

## [ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ]

### BUILDING PEO'S FUTURE THROUGH INNOVATION, RECOGNITION, COLLABORATION



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President

AT THE BEGINNING of my term as president, I set three priorities—innovation, recognition and collaboration—that I believe are essential to building a PEO that meets the needs of both its licence holders and the public. I am pleased to report progress in each of these areas.

#### INNOVATION

Innovation is based on taking good ideas and developing them into something new and valued. And PEO's Ottawa Chapter is doing just that with its Innovative Entrepreneur Leadership Program. On September 30, I was privileged to attend the program's official launch event. Also in attendance was Councillor Marianne Wilkinson (Ward 4, Kanata North, Ottawa) who praised it as a "lead to win" entrepreneurship program.

The program is a true collaboration of PEO, the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), learned societies, universities, government and industry. And I believe this program, rolled out across the province, could play a real part in helping to shift our economy into high gear again, restoring growth, boosting employment, helping small business thrive, restoring manufacturing competitiveness, bringing back Ontario's leadership in high technology, and shifting the country away from resource dependency.

I will watch the program's development with interest, and I look forward to seeing it emulated in other chapters.

#### RECOGNITION

PEO believes in the value of recognition. The Ontario Professional Engineers Awards (OPEAs), which have honoured professional engineering excellence and community service since 1947, are now a joint program with OSPE. The honourees for 2015 were profiled in the September/October issue of *Engineering Dimensions* and you'll find coverage of the awards gala in the January/February 2016 issue. Please don't forget that the nomination deadline for the 2016 awards is Wednesday, February 24, 2016. Eligibility requirements and nomination forms are available at [www.peo.on.ca/index.php/ci\\_id/2089.htm](http://www.peo.on.ca/index.php/ci_id/2089.htm).

The Professional Engineers Awards Committee, which solicits awards nominations and selects recipients for council approval, has been working on an exciting proposal to elevate the prestige and public recognition of this program—the premier engineering awards in Ontario—even higher. I hope to be able to share the results of these efforts with you soon.

PEO recognizes service to the engineering profession through the Professional Engineers Ontario Order of Honour. Honourees will be inducted this spring.

One of the pleasant duties that goes along with being PEO president is the opportunity to recommend for recognition each year a non-engineer who has shown continuous support of, and made significant contributions to advancing, the engineering profession. Look for an announcement of my 2016 President's Award recipient in January.

#### COLLABORATION

My third priority enables both of the others. As the Ottawa Chapter program is demonstrating, innovation requires both good ideas and collaboration with others to

make them even better. So, too, does work worthy of recognition through one of PEO's awards programs.

Collaboration is also key to the six regional town hall meetings I am hosting across the province this fall, starting in Ottawa, then going to Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, London, Toronto West and Toronto East. The meetings are aimed at consulting with members on how PEO might best strengthen the engineering profession by implementing recommendations from the Elliot Lake Commission of Inquiry in ways that make sense for both practitioners and the public. Early on in planning for the meetings, we adopted the tag lines "You talk. We listen." and "Help Build PEO's Future," and designed the agenda with more time for questions and comments than for presentations. Your voice matters, so please share your thoughts with us.

All the presentations given at the meetings, and audio from each session, are available on the town hall page on PEO's website at [www.peo.on.ca/index.php/ci\\_id/29011/la\\_id/1.htm](http://www.peo.on.ca/index.php/ci_id/29011/la_id/1.htm). If, after reviewing the presentations, you have questions and comments, please send them to the email addresses at the end of each presentation.

Because engineering is a self-regulating profession in Canada, each member of the profession has a part to play in regulating it. I can assure you that council will continue to consult with you on major regulation changes affecting our profession and seek your ratification of specific proposals.

#### ADDING VALUE

For some time now, I have believed the biggest issues facing PEO are:

- increasing the relevance and value of the P.Eng. licence to society and licence holders; and
- providing value for our licence holders' hard-earned licence fees.

To raise the relevance and value of our profession, we must start with a fundamental belief in ourselves, and in our ability to effect change. Through innovation, recognition and collaboration, I believe that, together, we can build PEO's future.  $\Sigma$