



MINUTES OF THE 91ST ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013

CHAIR: DENIS DIXON, P.ENG., FEC

THE 91ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Professional Engineers Ontario was held at the Toronto Downtown Eaton Centre Marriott Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, on Saturday, April 27, 2013.

The president advised that for the first time, PEO was webcasting its business meeting. He said adding this online coverage supports PEO's goal of increasing the accessibility of PEO information to more members, no matter where they are located.

Before declaring the business meeting open, the president reminded all eligible PEO voters to pick up their electronic voting keypad at the e-voting desk outside the meeting room entrance.

The president thanked the participants and attendees of Friday's Penta Forum, and said he hoped that everyone found the session as informative and worthwhile as he did.

President Dixon then congratulated the six 2013 Order of Honour award recipients, recognized at the previous evening's gala, for their outstanding and dedicated commitment to the profession.

He also acknowledged the AGM Gold Sponsor, The Personal, and thanked the company for its continued support of the engineering profession.

The president informed the meeting that the 485th meeting of PEO council would be

held following the business meeting and luncheon and that all were welcome to attend.

CALL TO ORDER

The president advised that since proper notice for the meeting had been published in *Engineering Dimensions*, as provided for under section 20(i) of By-Law No. 1, and a quorum was present, the meeting was officially called to order.

INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL

As the first order of business, the president introduced the members of the 2012-2013 PEO council.

The Executive Committee members: David Adams, P.Eng., FEC, past president; Annette Bergeron, P.Eng., president-elect; George Comrie, P.Eng., FEC, vice president (elected); Rakesh Shreewastav, P.Eng., vice president (appointed); and Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng., Michael Wesa, P.Eng., FEC, and Rebecca Huang, LLB, councillors; and himself.

The remaining members of council: councillors-at-large Roydon Fraser, PhD, P.Eng., FEC, and Bob Dony, PhD, P.Eng., FEC; regional councillors Sandra Ausma, PhD, P.Eng., and Michael Wesa (Northern Region), Paul Ballantyne, P.Eng., FEC, and Chris Taylor, P.Eng. (Eastern Region), Thomas Chong, P.Eng., FEC, and Denis Carlos, P.Eng., FEC (East Central Region), Wayne Kershaw, P.Eng., FEC, and Len King, P.Eng., FEC (Western Region), Danny Chui, P.Eng., FEC, and Rob Willson, P.Eng. (West Central Region); lieutenant governor-in-council appointees: Ishwar Bhatia, Santosh Gupta, PhD, P.Eng., FEC, Richard Hilton, P.Eng., Rebecca Huang, Bill Kossta, James Lee, PhD, P.Eng., FEC, Mary Long-Irwin, Sharon Reid, C.Tech.; Chris Roney, BDS, P.Eng., FEC, Tarsem Lal Sharma, PhD, P.Eng., Rakesh Shreewastav and Martha Stauch.

PEO's directors to Engineers Canada for 2012-2013: David Euler, P.Eng., FEC, Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., FEC, Phil Maka, P.Eng., FEC, and Chris Roney.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

President Dixon welcomed the special guests attending the meeting and introduced representatives from provincial and national engineering associations from across the country:

- Catherine Karakatsanis, president (and a former PEO president), Kim Allen, P.Eng., FEC, CEO (also in the same role with PEO for a number of years) and Ken McMartin, P.Eng., FEC, director, professional and international affairs (also a former PEO president), Engineers Canada;
- Ann English, P.Eng., CEO and registrar, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia;
- Colin Yeo, P.Eng., president, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta;
- Leon Botham, P.Eng., FEC, president, and Dennis Paddock, P.Eng., FEC, executive director/registrar, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan;

- Dawn Nedohin-Macek, P.Eng., president, and Grant Koropatnick, P.Eng., executive director/registrars, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba;
- Sarah Deveraux, P.Eng., FEC, president, Engineers Nova Scotia; and
- Etienne Couture, ing., acting general director, Réseau des ingénieurs du Québec.

He also welcomed representatives of PEO's partners in the engineering community in Ontario:

- Nadine Miller, P.Eng., president and chair, Paul Acchione, P.Eng., president-elect, Alourdes Sully, P.Eng., FEC, past chair, and Mark Dietrich, CEO, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE);
- Barry Steinberg, P.Eng., CEO, Consulting Engineers of Ontario;
- Rod MacLeod, C.E.T., president, and David Thomson, CEO, Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists; and
- Leo Cusumano, president, and Ron Kolbe, chief administrative officer, Ontario Building Officials Association.

President Dixon then reviewed the order of business for the meeting as outlined in section 22 of By-Law No. 1 and in the agenda distributed at the meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

The president asked all present to stand for a moment of silence in remembrance of those PEO members who had passed away in 2012.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

President Dixon referred members to the minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting, which had been published in the November/December 2012 issue of *Engineering Dimensions*, and had also been distributed at the meeting.

It was moved by Thomas Chong, seconded by Wayne Kershaw, that the minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting, as published in the November/December 2012 issue of *Engineering Dimensions* and as distributed at the meeting, be adopted.

Motion carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The president reviewed the actions taken on the five submissions made by members at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

He stated that one submission, calling for a binding referendum of the membership that would direct PEO council to request the government to remove the requirement for engineer LGAs, was defeated in a show-of-hands vote.

Of the other four, two were voted on and approved, while the remaining two were passed on to council without a vote from the floor.

The first submission of the remaining submissions called for PEO to establish a task force, comprising both elected and appointed members

of council and members at large, to study and report to council on changes required in the governance of PEO council. It also called for task force recommendations to be reported back at the PEO AGM in 2013, and that any proposed changes in the governance be taken to the members of the profession in a binding referendum prior to implementing the changes.

The president said council discussed this submission at its September and November meetings, at which time formal discussion on the nature of PEO governance was removed from the agenda with the understanding that the issue would be reintroduced at an unspecified future date.

Having said that, President Dixon stated that council is always reviewing governance best practices and seeking ways to improve regulation of the profession, regardless of submissions brought forth by the membership. He expressed his confidence that the new council would continue to look for opportunities to advance PEO's leadership of the profession.

The second submission contained two parts, the first of which asked council to rescind its resolution of April 13, 2012, accepting the resignation of Councillor-at-Large Michael Hogan, P.Eng. (which he had withdrawn prior to the meeting), and to reinstate Hogan to PEO council for the balance of his elected term. This part of the submission was defeated.

The second portion of the submission called on council to refrain from attempting to enact in any policy, regulation or bylaw any provision that would empower it to remove any councillor from the council or from any office of the association without his or her formal resignation or consent in writing. This portion of the submission was carried.

The president noted that council appreciated the goal of the submission, but since there was no intention of empowering council with such authority, the 2012-2013 council did not consider the submission further.

The first of the remaining two submissions referred to council by a vote from the floor called for members to reaffirm PEO's historic member-centric model of self governance, and

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for council to adhere to its policy of full and proper peer review of all substantive policy matters, and to confirm with members before taking any final decisions with respect to them.

The president reported that during its September meeting, council confirmed that the results of two previous legal opinions on this issue had determined that PEO is a hybrid model of a member-centred and board-centred organization. The motion was consequently tabled.

President Dixon reported that the final submission called on PEO council:

- to revert to the policy of appointing PEO's past president as a director of Engineers Canada unless that individual is unwilling or unable to serve in that capacity;
- to establish that the maximum term of appointment as a director of Engineers Canada be three years, unless the director intends to seek the presidency of Engineers Canada, in which case it be four years; and
- to establish that the remaining two PEO directors of Engineers Canada (i.e. those who are not past presidents) be elected by the membership of PEO at the time of the annual council elections from among senior volunteers who will not be members of council at the time of assuming their position on Engineers Canada's board.

The president advised members that in April 2010 council had already approved a selection process for appointing directors to the Engineers Canada board, and that as the 2012 AGM submission was contrary to the approved procedures, no further action was taken.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The president referred members to the auditors' report and the financial statements, which were published to PEO's website in early April and distributed as part of the registration package for the meeting.

He also referred to the booklet entitled *Questions and Answers on PEO Operations* included in the registration package, which he said was compiled to address common questions on all aspects of PEO's operations. He advised that the booklet had been published on the PEO website and that chapters may obtain additional printed copies by contacting their regional councillors.

The president then entertained and addressed questions from the floor regarding the statements.

It was moved by Diane Freeman, seconded by Rakesh Shreewastav, that the financial statements, as presented, be received.

Motion carried

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

President Dixon stated that members must appoint auditors for the ensuing year. He advised that the Audit Committee was recommending the firm of Deloitte LLP be reappointed.

It was moved by Ishwar Bhatia, seconded by Cliff Knox, P.Eng., FEC, that the firm of Deloitte LLP be appointed auditors of the association for the 2013 financial year.

Motion carried

GREETINGS FROM ENGINEERS CANADA

The president advised that the provincial associations and other engineering-related organizations had been invited to provide a written report on their important matters. Received reports were included in the registration packages and also available on the publication desk.

The president then invited Engineers Canada to provide an update.

Catherine Karakatsanis, president, thanked PEO for the invitation to attend the annual meeting. She advised that Engineers Canada is the national body of the 12 provincial and territorial associations across Canada that together regulate the practice of the 250,000 professional members in Canada.

Karakatsanis advised that Engineers Canada:

- had conducted a study and issued a recent report titled *Engineering Labour Market in Canada—Projections to 2020*. She said the report shows that Canada is facing a short supply of engineers with more than 10 years of professional experience, highlighting that immigration will help address some of these shortages. The report can be found on the Engineers Canada website;
- had recently launched a project called "The Roadmap to Engineering in Canada," the details of which may be found at newcomers.engineerscanada.ca. The project provides international engineering graduates with comprehensive information on how to become licensed in Canada before they arrive and is designed to help potential newcomers plan more efficiently. She said the website was created through funding by the federal government with extensive input and support from the associations across Canada and is one of the many steps that Engineers Canada has taken to support and collaborate with the constituent associations and make the profession more accessible for internationally trained engineering graduates;
- has supported a project carried out in Alberta by APEGA called Inge-nious, which is an online game for children. She called the project an excellent national initiative, and noted the game was launched at the Canadian Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa and is now a permanent feature at the museum; and

- has been working on raising the profile of engineering among government decision makers. She said that with the support of the constituent associations, this activity is making a difference by advocating for sustainable funding for core public infrastructure and proper long-term asset management. She said Engineers Canada is pleased the most recent federal budget proposes measures that will help the engineering profession and the country manage the imminent skills shortage, and noted that a summary of the federal 2013 budget is available on the Engineers Canada website.

Karakatsanis congratulated Michael Price, P.Eng., FEC, PEO acting CEO/registrar, and his team for organizing the annual general meeting and various events. She also congratulated Engineers Canada Director Phil Maka, who was recognized as a Companion of the Order of Honour, and Corneliu Chisu, P.Eng., FEC, who was named an Officer of the Order of Honour, as well as the other well-deserving inductees to the order.

In closing, Karakatsanis noted that PEO is doing an excellent job at the national level and thanked PEO staff and volunteers for their ongoing support of Engineers Canada. She thanked President Dixon for his leadership in Ontario and across the country and indicated she is looking forward to continued collaboration with PEO's incoming President Annette Bergeron.

UPDATE FROM THE ONTARIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

The president invited OSPE to provide an update.

Nadine Miller, president and chair, expressed her appreciation for the invitation to attend the meeting.

Highlights of her comments include:

- While their mandates are separate, both PEO and OSPE are working well together to further their many common goals and contribute to the profile and influence of the profession. Miller thanked Dixon for sharing her commitment to restoring the faith in all of Ontario's engineers concerning OSPE's relationship with PEO. She expressed her confidence that PEO's new leader, Bergeron, and OSPE's new leader, Acchione, will carry on the spirit of collaboration and mutual respect going forward;
- OSPE is working to connect the community of engineers, engineering students and engineering graduates across the province by hosting events, providing valuable services and raising awareness of the importance of the contributions that engineers make to Ontario's economy and quality of life;
- Over the past year, OSPE had led dialogue on engineering-related issues with governments, industry and the public. Issues such as innovation, funding and transportation planning are areas in which OSPE is having a real impact with respect to public policy and decision making; and
- OSPE is also acting on real issues engineers are facing, such as under employment and retraining, and Miller encouraged the support of all engineers across the province, urging those who have not already done so to join OSPE. Miller encouraged anyone with questions about the

important work OSPE is doing to speak to her, Acchione, Sully or Dietrich.

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

President Dixon stated that, as noted in section 17 of By-Law No. 1, PEO's annual general meeting is held:

- to lay before members reports of the association's council and committees;
- to inform members of matters relating to the affairs of the association; and
- to ascertain the views of the members present on matters relating to the affairs of the association.

He explained that submissions presented to the AGM are a way for members to express their views on matters relating to the affairs of the association, and noted that a guidance document to assist members in making submissions to the AGM is available on the PEO website.

He also encouraged members not to wait until the AGM to bring issues to council, and invited members to submit issues at any time through the policy development process, using an issue identification form available from PEO's manager of policy, or by asking that an item be put on a council agenda. He informed the meeting that items to be placed on a council agenda should be submitted to the corporate secretary three weeks prior to the meeting at which they are to be discussed, and advised that the council meeting schedule is published on the website.

President Dixon reminded members that member submissions are not binding on council, but do give a sense of general direction from licence holders at an AGM.

President Dixon then introduced the first member submission.

Moved by Keith Loucks, P.Eng., seconded by Tom Kurtz, P.Eng.:

WHEREAS any person serving on PEO council is elected to serve the engineering profession and members without prejudice, and

WHEREAS any councillor is required to declare any conflicts of interest on matters that may be related to a person's benefit, real or perceived, and

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WHEREAS David Adams has been ordered to pay his portion of a \$60,000 court award to PEO,

THEREFORE BE IT SUBMITTED THAT:

J. David Adams pay the court costs of \$60,000 for Court File 202/12 before representing the Association of the Professional Engineers of Ontario.

And furthermore, that Mr. Adams refrain from any discussion of the judicial review subject matter at any PEO function during his full term of office.

Motion carried

President Dixon then introduced the next member submission.

Moved by Cliff Knox, seconded by Chantal Chiddle, P.Eng.:

WHEREAS members whose licence renewal fees are in arrears cease to be a “member in good standing” and are normally not allowed to serve on chapter boards or in a fiduciary capacity at PEO. Such members also risk being removed from the register of licensed engineers until such repayment is made, and

WHEREAS any member who is in arrears to PEO for monies relevant to their professional engineering practice or involvement in the affairs of PEO has similarly ceased to be a “member in good standing,” and

WHEREAS it is desirable that no licensee with outstanding payments owing to PEO be in a position that could directly or indirectly influence a decision to defer or excuse payment of the associated debt, and

WHEREAS no specific language exists in Regulation 941 or By-law No. 1 that defines a “member in good standing” or makes provision that members must be in good standing to be able to serve as a volunteer in a fiduciary capacity with PEO,

THEREFORE BE IT SUBMITTED THAT:

Council consider a policy that would suspend any member from serving on PEO council or in a fiduciary capacity on any PEO committee or chapter board while the member has an outstanding payment owing to PEO that has not otherwise been excused by the registrar or by direction from an Ontario court.

Motion carried

President Dixon then introduced the third submission.

Moved by Cliff Knox, seconded by Chantal Chiddle:

WHEREAS the question of eligibility to serve as a volunteer in a fiduciary capacity at PEO has been raised by a separate submission at this annual general meeting,

WHEREAS it is desirable that all candidates for election be eligible to serve, and be free of any real or apparent conflict or bias that might affect their objectivity or performance in the elected office and its associated responsibilities, and

WHEREAS a number of votes cast in the 2013 PEO election for East Central Region councillor were excluded from the official results due to an invalid candidate that remained on the electronic and telephone ballots,

THEREFORE BE IT SUBMITTED THAT:

The 2013 PEO election results for the office of president-elect be reconsidered, pending a review of the eligibility of all candidates to serve free of any conflicts or bias.

In response to a request, Scott Clark, LLB, FEC (Hon), PEO corporate secretary, clarified the apparent discrepancy in voting results to the members’ satisfaction.

President Dixon added that the Central Search and Election Committee would be reviewing the latest election process and making recommendations to council that might improve voter turnout.

Moved by Peter DeVita, P.Eng., FEC, seconded by Len King, that the motion be tabled.

Motion defeated

The main motion was then voted on and carried.

President Dixon introduced the fourth submission.

Moved by Ray Linseman, P.Eng., FEC, seconded by Graham Houze, P.Eng.:

WHEREAS the *Professional Engineers Act* defines the practice of professional engineering as “practice of professional engineering” means any act of planning, designing, composing, evaluating, advising, reporting, directing or supervising that requires **the application of engineering principles** and concerns the safeguarding of life, health, property, economic interests, the public welfare or the environment, or the managing of any such act; (exercice de la profession d’ingénieur),” and

WHEREAS there is no definition of the term “engineering principles,” and

WHEREAS there is no definition of the term “application of engineering principles,” and

WHEREAS the repeal of the industrial exception [paragraph 12(3)(a)] will introduce questions as to what constitutes “the application of engineering principles,” and

WHEREAS it would be prudent for PEO as a self-regulating profession to define “the application of engineering principles” and the term “engineering principles” rather than the courts,

THEREFORE BE IT SUBMITTED THAT:

PEO council should take the necessary steps to have the Ontario legislature add to the *Professional Engineers Act* the ability for PEO to create regulations to define the terms “engineering principles” and “the application of engineering principles” and any other terms deemed necessary to define the practice of professional engineering.

This item was referred directly to council by consensus of the meeting.

President Dixon introduced the fifth submission.

Moved by Ray Linseman, seconded by Graham Houze:

The chapter email address is often sent messages from head office with attachments to forward to the chapter members, which currently is not allowed using distribution lists created on the chapter's webmail address. PRISM must be used to send email blasts, but does not allow for attachments, so the attachment must be uploaded to PRISM and then HTML and text versions of the email created with links that don't always work in the attachments.

Sending newsletters by PRISM electronically can be much more time consuming than simply sending them as an email attachment.

When using the normal distribution list for chapter members, it is unclear if the chapter manager and regional councillors get a copy.

There is a concern that any distribution list maintained by the chapter could be out of date.

Distribution lists could have a date stamp added to the name of the distribution list to identify its currency, e.g. PEO TIC P.Eng. Members 2012-12-01 9:00 a.m.

A test creation of a distribution list using an Excel spreadsheet created from data containing names and email addresses extracted from PRISM was successful and demonstrates at least one technique on how the email distribution lists can be created in a reasonably easy fashion but it does require the assistance of PEO IT personnel.

THEREFORE BE IT SUBMITTED THAT:

PEO council should make the necessary resources available to allow email distribution lists on the chapter email address contact lists to be updated by IT staff on a weekly basis, or when necessary, and allow the chapter to use this as a means of sending the chapter members' email bulletins, chapter newsletters, or other PEO-related business to its members providing that the members' right to privacy is respected.

Motion carried

The sixth submission related to creating a confidential directory of chapter chair contact information.

Moved by Ray Linseman, seconded by Graham Houze:

There are times when it would be helpful to have a telephone number or mailing address for other chapter chairs to discuss common issues such as chapter boundaries, upcoming Regional Congress action items etc., common issues, proposed bylaw changes, etc.

Some chapter chairs are reluctant to give out personal email addresses and aren't necessarily the person monitoring the generic email address.

It is unclear if email sent to chapter chair regional distribution list actually reaches the intended individuals and there is currently no way to follow-up.

THEREFORE BE IT SUBMITTED THAT:

This item be added to an upcoming Council meeting agenda with the objective of approving the creation of a confidential contact information list for the use of PEO staff and chapter chairs and perhaps the other three chapter officer positions of vice chair, secretary and treasurer to assist in inter chapter communications on PEO matters by phone and mail by Canada Post. The list should provide any restrictions in calling times, etc. The option of whether a chapter chair can opt out should also be addressed.

The seventh, and final submission, related to a request for additional generic email address for chapters.

Moved by Ray Linseman, seconded by Graham Houze:

There is currently only one email address per chapter.

Most messages are assumed to go to the Chapter Chair with a request to forward to the Chapter Treasurer, GLP Chairs, Education directors for special events.

Most "To:" fields are blank and it is difficult to know who else has received the email.

Sometimes the "To" list is shown and personal email addresses are revealed.

When replying to an email a person's personal email is identified.

When there is a changeover of chapter executive positions and directors, previous emails are often not available to the new person holding the position.

THEREFORE BE IT SUBMITTED THAT:

This item be added to an upcoming Council meeting agenda with the objective of creating the following additional generic email addresses for each chapter:

Chapter Chair;

Chapter Vice Chair;

Chapter Secretary;

Chapter Treasurer;

GLP Chair;

Education Outreach Director;

Chapter Webmaster.

In addition to the general chapter email address.

Moved by Ray Linseman, seconded by Graham Houze:

That the remaining member submissions be referred to council for consideration.

Motion carried

[Secretariat note: The above motion refers to submissions six and seven.]

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING COUNCILLORS

President Dixon congratulated members of the 2012-2013 council, who had worked diligently in serving the profession.

In recognition of their service, he presented certificates, name badges and desk plaques to retiring members of council: Vice President George Comrie, Eastern Region Councillor Paul Ballantyne, and Western Region Councillor Wayne Kershaw. President Dixon also presented certificates to members of council continuing on council in different positions: Past President David Adams, who would be president-elect for 2013-2014, and Thomas Chong, who would be vice president for the 2013-2014 term.

[AGM MINUTES]

REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT DIXON

President Dixon stated he was pleased to have the opportunity to share some of the successes of PEO council over the past year.

He expressed his opinion that co-operation between PEO and OSPE had improved significantly, and noted there was general agreement at the 2012 council workshop that there are functions that OSPE could be doing rather than PEO. While this is, as yet, unresolved, he said he is confident that incoming President Bergeron, who was previously OSPE president, would continue to lead council to more progress.

He then highlighted some of council's other accomplishments over the year:

- PEO's IT systems have been upgraded, including:
 - a new website,
 - allowance for council members to participate remotely in council meetings, and
 - making it easier to suggest and submit candidates for awards;
- PEO's licensing system is being upgraded, using the APTIFY database system for approximately half of the cost of replacing the current database. APTIFY is the same system that PEO's counterpart in Alberta is using and they have been helpful in sharing their experience to customize the program to suit the needs of the engineering profession in Ontario. This will result in substantial additional savings for PEO and great convenience to members. He expressed PEO's appreciation to APEGA and its president, Colin Yeo, P. Geo., and said the system is expected to be fully functioning by the end of 2014, and will provide applicants the ability to apply for licensure online, including electronic submission of all necessary documentation. Applicants will also be able to check their status online. Future enhancements will provide members the ability to record their professional development on PEO's licensing system. This will allow members actively providing professional services to the public, and any others who desire, to refer clients to the PEO website to confirm that a member is up to date in his/her fields of expertise. It will also enable a

seamless transition to other provinces that do track members' professional development activities;

- PEO's building at 40 Sheppard Avenue West is profitable to the extent of over \$500,000 and the financial report confirms that the net capital assets at year end were nearly \$36.5 million;
- The Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy has conducted very highly rated programs, including a recent co-operative venture with OSPE on reusing nuclear fuel;
- The Government Liaison Program has dedicated volunteers aligned with every MPP at Queen's Park and with all their possible replacements should an election occur. He expressed his appreciation for the expertise that consultant Howard Brown, of Brown & Cohen, brings to enhancing PEO's profile and access at Queen's Park; and
- PEO has made great strides at Engineers Canada with Catherine Karakatsanis as the president and Kim Allen the CEO, plus PEO directors Dave Euler, Phil Maka, Chris Roney and Diane Freeman. Freeman has been involved in the Canadian Framework for Licensure, which is helping all provinces understand each other's problems.

President Dixon referred to the tragic mall collapse in Elliot Lake, noting that charges have been laid by the Ministry of Labour and PEO has open files relating to individuals involved. PEO may be required to testify at the inquiry into the collapse and is extremely fortunate to have competent staff with a total grasp of the procedures to state PEO's position. He said that while the total outcome of the inquiry cannot be predicted, it may highlight there are things in the engineering business that are beyond PEO's control. He advised he has suggested to government that a provincial engineer with a direct link to the legislature could do things that PEO may be unable to do. All three political parties seem to be in general agreement but they, as well as PEO, are awaiting the inquiry findings.

Another issue that required council's attention was the relationship of technologists with engineers. President Dixon reported that B.C. and Alberta have reached different accommodations with their technologists and PEO has gone down yet another path in its dealings with OACETT. He acknowledged the contribution of its president, Rod MacLeod, and appointee to PEO council, Sharon Reid, for their assistance with the wording of changes to the *Professional Engineers Act*, which are currently going through the government's process.

With respect to the repeal of section 12(3)(a), incorrectly known as the industrial exception, President Dixon reported that a delay had occurred one day before proclamation of the changes to the act to remove the section. He said the government is in favour of reducing the substantial cost to the province of industrial accidents and has tasked PEO with bringing the rest of industry onside. He noted that several major players are in agreement with PEO that competent engineers can help improve safety with a minimal cost outlay. In the immediate future, PEO will be pursuing this initiative, stressing that the measure is to address public safety concerns.

President Dixon referred to suggestions that council needs "new blood" to regenerate it and, while not disagreeing, asked nominators in the 2014 elections to remember that PEO is a \$25-million business and that technical experience is not always enough to run a corporation. He said council is concerned about the poor turnout in the 2013 elections and will be working to determine the reasons for this.

In closing, President Dixon thanked committees and councillors for their co-operation during his term. He also thanked staff on behalf of the

profession for their assistance, noting that they make an enormous contribution to PEO. In particular, he thanked Acting CEO/Registrar Michael Price, who stepped up at a time when he was needed and who has been invaluable in the recent dealings with government. He also expressed his appreciation to the members who elected him and said he hopes he has helped to move PEO in the direction they expected.

INSTALLATION OF NEW PRESIDENT

Past President Dixon administered the oath of office to Annette Bergeron as president for the 2013-2014 term and presented her with the gavel of office. President Bergeron then thanked Dixon on PEO's behalf for his service to the association.

INTRODUCTION OF INCOMING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

President Bergeron then introduced the newly elected members of the 2013-2014 council: Past President Denis Dixon, President-elect David Adams, Vice President Thomas Chong, Councillor-at-Large Roger Jones, P.Eng., Eastern Region Councillor Dave Brown, P.Eng., East Central Region Councillor Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, and Western Region Councillor Ewald Kuczera, P.Eng.

CLOSING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BERGERON

President Bergeron expressed her appreciation for the support from her professional colleagues to lead the association as the 94th president. In the next 12 months, she stated, there will be a renewed focus on PEO's regulatory functions and a plan to prioritize where the association should maximize its resources. She said it is her opinion that resources should be allocated to licensing and discipline activities, first and foremost. Only then can regulatory effectiveness be measured by identifying outcomes, such as licence application rate vs. successful outcomes, the number of disciplinary cases vs. the

number of complaints, and changes to the *Professional Engineers Act*, such as the repeal of section 12(3)(a).

President Bergeron stated that, as the 2013-2014 council begins its work, she will aim to continue a cohesive, collaborative and accountable council and regulatory body. Council will decide on its plan, focus and desired outcomes for the year at its workshop in June. She also commented that council must be prepared to be proactive to any threats to PEO as a self-governing body. In the coming months, PEO will receive the recommendations of the Elliot Lake Inquiry and must be prepared to address identified issues.

President Bergeron stated her work has always been guided by the philosophy of consensus-building negotiations and that she will continue to stress this around the council table. She said she is anxious to continue her work with her council colleagues, PEO staff and PEO's dedicated contingent of volunteers to advance the association's regulatory mandate. She congratulated the newly elected council members and thanked those whose term had concluded. She also expressed her appreciation to Past President Dixon for his valued mentorship during her time as president-elect.

In closing, President Bergeron noted that engineering is a wonderful profession and that PEO must commit to serving and protecting the public interest through licensure. She welcomed members' participation and support.

CONCLUSION

President Bergeron then declared the 91st Annual General Meeting of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario concluded. Σ

Michael Price, P.Eng.
Acting CEO/Registrar