

A PRESIDENT FOR THE PROFESSION AND ITS MEMBERS



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President

I WOULD LIKE to begin this, my first message, by expressing my gratitude for the confidence you have placed in me. You elected me to lead this great profession, which is facing great challenges during a time of immense change in our world. I am both humbled and grateful, and I pledge to provide the leadership, vision and hard work you expect of the president.

Canada's professions are founded on the principle of self-regulation.

The reasoning behind this principle is that members of a profession know much better than government what good practice looks like. Our professions have always governed by holding the public interest first. Volunteers from within the profession are what make self-regulation possible. Over the years, I have been one of those volunteers, devoting myself to council, numerous committees and chapters. And now you have asked me to represent you in the association's highest office to represent PEO's 78,000 engineers.

YOUR VICTORY

For some time now, the biggest issues facing PEO have been how to increase the relevance and value of the P.Eng. licence, and how to provide value for our members' hard-earned dollars. For many years, I have heard this from both our chapters and our rank-and-file members. I have always felt our members should view their fees as making an investment, not merely as paying taxes.

For this investment to bear fruit, I need your help and your participation. We need fresh voices to bring their broad experience to council, our committees and our chapters. We need more of our membership to participate in council elections. Our annual budget is \$25 million—that's quite an investment you have made. The best way to protect that investment is to take an active part in selecting the councillors who will administer it!

I will work very hard to do my part. I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree. But I will also ask you to join in the work of bringing PEO into the 21st century, raising the prestige of the engineering profession, respecting our members, and fostering partnerships with our strategic stakeholders, including government, industry, communities, the

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Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, Consulting Engineers of Ontario, Engineers Canada, the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists, the Ontario Association of Architects, and our counterpart professional engineering associations across Canada.

STRONG LEADERSHIP

As a practising engineer, I care deeply about the profession and its obligation to protect the public interest. Our self-regulating model is unique in the world in that professional engineers must have a licence to practise. This is made possible by the many individuals with a strong desire to improve our profession: the more than 900 volunteers who serve on task forces and committees, chapters, our Government Liaison Program, and education, standards and enforcement projects; the wonderful staff who work diligently to execute our regulatory duties and help council make informed decisions; and the councillors sitting at the decision-making table who sacrifice much to advance our profession.

My father, who died some years ago, was a good and decent man. I still remember a couple of things he said that have really stuck with me: "Son, you are either part of the problem, or part of the solution." We need strong leadership to become part of the solution.

NEW VISION

The arrival of the new year brought with it a new vision for PEO. We began implementing our ambitious 2015-2017 Strategic Plan, which determines the priorities for PEO programs and initiatives, and provides guidance for council, committees, task forces and staff over the next three years. To enhance the fiscal accountability of PEO, the annual budget will be aligned to meet the priorities of the organization. Our

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association continues to champion strategic collaboration with our valued partners.

A new vision for PEO was solicited and refined as part of the strategic plan development process. Our vision is to be the trusted leader in professional self-regulation. Our mission, the principle object of the *Professional Engineers Act* (PEA), is to regulate and advance the practice of engineering to protect the public interest.

As we approach 100 years of regulating the engineering profession in Ontario, we must continue to evolve and be prepared to overcome the concerns we face. Our strategic plan is a roadmap for how we will meet these challenges and implement the required changes.

Among the plan's strategic objectives are:

- ensuring the practice and title provisions of the PEA are judiciously enforced and continuously improved;
- producing regulations, standards and guidelines through an evidence-based, integrated and streamlined policy-making process;
- optimizing the complaints process, balancing transparency, fairness and timeliness;
- engaging and partnering with key regulatory ministries and industries in engineering public policy development and regulation/act changes, where necessary;
- increasing public respect for the profession and the role of PEO;
- ensuring PEO's governance approach is robust, transparent and trusted;
- engaging PEO chapters in the regulatory mandate of the association;
- integrating equity, diversity and inclusion values and principles into the general policy and business operations; and
- ensuring PEO is recognized as an employer of choice.

**WE HAVE TO SET OUR PRIORITIES,
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AND ENGAGE OUR MEMBERS.**

VALUE FOR MONEY

PEO is entrusted with the membership fees of our members. We need to:

1. Challenge PEO management to reduce costs and improve efficiency and operational effectiveness;
2. Enhance the self-regulatory function of the profession. This will cover a number of issues, such as precluding non-engineers from doing engineering; more professional guidelines and standards, including the new disciplines; education requirements and improvements to licensure; and more effective enforcement; and
3. Expand PEO's volunteer leadership base with a new communication strategy and engage our members with a shared vision of success for PEO, as defined in the strategic plan. We can get a lot done if you, our members, take ownership of the plan.

ENHANCING PEO'S GREATNESS

We live in an age that, arguably, is more dependent on engineers and technology than at any other time in history. In Ontario, Canada's manufacturing heartland, engineers should be front and centre. Yet engineers are rarely acknowledged as the main contributors to our society's progress.

I am of the opinion that addressing this problem requires that we get our own house in order. We have to set our priorities, do the hard work, manage our money, regulate our practice and engage our members. When we do our job well, our stature will grow.

I intend to do *my* job well. Again, I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me. I am relying on each of you to help me make this a watershed year for engineering in Ontario. Σ