (OPA). Prior to this, he contributed significantly to the provincial electricity sector, most recently as vice chair of the Ontario Energy Board and previously as a member of the Advisory Committee on Competition in Ontario's Electricity System, chaired by the Hon. Donald Macdonald. In 1981, he was elected a commissioner of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Electric Commission and went on to become its chair and a member of the board of directors of the Municipal Electric Association. From 1985 to 2001, he worked with the Acres group of companies, where he was responsible for several areas, including the overall planning and engineering of electricity projects and systems in Canada and throughout the world.

Lennox John Leggat, PhD, P.Eng., FCAE, associate consultant, CFN Consultants, will also receive an Engineering Medal for Management. For nearly 40 years, he has influenced and inspired Canadian defence science as a senior manager of research and technology programs in the federal government. Prior to joining CFN in 2005, Leggat was CEO of Defence R&D Canada (DRDC) and the assistant deputy minister (science and technology) of the Department of National Defence. There, he led a national network of six defence research centres with a staff of 1400 people. He was responsible for creating DRDC in 2000, as a special operating agency of the Department of

National Defence. Leggat has played other roles in defence R&D during his career, including as director general of DRDC's Ottawa research centre; director general, R&D operations, at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa; and in a research role at DRDC's Atlantic research centre. Following the events of September 11, 2001, he was called upon to lead the federal government's preparedness efforts against potential terrorist weapons involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear sources. Leggat spent 33 years in the reserve component of the Canadian Forces, retiring in 2001 in the rank of Colonel. He is president-elect of the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

Engineering Medal—Research and Development

Peter R. Frise, PhD, P.Eng., FCAE, will receive the Engineering Medal for Research and Development for his work in connecting the auto sector with the post secondary education system. As founding scientific director and CEO of AUTO21, a federal research initiative, Frise has engaged over 500 graduate students and 260 researchers with more than 120 institutions and public sector organizations across the country. AUTO21 was formed to focus Canadian research expertise on the task of improving the global competitiveness of the Canadian automotive industry. A devoted educator, he established Canada's first university-level program in automotive engineering in 1998 at the University of Windsor, working with DaimlerChrysler Canada as NSERC senior industrial research chair to successfully develop engineers for the University of Windsor/DaimlerChrysler Canada Automotive R&D Centre. In addition, he is the university's executive director of automotive research and studies, providing valuable mentorship through his supervision of graduate students in master's and PhD programs. A fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, Frise was appointed to National Research Council Canada in 2006.

Professional Engineers Citizenship Award

Three professional engineers will be presented with a Professional Engineers Citizenship Award. **Kwok-Wai (Michael) Chan, P.Eng.**, has been a member of the Federation of Chinese Canadian Professionals (FCCP) (Ontario) since 1975, volunteering in numerous capacities, including as its president and as a member of the executive board during the 1991-1992 term. For the past 12 years, he has been an active trustee and chair of many fundraising activities for the FCCP's Education Foundation, which provides over 55 scholarships and loans annually to students at Ontario universities and colleges. In his role with the engineering section of FCCP, the Chinese Canadian Engineering Society, he contributed to developing and building Coral Place, a non-profit housing corporation providing affordable housing to families of low and modest incomes. In 1999, he joined the Toronto Police Service's Chinese Community Liaison Committee (CCLC), a volunteer group that aims to bridge the cultural gap between Chinese and mainstream cultures. Under his leadership, two years later, the CCLC was recognized with the Scarborough YMCA's Peace Medallion Award. Professionally, Chan worked diligently for eight years on behalf of the chapters of PEO as chapter manager, until retiring in July 2007.

Harvey V. Pellegrini, P.Eng., will also receive a Professional Engineers Citizenship Award. Prior to his retirement in 2007, Pellegrini was associated for 15 years as an independent contractor with the Ontario Centres of Excellence, a not-for-profit, government funded organization that creates partnerships between the research community and industry to improve the economic prosperity of the province through technological innovation. Previously, he had a distinguished 31-year career at Bombardier Aerospace (de Havilland), where he held various management positions in the company's engineering department. Also a part-time teacher of materials and manufacturing-related courses at Humber

College for more than 25 years, he is an outstanding promoter of materials education. As an active member of PEO's Etobicoke Chapter, he has participated in and recruited his professional colleagues as speakers for National Engineering Week events and judged at local and Canada-wide science fairs. Pellegrini has also served the broader professional community, most notably as education chair for the Ontario Chapter of the American Society of Materials (ASM), a member of the steering committee and a participant of ASM Materials Camps, a venture that brings together top North American high school students and high school science teachers to learn about the science of materials engineering.

Wayne Douglas Wood, P.Eng.™, will also receive a Professional Engineers Citizenship Award. As the general manager of engineering and operations for the City of Brantford, he played a leading role on the city's senior management team in bringing several large firsts to the city, resulting in employment opportunities and economic development. The municipal engineer has also worked to ensure the city is provided safe drinking water from a water source that is one of the most difficult to treat in the province. A member of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA), he served as its volunteer president in 2001-2002, following over 10 years of volunteer service on its board. There, he was a founding member of the Tri-Committee, a joint effort of MEA, the Ontario Good Roads Association and the Ontario Public Works Association. The Tri-Committee established open access computerized infrastructure management systems, so municipalities can share information. In addition, Wood has used his leadership skills and energy to support such local charities as Community Living Brant, the Canadian Cancer Society Brant-Norfolk, the Canadian Pioneers Social Club, which he served as president, the Alzheimer's Society of Brant, of which he was a director, and Participation House, of which he

chaired the board. A past chair of PEO's Brantford Chapter, who served six years on its executive committee, Wood retired in 2007 from his 37-year career with

the city to devote more time to community service. He recently accepted a position as a senior consultant, Urban & Environmental Management.

Community activism could slow future real estate development: survey

By **MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO**

Results of a survey indicate that local community activism and the "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) syndrome could pose obstacles to major real estate development efforts.

Undertaken by the Saint Consulting organization, the survey found that 75 per cent of respondents are opposed to overdevelopment of their communities, and many Canadians are highly skeptical about relationships between elected officials and developers.

Saint Consulting is an international organization that gauges public attitudes on real estate development issues.

The organization's "Saint Index" is said to be of significant interest to real estate development organizations, national and regional retailers, and commercial enterprises that need local permission to build or operate.

"The [Canadian] Saint Index shows that 75 per cent of Canadians say their community is already overdeveloped or fine the way it is, and that 55 per cent believe that their local government is doing only a fair to poor job on decisions regarding planning and zoning," said Paul Devlin, vice president of international development, Saint Consulting. "As well, about 60 per cent believe the relationship between elected officials and developers makes the process unfair."

For the most part, Devlin said, survey respondents oppose developments that will have a negative impact on their community character, on their environment, or on their personal traffic situation. "From our experience," he added, "all these responses are a result of individual interests in protecting their personal property investments."

The survey found that some developments, such as casinos, are most actively opposed by Canadians, but that local residents are more open to construction of hospitals and single-family homes in their communities.

Devlin suggests the survey findings reflect the traditional NIMBY syndrome where residents will support certain development so long as it isn't located too close to their own property or residence. The survey authors conclude that real estate developers and others involved in construction will face ongoing battles in getting all necessary approvals.

"This conclusion is drawn from the fact that most large development schemes face the growing impact of the NIMBY attitude, and local activism against development is growing at an alarming rate," Devlin said.

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Paul Devlin, vice president of international development, Saint Consulting

Attorney general hosts PEO delegation

BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

PEO is continuing its efforts to enhance relations between the engineering community and Ontario's top legal official.

The latest example came by way of a July 17 meeting between Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant and PEO President Walter Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng. Accompanying Bilanski for the private meeting were President-elect David Adams, P.Eng., Past President Pat Quinn, P.Eng., and CEO and Registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng.

Because the attorney general's office is responsible for the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO has long been eager to maintain open lines of communication with the ministry. Such efforts were bolstered in 2004 when Attorney General Bryant appointed Willowdale MPP David Zimmer as his parliamentary assistant with responsibility for the "engineering file" in the AG's office. Zimmer has attended several PEO functions over the past three years, and he has assured PEO that the attorney general's office is much more attuned than previously to engineering concerns.

Zimmer, who also attended the July 17 meeting, says the gathering was successful in building on the channels of communication between engineers and government officials. Zimmer also encouraged PEO to continue working with the attorney general's office in pursuit of its objectives.

The 30-minute session covered a wide range of topics, including PEO's victory in its court challenge of amendments to the *Ontario Building Code*, PEO's ongoing Government Liaison Program, possible revisions to engineering licensing requirements, and the possibility of changes to the *Professional Engineers Act*.

President Bilanski raised the subjects of licensing requirement changes and the Act's industrial exception clause in his discussion with the attorney general, putting forth an idea of decreasing from four to two the number of years of experience required for licensure as a professional engineer. "My vision for this requirement is one of quality rather than quantity, and more of an engineering internship," Bilanski says in his President's Message (p. 3). "I think there is strong merit for a requirement of two years of working experience under the supervision of a professional engineer, combined with increased restrictions on the type of experience that can qualify as acceptable."

The AG indicated to the PEO contingent that he is looking forward to a period of ongoing communication and consultation between his ministry and the regulator. MPP Zimmer is scheduled to speak to PEO Council at its meeting on September 28.

Licensing task force report nearing completion

BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

PEO's long-awaited Licensing Process Task Force (LPTF) report is one step closer to finalization.

The latest step in the report's road to PEO Council consideration took place August 14 as Task Force Chair George Comrie, P.Eng., outlined the latest developments before assorted Councillors, PEO staff and other stakeholders at a workshop.

The final report of the LPTF is scheduled to go before a special session of PEO Council on November 15. It's expected Council will review each of the 55 recommendations one by one.

The August 14 workshop was the culmination of extensive stakeholder consultation, which has characterized the LPTF's work since the review of PEO's licensing and registration process was initiated in January 2005.

One of the key motivators for the LPTF was a legal opinion obtained by PEO that the *Professional Engineers Act* and Regulation 941/90 may not fully support some of its licensing and registration practices.

The regulator is also obliged to periodically review its practices against increasing expectations of fairness, transparency and accountability. In addition, the arrival of more international engineering graduates, hoping to work as engineers, has put additional pressure on PEO to examine its licensing process.

The task force mandate also included examining the process' effectiveness in protecting the public, its fairness to all applicants, and its timeliness and operational efficiency.

Since then, the LPTF has produced several executive summaries with recommendations for feedback.

During the workshop, Comrie said task force members had come to the conclusion that PEO's existing licensing processes work well, but can stand some fine tuning.

"The LPTF has come down clearly on side of the validity of our current ERC (Experience Requirements Committee)

and ARC (Academic Requirements Committee) processes," Comrie said. "What you will see in the report recommendations are essentially enhancements to

make some elements, particularly the definition of our major licensing criteria, better understood."

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P.Engs exempt from licence under new Ontario Wells Regulation

BY JENNIFER COOMBES

On the heels of PEO's victory with the *Ontario Building Code* judicial review comes yet another. On July 27, it was announced that PEO licence holders will be exempt from a new class of licence created under an amendment to Ontario's Wells Regulation (Regulation 903), which governs construction and the ongoing operation of all wells in the province. As late as mid-July, PEO had been uncertain whether its licence holders would be held to the new licensing regime, requiring anyone carrying out activities with ground wells, including monitoring, sampling and testing, to obtain a well technician or well driller licence.

News of the proposed amendments laid out in O. Reg. 372/07 prompted an April letter from PEO CEO/Registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng., to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), in which he called on the ministry to consider exempting professional engineers from the licensing regime, stating that engineers trained in environmental, civil or geological engineering are already qualified under their existing licences to design, inspect and conduct geotechnical, geo-environmental and hydro-geological drilling programs.

The MOE listened. Qualified PEO licence holders (professional engineers, limited and temporary licence holders) and geoscientists, as well as certified engineering technicians and technologists, will be exempt from this licence when the regulation comes into effect on December 31.

"After Walkerton, the Ministry of the Environment has good reasons for ensuring that everyone working on wells is properly trained and understands the safety issues involved," said Bernard Ennis, P.Eng., PEO's manager, standards and practice. "However," he added, "everyone—engineers and the public alike—should be pleased that the ministry took seriously the case put forward by PEO and the affected practitioners that applying the proposed regulations to professional engineers was unnecessary, as they are already committed to the high standards required to ensure public safety."

Other key changes to the regulation include:

- allowing well owners to pursue alternatives, such as installing treatment, rather than requiring that wells producing non-potable water be abandoned;
- making the regulation clearer to enhance compliance with record keeping, maintenance and abandonment requirements by both the well industry and well owners. This includes reordering sections to more closely follow the order of activities from well siting through construction, to make the regulation easier to understand and follow; and
- improving the protection of well water by strengthening and expanding the disinfection requirements to protect both.

For more information on the final Regulation 903, visit www.ontario.ca/environmental_registry (registry number 010-0098).

Comrie said some of the suggestions brought forth during the August 14 session will be brought back to the entire task force for consideration, with the aim of issuing a final report that incorporates any resulting changes by September 15.

The consultation version, dated June 7, 2007, contains 55 recommendations, 15 more than its predecessor.

“The main difference between this and previous versions is the treatment of confirmatory exams, which are now cast as a requirement for licensure from which certain classes of applicant can be exempted,” Comrie said. “We’re not changing any current practice here, but merely the way they are supported in the regulations.”

Comrie said PEO’s academic requirement for licensure is expressed in the report in terms of breadth and depth of knowledge, with the reference standard becoming the PEO syllabi, rather than a degree from an accredited engineering program.

Prior to the August 14 session, on June 20, PEO Council received the report’s Executive Summary with Recommendations for comment by July 30. The document was also circulated prior to the workshop to the Academic Requirements, Experience Requirements and Registration committees, Engineers

Canada and its constituent members, the Canadian Engineering Accreditation and the Canadian Engineering Qualifications boards, the Council of Ontario Deans of Engineering, the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, and Consulting Engineers of Ontario.

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Task Force Chair George Comrie, P.Eng.

Engineers Canada reaches out to federal government

By MARIE LEMAY, P.ENG., ING.

Over the past few years, Engineers Canada has been reaching out to the federal government as part of efforts to be involved in the public policy process. A significant part of this initiative has been the Bridging Government and Engineers Program, which recently completed its first full year in operation.

The program is a grassroots initiative that links Canadian engineers with their local members of parliament (MPs). Bridging engineers with key political decision makers not only educates parliamentarians about the valuable contributions that engineers can make to public policy deliberations, but also enables engineers to influence debate on public policy discussions where public health and safety are affected.

With over 80 volunteers already linked with their local parliamentarian, Engineers Canada has succeeded in increasing its influence on government. But there is still much to be done.

As we build on the program's momentum, we have ambitious plans for the next phase of the program. We will work to continually increase volunteer numbers, develop volunteer retention strategies, and motivate volunteers to maintain ongoing contacts with their MPs.

A number of volunteers have reported enthusiastic responses and have provided input on topics where public policy issues of concern to the engineering profession intersect with the responsibilities of their parliamentarian. As such, the program complements Engineers Canada's ongoing

contacts with the federal government by forging new relationships and strengthening existing bonds.

The program's key strength is the pairing of volunteers with the MPs who represent the electoral districts in which they reside. This helps MPs recognize that there are engineers in their constituency, and that engineers make positive contributions to society at both the local and national levels.

Volunteers are important resources to both Engineers Canada and the profession. We make every effort to support them and ensure they have the resources they require, including training sessions and supporting materials. They also receive access to a website that provides a forum to keep up to date with the program and its activities, while offering a platform to share success stories and report on contacts and meetings.

Because this program is a national initiative, Engineers Canada works in partnership with its constituent members in operating the program. Although several provincial and territorial associations, including PEO, have developed their own grassroots outreach programs at the provincial level, Bridging Government and Engineers deals solely with federal issues. However, we work together, sharing common experiences to maximize the lessons learned and avoid duplication of effort.

If you are interested in participating in the Bridging Government and Engineers Program, contact Kevin Machida, manager, government relations, at kevin.machida@engineerscanada.ca.

The program is a grassroots initiative that links Canadian engineers with their local members of parliament (MPs).

PEO to press for change in electrical safety regulation

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Ontario's engineering regulator is awaiting word from the Ontario Ministry of Government Services on possible amendments to a regulation dealing with the standards for the safe design, construction and maintenance of electrical distribution systems in the province.

Ontario Regulation 22/04, which came into effect in February 2005, establishes minimum electrical safety requirements for the design and construction of distribution systems owned by Ontario's local electrical companies (LDCs).

The regulation is overseen by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA), an agency established in 1999 by the government services ministry.

PEO and other stakeholders in the electrical safety area have raised concerns about some of the wording in the regulation. In particular, PEO is concerned that the regulation could be interpreted to permit electrical safety reviews to be undertaken by unlicensed individuals. Electrical safety is one area that is traditionally considered to fall within the practice of professional engineering.

The regulation provides for regulatory oversight by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA). However, it also allows for "self verification" of electrical systems by local companies making use of the judgment, expertise and obligations of professional engineers.

In a fall 2004 submission to *Engineering Dimensions*, Peter Marcucci, P.Eng., vice president of regulatory affairs for the ESA, said engineers and their duty to public safety figured prominently in the design of Ontario Regulation 22/04.

Over the past year, PEO has met with officials of the ESA, the Electricity Distributors Association (EDA), the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT), and others to discuss possible changes to the regulation.

The purpose of the consultation was to determine how to eliminate from the regulation any wording that dealt with work jurisdictional matters, to avoid any perception of jurisdictional or regulatory overlap among PEO, ESA or others in the

electrical safety area about who can practise professional engineering.

As well, PEO and EDA have written to ESA outlining joint recommendations. ESA, in turn, has reviewed the PEO/EDA submission and forwarded its own posi-

tion to the Ministry of Government Services to amend the regulation.

As of late August, PEO is awaiting word from the ministry as to when a meeting might be scheduled to discuss the proposed revision of Regulation 22/04.

Conference kicks off engineering education debate

BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

PEO President Walter Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng., anticipates a new period of increased alertness to engineering education and licensure requirements in the wake of PEO's June 21, 2007 Future of Engineering Education and Licensure conference (*Engineering Dimensions*, July/August 2007, pp. 19-21).

As a long-time faculty member at the University of Guelph, Bilanski has made engineering education a priority during his association with PEO. Bilanski was also instrumental in preparing the conference background paper, which outlined the rationale for reconsidering engineering education in Ontario.

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"Acknowledging that the global engineering environment is changing and that society's demands are changing requires that PEO review current practices and academic requirements for licensure, to ensure that they are adequate and relevant—and to consider options for change if they are not."

Walter Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng.
PEO President

vant—and to consider options for change if they are not," said Bilanski in introductory remarks to the conference.

Bilanski outlined four main ideas the engineering community in Ontario

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New credentials agency gets thumbs up from Engineers Canada

BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Engineers Canada says it welcomes the latest initiative by the federal government to assist internationally educated engineers and other professionals to obtain career-related work in Canada.

In late May, the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration launched the first phase of its Foreign Credentials Referral Office (FCRO), a cross-country network of information resources helping in the credential assessment of foreign-trained professionals.

The FCRO, which will comprise face-to-face and dedicated telephone services at more than 300 outlets across Canada, was announced in February as part of the 2007 federal budget, with an operating allocation of \$32.2 million over the next five years.

"We are ready to work with the federal government to help make the new office successful, as we have found through our research that complete, accurate and early information and referrals are key to successful settlement," said Marie Lemay, P.Eng., ing., chief executive officer of Engineers Canada.

The FCRO is described by the immigration ministry as a one-stop centre of information and referral services for the internationally trained. In addition to personal and telephone contacts, the office includes an online component (www.credentials.gc.ca) to help speed credential assessment and find referrals for career-related employment, both within Canada and from abroad.

The federal initiative is similar to the Ontario government's Global Experience Ontario (GEO) service, which opened in January in Toronto and other Ontario cities.

PEO and the other constituent members of Engineers Canada have taken up the case of access to the profession by working to provide additional information about licensing and registration to new arrivals, since a high percentage of educated professionals immigrating to Canada express an interest in an engineering career. In some cases, an application for an engineering licence can be submitted prior to an applicant's arrival in Canada.

A recent townhall meeting organized by PEO's Mississauga Chapter indicated that many international engineering graduates have a poor understanding of licensing and registration requirements in Ontario. Providing early information about licensing, and self-regulation in general, is expected to ease the transition of internationally educated engineers into the Canadian labour force.

"We look forward to the government offering a single source resource to potential immigrants, so that they can make informed decisions prior to immigrating to Canada," Lemay said.

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might consider in reviewing education and licensing requirements: requiring all applicants for licensure to write exams to demonstrate their knowledge; increasing the current academic requirement from a bachelor's to a master's degree; adding an additional year of study (including a humanities component) to the existing four-year undergraduate curriculum; and providing an "alternative examination route" to licensure in lieu of academic requirements.

The June conference examined engineering education from four basic perspectives: engineering globalization, the future of engineering education, accreditation and academic equivalency, and licensing requirements (academic and exams). Each category is relevant to the engineering community, especially with the rising importance of engineering mobility agreements and the need for Canadian engineering regulators to cope with an

increasing number of licence applications from internationally trained professionals. This latter issue, in particular, calls into question the requirement for Canadian experience, which is part of the overall experience requirements for licensure.

Some regulators, particularly in Alberta and British Columbia, have started looking to "North American" experience as a more modern qualifier in their efforts to fill gaps in their engineering talent pool.

To this point, speaker Darrel Danyluk, P.Eng., former president of Engineers Canada and now a Canadian representative to the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, told the conference there is no evidence of public safety being compromised by engineering organizations making use of mutual recognition/mobility agreements.

The education conference, which included 16 speakers from at least three countries, also served as a primer on

PEO's current licensing and registration process. In fact, several speakers addressing accreditation, equivalency and licensing issues praised PEO's existing system, which PEO's Licensing Process Task Force is expected to recommend remain largely as it is, but with greater clarity of the major licensing criteria.

Nevertheless, the engineering education conference is inspiring some fresh proposals. For example, at a July 17 meeting with the attorney general, President Bilanski raised the idea of changing the current licensure requirement of 48 months of engineering work experience to two years, with stepped-up expectations of the kind of work that would be credited towards the experience factor.

Whatever the outcome of the discussions, Bilanski sees the conference as an important first step in helping the profession maintain a high level of public confidence.

PEO surveys students on licensure plans

By NICOLE AXWORTHY

PEO and the Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario (ESSCO) are working together with universities and the Council of Ontario Deans of Engineering to promote and distribute a survey to final-year engineering students to better understand their plans for licensure after graduation.

Established as a forum to link engineering undergraduates throughout Ontario, ESSCO is financially and materially supported by PEO. Among ESSCO's objectives is keeping engineering undergraduates on the path to licensing, once they have completed their education and obtained the required work experience. The student survey aims to help PEO/ESSCO understand the attitudes and licensing knowledge of engineering graduates.

Recently, the current ESSCO executive came together for a planning meeting at PEO. A similar meeting is held each summer to assess previous ESSCO initiatives and to plan events for the coming school year.

Led by President Ruth Anne Vanderwater, of the University of Waterloo, the July 31 meeting also included ESSCO executives Mike Orr (McMaster University), vice president of finance; Dan Taylor (Waterloo), vice president of communication; and Justin Kaufman (Ryerson University), vice president of services and development. Eamon McDermott, University of Toronto Engineering Society's vice president external; Noreen Calderbank, P.Eng., PEO's manager of preclicensing programs; Manoj Choudhary, P.Eng., PEO's student liaison coordinator; Matthew Ng, P.Eng., PEO's manager of chapters; and Monica Monroy, membership marketing coordinator at the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), also attended the gathering.

Discussion focused on the student survey, which will be put together and tallied by an outside company. The survey will be distributed to students by the universi-



ESSCO executives and PEO/OSPE representatives (from left) Manoj Choudhary, P.Eng., (PEO); Monica Monroy (OSPE); Justin Kaufman (Ryerson University); Eamon McDermott (University of Toronto); Noreen Calderbank, P.Eng., (PEO); Matthew Ng, P.Eng., (PEO); Ruth Anne Vanderwater (University of Waterloo); Mike Orr (McMaster University) and Dan Taylor (University of Waterloo).

ties' administration via email in November. To increase participation rates, ESSCO will soon begin promoting the survey to students at all Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB)-accredited universities in Ontario.

In other business, Calderbank presented brief background on PEO's Seamless Transition Task Force, which will report to PEO Council in 2008 on improvements to the process and methodologies that would encourage graduates to apply for their P.Eng. licence. Its report will include feedback and recommendations on the regulator's Student Membership Program (SMP), which was established in 2000 to build a stronger relationship between PEO and engineering undergraduate students, and the Engineering Internship Training (EIT) program, which assists in the transition from engineering student to licensed professional.

"Most of the work we've done already is focused on the interning phase...but we still don't have a good handle on the student side, so we need to get in and talk to students—to find out what you need to know, and what's missing in terms of student awareness about engineering as a profession," Calderbank explained. ESSCO execs were asked to provide recommendations and to solicit feedback

from engineering students to assist the task force in its report.

Further promoting the SMP at universities was also discussed. Suggested outreach initiatives included establishing an SMP faculty advisor on each university campus, organizing PEO/OSPE information sessions on campuses, and regular school visits by Student Liaison Coordinator Choudhary, to enable students to meet him and ask questions about the licensing process. It was also suggested by U of T's McDermott that PEO establish a student chapter system, which could provide an opportunity for SMP members at each university to bond together and promote PEO's and OSPE's student programs.

At the meeting, Ng encouraged the ESSCO execs to attend the upcoming Chapter Leaders' Conference, to be held November 9 to 10, noting that one of his goals as the new chapter manager is to establish a closer link between engineering student societies and PEO chapters.

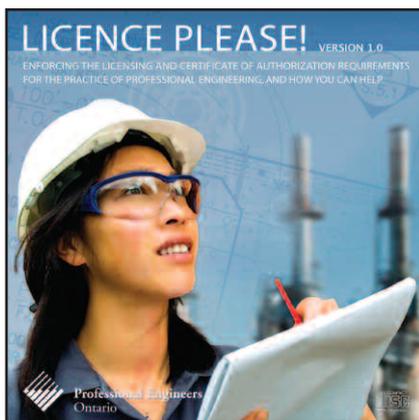
In conjunction with the engineering student society at the University of Toronto, ESSCO is also at work organizing a joint PEO-ESSCO conference November 2 to 4 in Toronto. The conference theme will focus on how professional engineers make a difference in people's lives.

Video part of stepped-up enforcement plan

By NICOLE AXWORTHY

PEO's regulatory compliance team has developed an interactive multimedia presentation to raise awareness of the requirement for licensure, and to outline PEO's activities to enforce the licensing and title provisions of the *Professional Engineers Act* and regulations.

The presentation, completed in August, is being used by staff in presentations, distributed to chapters, universities and other stakeholders as a CD-ROM, and is now accessible to the public through PEO's website at www.peo.on.ca. Authorized by PEO Council in November 2006, it is part of a one-year pilot project to determine the impact of more proactive enforcement.



Produced by Renegade Productions of Barrie, the presentation comprises a web application that enables viewers to click on specific sections—such as an overview of PEO's mandate and two dramatized case studies—and read and watch corresponding video. A question-and-answer section contains a range of questions about PEO and the Act's licensing and title requirements, and allows visitors to hear the responses on video of a staff member who deals with that area.

It is hoped that awareness generated by the presentation can be used by PEO to root out instances of unlicensed practice and illegal use of engineering titles for investigation and possible prosecution, as well as inform those who might need a licence but are unaware that they do.

OSPE looks to unify profession, welcomes new CEO

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) welcomed Angela Shama, P.Eng., as its new chief executive officer during the advocacy organization's annual general meeting May 10 in Toronto.

The former executive director of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT), Shama comes to the 12,000-member engineering society at a key point in its six-year history, and succeeds Sharon Glover, who left the organization in 2006.

Michael Monette, P.Eng., became OSPE's president and chair, succeeding Danny Young, P.Eng., who remains on the OSPE board as past chair.

In her report to members, Shama outlined several OSPE achievements in 2006, including expansion of its professional development program and online career centre and the establishment of its political action network (PAN), which lobbies for practitioners' interests with municipal and provincial governments.

She said a chief goal of the advocacy organization is to expand its member services, while seeking new ways to bring unity to the profession.

"Truly successful advocacy programs depend on the community speaking with one voice," Shama added.



OSPE's new CEO Angela Shama, P.Eng., makes her first report to members at the advocacy organization's May 10 annual meeting.

In his final report as president, Danny Young said the past year had been marked by improved relationships with important partners, such as PEO, Engineers Canada and Consulting Engineers of Ontario.

He said the organization's networking efforts with provincial government ministries, and its "Thank an Engineer" radio campaign, which ran in 2006 from February to March, were key elements in raising the public perception of the engineering profession in Ontario.

Also sitting on the board are: Steven Rose, P.Eng., (vice chair); Valerie Davidson, P.Eng., (treasurer); Annette Bergeron, P.Eng., (secretary); and directors John Clayton, P.Eng., Bill Goodings, P.Eng., Nadine Miller, P.Eng., Edward Poon, P.Eng., Michael Santaluce, P.Eng., John Schindler,

P.Eng., David Steeves, P.Eng., and Alourdes Sully, P.Eng.

Guests and presenters at the 2007 annual meeting included John Gamble, P.Eng., president, Consulting Engineers of Ontario; Ken McMartin, P.Eng., then president, Engineers Canada; Tim Smith, P.Eng., president, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia; Giuseppe Indelicato, ing., Réseau des ingénieurs du Quebec; and Gene Stodolak, CET, president, OACETT.

Questions from the floor focused on possible overlap between OSPE's PAN and PEO's ongoing Government Liaison Program, and efforts by the advocacy organization to attract more licensed professionals to the fold.

PEO opens second regional office, at UWO

By JENNIFER COOMBES

PEO opened its Western Regional Office in London in May, the second office of its kind in Ontario. Located at the University of Western Ontario's Spencer Engineering Building, and staffed by two graduate students, the new office will help to educate the public about the engineering profession and serve as a central connection point for some 15,000 engineers and engineers-in-training across western Ontario.

"Having the Western Regional Office of PEO in the faculty of engineering at the University of Western Ontario will serve our community and our students well," said George Knopf, P.Eng., acting dean of Western Engineering. "Our students will have first-hand opportunities to learn about the educational, ethical and legal obligations they must meet to serve the public as licensed practitioners. The visibility of this office will provide an opportunity to educate the public about the profession of engineering and the impact engineers have on all facets of society."

Chris Bentley, MPP London West, and minister of universities, colleges and training, sent greetings to those at the grand opening ceremony on behalf of Premier Dalton McGuinty, the government of Ontario and London-based MPPs Deb Matthews, Khalil Ramal and Steve Peters, congratulating PEO on its new office.



photo: Paul Mayne, Western News

Anna Sauer, Western Regional Office assistant; John Vieth, P.Eng., PEO Western Region Councillor and chair, Regional Councillors Committee; George Knopf, P.Eng., acting dean, Western Engineering; and Ernest Yanful, PhD, P.Eng., professor and chair, Western department of civil and environmental engineering, launch the Western Regional Office in London on May 25.

Labour market study predicts challenges in coming years

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

An engineering and technology labour market study is predicting uncertainty for practitioners in response to changing demographics, new technologies and increased competition for limited work opportunities.

Conducted under the auspices of Engineers Canada and the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists, the study is expected to result in creation of a new labour market information system, aimed at providing timely information on employment trends and evolving skill needs.

According to Prism Economics, the Toronto-based firm conducting the study, engineers, technicians, technologists and their employers face a challenging labour market in the coming years.

Risk factors include international competition and globalization, demographic changes, the emergence of new technologies, changes in work organization and expectations, environmental and other regulations, recruitment and integration problems (especially for internationally educated applicants).

The study is divided into five distinct components:

- current demand forecast;
- demographic and supply analysis;
- analysis of attitudes and policies towards licensure, certification, continuing competence and work task boundaries;
- diversity study; and
- analysis of the globalization of the profession.

The five research components will be combined into the starting point for the market forecasting system. The core deliverable will be a computer-based system containing the first forecast, analysis of market supply/demand balances, and instructions on how new economic and demographic data can be used to update the system.

An employer survey will be released later this year. Industry participation is important and community leaders will be contacted with requests for assistance. The survey of engineers and engineering technologists and technicians is being developed and is scheduled for completion by year end.

The study, which began in January, is scheduled to run until the fall of 2008.

OSPE to probe PEO complaints process

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) has struck a task force to look into PEO's complaints and discipline process.

Founded in late 2006, the task force responds to increased inquiries from OSPE members about what action individuals might take in the event a complaint is filed with PEO against them.

According to an OSPE briefing note, the task force mandate is to make "suggestive changes" to the OSPE board of directors to clarify PEO's existing complaints and discipline process, and to develop a mechanism by which OSPE can better assist members who become the subject of a complaint.

Angela Shama, P.Eng., OSPE CEO, said task force members will consult with OSPE members about how the current complaints process can be improved to provide greater transparency and a stronger sense of natural justice for practitioners facing complaints. The task force is also expected to identify options OSPE can consider in assisting members facing possible disciplinary action.

Roger Barker, P.Eng., PEO deputy registrar, regulatory compliance, welcomes the society's complaints and discipline initiative.

"I have felt for some time that OSPE could do more to help and advise members who are complained against, and especially those where the complaints are referred to discipline," Barker said. "This seems to me

to be a central responsibility for an advocacy organization."

Barker suggested the task force could result in recommendations to be considered for incorporation into PEO processes and enabling legislation.

"If that is the case, the recommendations will be forwarded to Council for consideration, as the complaints and discipline processes are largely a function of the requirements and constraints of the legislation, and our enforcement activities are guided by Council policy," Barker said. "It would be inappropriate, in my opinion, for staff or the respective PEO committees to work directly with the OSPE task force on these matters, except for matters of clarification."

In its task force briefing note, OSPE cited previous studies suggesting that PEO's

system appears to favour complainants over practitioners, does not always provide timely disclosure to practitioners who have had a complaint filed against them, and can be financially and emotionally onerous on accused practitioners.

The OSPE task force is chaired by former OSPE President Chris Cragg, P.Eng., and comprises members Bill DeAngelis, P.Eng., Bill Goodings, P.Eng., Paul Harris, P.Eng., and Jeff White, P.Eng. It is expected to complete its review in early 2008.

Coincidentally, at its June 20 meeting, PEO Council approved the development of an implementation plan for operational changes to the complaints and discipline processes, based on the recommendations in the report of a third-party audit of the processes.

PEO wary of proposal to license investigators

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

PEO and other regulators may seek exemption from the requirements of new legislation spelling out the requirements under which investigators and security personnel working for corporate entities conduct "private" investigations.

The Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services recently introduced a draft regulation to the *Private Security and Investigative Services Act* (PSIS). Known as Bill 159, the new regulation is designed to strengthen the professional requirements for private investigators and security practitioners.

Among these measures are mandatory security personnel training and licensing, including "inhouse" security and investigations staff.

PEO and other regulators are still determining if the licensing requirements apply to the investigators who look into complaints made against members of self-regulated professions.

In May, staff of PEO and other Ontario regulators gathered at the Law

Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) to examine a number of regulators' concerns. Part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of Bill 159's application to private investigators versus those working for regulatory bodies.

LSUC, at least, is of the view that investigators working for regulators could be subject to the bill's licensing provisions.

In an analysis of the bill for PEO, Toronto attorney Richard Steinecke echoed the view that regulators should ensure their investigators need not obtain a licence under the *Private Security and Investigative Services Act*. Not only would the investigator licence for regulators' investigators prove unworkable, Steinecke said, but it might also lead to "another collateral challenge" against regulators.

Steinecke added, however, that the community safety ministry appears sensitive to regulators' concerns and is considering amendments to the bill that would exempt on-staff investigators.

The latest revisions to Bill 159 are expected in the fall.

"I have felt for some time that OSPE could do more to help and advise members who are complained against, and especially those where the complaints are referred to discipline."

Roger Barker, P.Eng., PEO deputy registrar, regulatory compliance

First UOIT engineering programs accredited

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Ontario's newest university has just received accreditation from the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) for two key programs in its engineering curriculum.

On July 27, the CEAB notified the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in Oshawa that it has accredited the school's manufacturing and nuclear engineering programs.

Although accreditation of its engineering programs was widely anticipated, UOIT officials say the move is an affirmation of the university's innovative and market-oriented approach to engineering education.

"Obtaining accreditation has provided the faculty and staff in engineering at UOIT with a strong sense that we are on the right track, in terms of establishing innovative engineering programs through which we are able to graduate productive engineers for industry and society, as well as future leaders," said Marc Rosen, P.Eng., dean of engineering and applied science at UOIT.

Rosen, who said accreditation of its engineering programs was an objective of UOIT from the time the school was founded in 2002, suggested the CEAB's endorsement also affirms the high calibre teaching faculty at the school.

"This year's graduating class, which is made up of manufacturing and nuclear engineers, has benefited immensely from having their programs obtain accreditation," Rosen added. "These benefits have been observed in several ways. First, since accreditation is viewed by industry as a strong measure of the quality of an engineering program, our graduates have been able to find jobs more easily since the accreditation decision. Second, our graduates with top academic grades have been able to gain entry more readily into graduate schools at UOIT, elsewhere in Canada, and internationally, because other universities also use accreditation as one measure of quality."

The nearly year-long accreditation began in June 2006 and involved an

intensive review by a visiting team of UOIT's engineering curriculum, teaching staff, students and delivery methods.

"This accreditation reaffirms that we are offering our engineering students the best possible education," said UOIT President Richard Marceau, P.Eng. "As a professional engineer myself, I understand first-hand that accreditation is essential to both engineers pursuing their career paths, and to employers as they hire these professionals."

UOIT, which has a total enrolment of 4300 students, is now awaiting CEAB accreditation of its automotive, electrical, mechanical and software engineering programs.

Generally, a first accreditation does not take place until a cohort of students completes all four years of an engineering undergraduate program.

In a related development, on July 5 the CEAB notified York University in Toronto of a three-year accreditation of its school of engineering programs.

York concentrates on space, geomatics and computer engineering. CEAB officials were satisfied with the professionalism, expertise and innovation in these three subject areas.

In a statement released on the York University website, Nick Cerone, dean of the university's faculty of science and engineering, said York opted for a non-traditional approach to development of the curricula. "The unique solution [at York University] means our space engineering is one of the strongest in the country [and] geomatics is offered only by a handful of universities in Canada, and computer engineering, which suffered from the dot.com bubble, is poised to grow as the industry recovers."

Climate change impact on infrastructure studied

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Engineers are again adding their voices and expertise to national studies of the impact of climate change on Canada's "vulnerable" infrastructure, such as roads, buildings, water supply and waste water systems.

Engineers Canada has joined forces with the Ministry of Natural Resources in creating the Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee

(PIEVC), comprising engineers, scientists and other specialists committed to studying the impact of climate change on public infrastructure.

The committee also includes representatives of the federal, provincial and municipal governments, and key non-governmental organizations. The natural resources department is funding the project in the amount of just under \$1 million.

PIEVC is an outgrowth of Engineers Canada's Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Action Plan, which since February 2004 has been involved in communication and education strategies to identify long-term solutions to climate change.

"Climate change is already a reality in Canada, particularly in our northern regions," said Marie Lemay, P.Eng., ing, CEO, Engineers Canada. "PIEVC will identify and prioritize the most vulnerable types of infrastructure and its condition, leading to adjustments to infrastructure design codes, standards and practices. This will enable engineers to use strategies in their designs so that public infrastructure can adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change, enhancing the safety and security of Canadians."

PIEVC's first report, due in March 2008, will focus on water supply systems, buildings, roads and associated structures, and storm and waste water systems. It is expected to identify practices that will make these types of public infrastructure more resilient to the severe weather forecast by climate change experts.

PIEVC's mandate is to look broadly and systematically at infrastructure vulnerability to climate change from an engineering perspective. Its work will eventually result in the preparation of the first National Engineering Vulnerability Assessment.

Engineers Canada is already involved in infrastructure renewal strategies through its participation in the National Round Table on Sustainable Infrastructure. There is likely to be significant overlap between the infrastructure renewal and climate change adaptation studies.

Engineers Canada is also supporting an ongoing Canadian Standards Association (CSA) study of engineers' knowledge of climate change and civil infrastructure issues. The CSA study is designed to expand engineers' knowledge and awareness of strategies to adapt infrastructure to the extreme weather associated with a changing climate.

Start planning now for Engineering Week 2008



A crowd looks on as a bridge is tested to destruction at the third annual Popsicle-Stick Bridge Building Contest finale organized by PEO's Lambton Chapter.

By JULIE COHEN

Even though National Engineering Week (February 23 to March 2, 2008) is months away, it's not too early to start planning events and activities that promote its goals. These goals include raising public awareness of the importance of engineering and technology in our daily lives and encouraging our young people to consider careers in engineering and technology.

"National Engineering Week in Ontario is a great opportunity to get involved and have fun at the same time," says Don Cleghorn, P.Eng., chair of the National Engineering Week Ontario Steering Committee (NEWOSC). "It's also a great way to show our children real-life applications of the math and science they learn in school."

Engineering volunteers interested in organizing an activity for NEW 2008 can find event ideas on the NEW Ontario website at www.engineeringweek.on.ca—just click on Event Organizer Help.

NEWOSC offers funding assistance to encourage volunteers throughout Ontario to organize activities and events for the public. Information on how to obtain NEWOSC funding assistance is available from the NEW Ontario website. The deadline for funding applications is Friday, November 9, 2007, so there's no time to lose in getting activity planning started.

Alberta P.Engs and technologists forge deal

BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Alberta's engineers have endorsed a new regulatory framework that brings the province's technicians and technologists under the supervision of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA).

In April, strong majorities from APEGGA and the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET) endorsed a December 2006 memorandum of understanding which, in essence, establishes a one act-two association framework for the regulation of engineers and technologists in the province.

The key element of the agreement and the new regulatory model is creation of a professional technologist designation for ASET members, who will receive a licence to practise engineering independently within a defined scope of practice, and within the bounds of current codes and standards.

The act changes will also create joint APEGGA/ASET boards and committees to regulate professional technologists.

By endorsing the memorandum, both associations have now asked the Alberta government to complete changes to the *Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Act* (EGGP) to bring technologists and technicians under APEGGA's purview. Previously, Alberta's technologists and technicians were regulated under Alberta's *Societies Act*.

David Chalcroft, P.Eng., past president of APEGGA, described the agreement as "historic" for both parties. "After years of sometimes spirited discussions, we have reached an agreement that both associations can support. The proposals included in the memorandum will serve to enhance public safety and well-being in Alberta," Chalcroft told APEGGA's *Pegg* magazine.

ASET President Larry Stone, CET, said giving ASET a regulatory role was a much-sought-after development that will make Alberta's technologists and technicians fully accountable to the public.

"Public safety in Alberta will be enhanced with the introduction of the professional technologist category of membership, not compromised in any way," Stone added. "These individuals will be held to a strict code of ethical practice. They will have mandatory professional development. They will be subject to practice standards and reviews. They will be subject to significant disciplinary processes

should they breach their code or be found to be practising negligently. This is no different than any other professional."

Founded in 1920, the 48,000-member APEGGA is the largest self-regulating professional association in Alberta. ASET was established in 1964 to issue credentials to applied science, information and engineering technicians and technologists in Alberta.

PEO moving on direct deposit plan

BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

PEO is instituting a direct deposit option for payment of approved reimbursable expenses of volunteers, chapter officials and staff on PEO business.

The direct deposit system involves the now standard practice of remitting expense reimbursement directly into an individual's bank account.

Frank Borsi, CA, PEO treasurer and director of administrative services, said directly depositing expense payments should result in cost savings and improved business efficiencies for the regulator.

"We see this new procedure as an additional service to our members, volunteers and staff," Borsi said. "People will now have the option of selecting direct deposit, or they can stay with the old system of submitting an expense claim and having a cheque sent out to them."

Those selecting the direct deposit route will be required to complete an application and provide a void cheque to PEO. If they also provide an email address with the direct deposit application, they will receive an electronic notice after each payment has been deposited.

Regulators respond to talent shortage

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Engineering regulators, particularly in Alberta and British Columbia, are responding to what appears to be an acute shortage of engineering and technical talent in Canada.

Led by the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia, regulators are reviewing registration practices and emphasizing provisional licence arrangements to respond to the lingering shortage of experienced engineers to sustain west-Canada's thriving economy.

Regulators are also working with educators and governments to encourage students to enroll in university engineer-

international engineering graduates as a possible solution to the talent shortage.

A recent study by the Edmonton-based David Aplin Recruiting organization found that nearly 70 per cent of companies surveyed intend to increase staff within the next six to eight months. One-fifth of them indicated that engineering and technical talent is high on their recruitment list. The Aplin survey included 1000 small, medium and large companies throughout Canada.

Although the need for engineering talent is most pressing in BC and Alberta, companies from all parts of Canada are on the lookout for engineering and technical help.

According to the survey, about 80 per cent of companies in BC and Alberta plan to increase engineering and technical staff over the next six months. The figure drops

to bring up to 5000 skilled workers from the Philippines to the province, with the recruits especially targeted to fill shortages in welding, metal fabrication and other industries.

Philip Muldaur, APEGGA manager, communications, said a number of initiatives are underway in Alberta. Like other engineering regulators, he said, APEGGA is committed to implementing some of the recommendations of the From Consideration to Integration program, a comprehensive initiative led by Engineers Canada, to help international engineering graduates gain work experience and licensure in Canada.

As well, APEGGA is considering changes to its registration process to reduce the length of time to evaluate the credentials of all applicants.

"Furthermore, legislation was proclaimed this year in Alberta that will allow the granting of provisional licences, similar to some other jurisdictions in Canada," Muldaur said. "This means that applicants who meet all the requirements for professional licensure, with the exception of a year of Canadian or equivalent experience, will be able to practise."

Muldaur also pointed to the recent Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between the Alberta and BC engineering regulators, which aims to remove obstacles to the movement of engineering applicants between the two provinces.

"APEGGA also continues discussions with both the Pacific Northwest Economic Region group and the US National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying to achieve greater mobility between American states and Canadian provinces with the goal of one day achieving recognition that the P.Eng. designation equals the P.E. designation," Muldaur added.

In addition to the Aplin survey, both Engineers Canada (with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada) and APEGGA are conducting their own studies, which should provide additional insights into the engineering labour market over the next few years.

A recent study by the Edmonton-based David Aplin Recruiting organization found that nearly 70 per cent of companies surveyed intend to increase staff within the next six to eight months. One-fifth of them indicated that engineering and technical talent is high on their recruitment list.

ing programs, and to develop "bridging" programs for international engineering graduates. The latter programs include technical courses, networking and sometimes mentoring programs enabling licence applicants to bring their academic qualifications up to par with those of the graduates of accredited Canadian engineering programs.

Although engineering regulators must guard against the appearance of easing standards for licensure, they are under some pressure to review their admission processes to enable timely licensing of the increasing number of international engineering graduates. A number of government, advocacy and industry organizations have identified

to 43 per cent in the Greater Toronto Area, 28 per cent in Manitoba, and 12 per cent in Saskatchewan. In Atlantic Canada, 36 per cent of survey respondents intend to increase their hiring of engineers in the short to medium term.

"With the baby boom generation starting to retire and construction projects springing up all over, engineers are in great demand now and will be for some time," David Aplin Recruiting President Mike Bacchus said recently.

The engineering talent shortage has inspired some unique responses from various provinces. The government of Saskatchewan, for example, recently launched a program