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R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Change is good

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Some people don't like change; it makes them uncomfortable. However, change is a fact of life. If you don't go forward, you slip backward (or you're bypassed). As a regulatory body, we can direct the changes that will affect us, or we can wait and have change thrust upon us. I hope that those who decide to put their names forward as candidates for the 2008-2009 Council are of a visionary bent, preferring to help chart a path into the future rather than sitting back to see what (if anything) happens. The latter may find themselves like turtles on a post after a tornado, wondering what happened and what they're supposed to do now.

I encourage members to run for Council. It is an interesting challenge as well as an opportunity to serve not only

Many on our present Council don't want change. At the Council Workshop at the end of May, some resisted even *considering* making changes. These changes included mitigating the industrial exception clauses (even though reference was made to this in their platforms), and requiring that all registered engineers update PEO on their employment situation every year when they pay their dues so that PEO will always have relatively recent information. I think it is important for PEO to know not only what each registered member is *capable* of doing, but also what each one is *actually* doing. Are members being underutilized? If we press for more R&D, can we show that we have the necessary qualified engineers to do it? Right now, PEO does not know which (if any) areas of engineering are in short supply—but we should have this information.

However, we continue to negotiate with the ministry over the exclusion of PEO limited licence holders from the list of persons qualified to conduct environmental site assessments and to certify records of site condition.

PEO also met recently with the attorney general to discuss, among other issues, the requirements for licensure and the industrial exception. One of the ideas I submitted to the attorney general was that of decreasing the number of years of experience required for licensure in Ontario from four years to two. My vision for this requirement is one of quality rather than quantity, and more of an engineering internship. 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

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your profession and other engineers, but also to serve all of the people of Ontario. Hopefully, some will go on to serve in municipal, provincial or federal politics.

Now that I have you enthused, I must, in all fairness, say that being on Council is also demanding. Are you ready to make the necessary time commitment? Not only are there six to eight Council meetings a year, there are committee and special meetings. There is also abundant material for you to read before each meeting—much of it requiring thought and consideration. If other demands in your life would not allow you to do this, don't run for Council until your circumstances change.

Another victory

On the heels of PEO's dramatic court victory regarding amendments to the *Ontario Building Code*, I am pleased to draw your attention to yet another important amendment to Ontario legislation—this time to Regulation 903, Ontario's Wells Regulation (p. 16). This decision comes as a result of numerous discussions with Ministry of Environment representatives, whom we thank for listening to our arguments and altering the regulations as we suggested to exclude PEO licence holders from those requiring additional certification under the regulation.

acceptable. A more rigorous system would most certainly compensate for the shorter duration and, I think, be much more effective. It would also bring the new graduates into a closer relationship with PEO, more quickly. Currently, only about 30 per cent of our Ontario graduates register.

It is imperative that PEO look further into this issue with a view to upgrading our licensure requirements. The path to becoming a professional engineer must be, and be seen to be, both progressive and rigorous. As a regulator, our challenge now is to remain committed to the journey we commenced. 