

COUNCIL APPROVES AMENDMENTS TO PEO'S EXPANDED PUBLIC INFORMATION MODEL

496TH MEETING, SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 2014

By Jennifer Coombes

AT THE SEPTEMBER meeting, council approved revisions to PEO's Expanded Public Information Model (EPIM) and privacy policy regarding the disclosure of information about the educational backgrounds of members and engineering interns (EITs), and whether members are deceased. PEO Registrar Gerard McDonald, P.Eng., recommended that council approve the information "to provide the public with access to information that will allow identification of a practitioner, facilitate public safety and uphold the requirements under s. 2(3) of the *Professional Engineers Act* (principal object)."

Specifically, the EPIM will make public a member's degree(s) at the time of registration, the institution granting the degree(s), year of graduation, discipline of degree(s), and deceased status. For EITs, the new information made public will include degree(s) at the time of registration, the institution granting the degree(s), year of graduation and discipline of degree(s).

PEO's privacy policy will also be updated by inserting the following into its principle 5:

"PEO discloses information concerning the death of a member to protect the public by assisting those who may have dealt with him or her professionally in the past, who are looking to work with the deceased member, to prevent others from misrepresenting themselves in respect of the deceased member and to recognize and honour the deceased member's contribution to the profession."

ELECTION MATTERS

At the September meeting, council approved several recommendations of the Central Election and Search Committee to change election procedures to deal with issues that arose in connection with the 2014 council elections. The recommendations are to be implemented for the 2015 council elections.

The recommendations are:

- hold all-candidates meetings the week before voting begins;
- have council approve the nomination acceptance and petition forms and amend the voting procedures to state that PEO will accept only approved forms completed in all respects, without amendment in any way;
- include a statement in the publicity procedures that to participate, candidates must attend all-candidates meetings in person or by phone and may not be represented by proxy. As well, prepared statements won't be permitted from candidates who are not in attendance in person or by phone nor will the moderator read a candidate's statement;
- highlight the elections in *Engineering Dimensions* and include an article on the importance of voting;

- contact candidates if material is submitted without identifying information or another glaring omission and ask if they want to resubmit the material. Give the chief elections officer the authority to remove material or seek a legal opinion if the material could be deemed libelous and to remove the material if advised by legal counsel;
- ensure PEO is de-blacklisted from the blacklisting service SpamCop.net before election-related eblasts are sent;
- explore with the official elections agent alternatives to facilitate voter identification to accommodate members who lose or misplace their election material and associated unique control number;
- include on the "vote now" button on PEO's voting site information that the button is to be used only for Internet voting and provide the phone number for those wishing to register their vote by phone; and
- expand the voting instructions to state members voting by phone must speak only when prompted and provide no other information than the number that appears beside their chosen candidate.

The 2015 council election call for nominations, voting procedures and election publicity procedures begin on page 51 of this issue.

NO CHANGE TO RETIRED MEMBER FEE REMISSIONS

PEO's current fee remission policy for retired members will remain unchanged, as a result of council defeating a proposal introduced at the June council meeting that a change be made to the eligibility criteria. PEO's policy, which has been in place since January 1, 2005, states that those eligible for the retired fee remission are: "Any member who has retired from the practice of professional engineering and whose age plus years of registration as a professional engineer in Canada equals or exceeds 90.

An item on the agenda of the June council meeting proposed this criteria be replaced with "a statutory statement and/or objective evidence of being a retired member" to accommodate members who were licensed mid-career or who retire at a younger age, particularly federal and provincial government employees, who might not be able to reach the 90-year requirement.

Council discussed the matter in June, but referred the proposal to PEO's Licensing and Finance division for further analysis. At the September meeting, Licensing and Finance recommended the policy for retired members remain as is. Σ