

A WORK IN PROGRESS



Jennifer Coombes
Editor

TO THE CASUAL observer, there may be a tendency to think that once a piece of legislation like the *Professional Engineers Act* (PEA) is put in place, it gathers dust from then on. But, in fact, there have been numerous revisions to the act since the last major version became law in 1984.

One thing is clear. In the 1980s, the regulatory landscape was considerably different than it is today. Back in the day, the top issues were putting in place professional liability insurance, figuring out which professionals—architects or engineers—were responsible for which work, and expanding the Certificate of Authorization to sole practitioners offering engineering services. Fast forward a few decades and, without a doubt, the most high-profile issue today is repealing the industrial exception (section 12(3)(a) of the PEA)—a concept introduced in the 1984 act that still rankles and an issue PEO remains determined to resolve (see below and p. 8).

In “Ontario’s engineering act then & now: reflections on the past 30 years” (p. 24), we take the occasion of the 30th anniversary of this version of the PEA to shine a spotlight on the self-regulated engineering profession’s enabling legislation and discuss how it got to its current form, what it means for the profession today, and the fine tuning that could bring it more in line with current needs.

Gerard McDonald, MBA, P.Eng., is still settling into his role as PEO registrar, having joined the organization just two months ago, but that doesn’t mean he hasn’t hit the ground running. One of McDonald’s first tasks has been to work with PEO Presi-

dent Annette Bergeron, P.Eng., FEC, to keep the aforementioned repeal alive in the minds of government representatives, despite the premier’s decision last year to scrap the previously approved September 1 proclamation date. In that spirit, McDonald and Bergeron met with opposition party attorney general critic Julia Munro in January to reiterate PEO’s case (p. 8).

McDonald has also been hard at work getting to know how the organization’s many moving parts—volunteers, council and staff—work together. He recently sat down with Michael Mastromatteo for a Q&A. The result, “PEO role no soft landing for new registrar” on page 30, will give members more insight into our new registrar’s initial impressions of PEO, his leadership style and his thoughts for improving PEO’s operations. Spoiler alert: He intends to build an even more efficient, member-focused organization.

In this issue we also announce the new inductees into PEO’s Order of Honour (p. 8), an honorary society that recognizes members who have demonstrated extraordinary service to the profession. In 2014, PEO will induct three new Companions to the order: David Euler, P.Eng., FEC, PMP, Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, and Colin Moore, P.Eng., FEC. Three Officers and four Members will also be inducted. All will be recognized at a gala in their honour on April 25 in Niagara Falls, the evening before PEO’s annual general meeting April 26 (www.peo.on.ca/index.php/ci_id/27696/la_id/1.htm). PEO’s G. Gordon M. Sterling Engineering Intern Award will also be presented at the gala to this year’s recipient, Heather Murdock, EIT (p. 10). The Sterling Award was introduced in 2010 and is awarded annually to an engineering intern to promote his or her leadership development (www.peo.on.ca/index.php/ci_id/2090/la_id/1.htm).

See you all in Niagara Falls! Σ

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