

【 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 】

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY (OUR) FRIENDS



J. David Adams, P.Eng.,
FEC, President

FOLLOWING THIS recognizable tag line from an old Beatles song, I'm pleased to report the progress we're making on your behalf on several initiatives.

PEO plans to submit to Premier Kathleen Wynne a formal request to select from a list of 100 new technologies those that current manufacturers in Ontario consider compatible with their operations and warrant start-up status.

PEO will thereby help create academic and experience requirements for licensing that will enhance employment opportunities for engineers and create funds to help finance the planned 2015 provincial government budget.

PEO participated in a meeting on Canada's position in world trade called by the Hon. Edward Fast, federal minister of international trade, to seek more industrial activity in Ontario.

Following the meeting, I wrote Minister Fast requesting the government's list of international funding contacts and Canadian trade representatives in India, to further our joint initiative with India, and to participate in their redevelopment of infrastructure, which could enhance manufacturing opportunities in Ontario.

The PEO president and registrar, together with PEO's directors on the Engineers Canada board, were invited to a meeting in Ottawa to listen to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration's plan to bring engineers to Canada. Engineers Canada wishes to act as a clearing house for this activity. It is soliciting the support of its provincial constituent members for it to become a designated agency for foreign credential assessment. Engineers Canada would then select a third-party assessment agency to authenticate all documents and conduct the initial assessments.

At the conclusion of the presentation by Hon. Costas Menegakis, MP, parliamentary secretary to the minister of citizenship and immigration, I asked him, as your president, whether PEO could be appointed one of the third-party assessors. I followed up by email on October 4, as follows: "With respect to your present immigration initiative, Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) has been performing credential assessments of foreign-trained engineering graduates for many years. We presently have a well-structured process, using several hundred member volunteers to evaluate academic and experience requirements of internationally trained engineers. This we do to fulfill the requirements of our *Professional Engineers Act* in Ontario. In total, PEO has approximately 80,000 licensed members.

"In executing this duty, PEO looks to exempt from technical examinations those internationally trained engineers from signatories to the Washington Accord, whose academic qualifications are accredited in their respective countries and who comply with this accord.

"Because of our expertise in diverse practice and the language capability of many of our members, PEO would be pleased to assist in the acceptance evaluations for your present fast track immigration program, especially for those you choose to send to Ontario.

"As I mentioned after your presentation in Ottawa, I would very much like to discuss our involvement in your program at your office in either Ottawa or your constituency office in Richmond Hill. Should you wish to visit us at PEO headquarters at 40 Sheppard Ave. West, Toronto, you would be most welcome.

"Thank you for your time in consideration of this request."

Further to my email of October 4, above, it is my understanding Engineers Canada, in an October 7 memo to the constituent associations' CEOs, added the following conditions to candidate assessments:

"Prior to submitting our proposal to Citizenship and Immigration, we (Engineers Canada) will ask you to confirm your association's willingness and available capacity to assess degrees of applicants who have been initially assessed as having the equivalent of a Canadian engineering degree. We will also ask you to provide the wording for any specific disclaimer your association may wish to communicate to the applicant regarding ECA (Educational Credential Assessment) findings and meeting the academic requirement for licensure in your jurisdiction when the assessment has been performed by a fellow engineering regulator."

In the matter of licence approval, as set out in the *Ontario Labour Mobility Act*, PEO must, at this time, grant a P.Eng. licence to any applicant who applies to practise from another province, in a matter of a day or two.

The registrar and I will keep all councillors and members informed, as these important measures are discussed.

Closer to home, Councillor Roger Jones, P.Eng., Ravi Gupta, PhD, P.Eng., FEC, and I, in consultation with Registrar Gerard McDonald, P.Eng., have prepared terms of reference for the Program and Capital Review Subcommittee of the Finance Committee. This new subcommittee will review and monitor the 2015 operating and capital budgets with respect to all costs; return on investment; utility value and annual impacts of the current year strategic plan; projected building expenditures on renovations and restoring vacated space; and reusing and/or repurposing HVAC equipment, back-up generators, etc.

Other sizeable expenditures planned for 2015 are in the IT area, related to the Aptify licensing and SharePoint systems, each to cost \$350,000 in 2015 to raise the effectiveness and efficiency of day-to-day PEO operations in servicing members.

Zero-based monitoring for budget line operations will be developed wherever possible. And, rates of expenditure for budget line items will be measured throughout the year.

Please feel free to contact me on any of these important items and bring your concerns to my attention. Thank you. Σ