

COUNCIL VOTES TO HOLD MEMBER REFERENDUM ON CPD REPORTING

502ND MEETING, SEPTEMBER 24, 25, 2015

By Jennifer Coombes

COUNCIL AFFIRMED at the September meeting its intent to ask the membership to ratify through referendum any mandatory requirement to participate in a PEO continuing professional development (CPD) program.

Under council's direction, the Continuing Professional Development, Competence and Quality Assurance Task Force (CPDCCA TF) has, since 2014, been developing a proposal for a program of CPD and quality assurance that takes into account whether a P.Eng. is practising or not practising professional engineering. Council got its first look at the task force's proposed program at the May council meeting (see *Engineering Dimensions*, July/August 2015, p. 22). Feedback from a series of town hall meetings (see p. 8) held in the fall throughout the province will be incorporated into the task force's final proposal. The task force is scheduled to report to council at its November meeting.

RESCINDED COUNCIL MOTIONS

Council has rescinded several previously passed motions as part of PEO's ongoing work to ensure the policy intents, stakeholders, and quantitative and qualitative impacts for any proposed regulation fulfill the attorney general's (AG) preliminary regulatory impact assessment requirements, which were introduced in January 2014. The AG's requirement is part of the government's new emphasis on evidence-based policy and applies to all current and future regulation amendments under development.

PEO's Legislation Committee identified that the following passed council motions do not meet the AG's threshold for clear policy intent and, as a result, have not yet and cannot be drafted into regulation. The rescinded motions dealt with Certificates of Authorization and licensing requirements:

Certificate of Authorization (C of A)

- that the online membership directory identify all licence holders who carry, or do not carry, professional liability insurance, and by the discipline (CEAB degree or PEO syllabus) in which they are licensed;
- that, for a nominal fee, a check-box on the application for licence for a sole practitioner be provided to indicate that he/she will be providing services to the public, and to denote if he/she carries professional liability insurance;

- that discipline-specific seals be issued, and additional seals be issued to licence holders who can demonstrate competence in additional discipline(s);
- that all engineers offering engineering services to the public be required to be listed on the initial C of A application and annual renewal form;
- that the signing officer of a firm be required to sign a declaration acknowledging awareness of the requirement of section 50 of the regulation that PEO be advised of any changes to an organization's information (e.g. mailing address) within 30 days;
- that PEO validate the services offered on a C of A are supported by competent licence holders with the discipline(s) that support its scope(s) of practice as stated on its application;
- that services offered by the holder of a C of A be listed in the online directory;
- that limitations be imposed on the number of certificates a licensee can be responsible for;
- that PEO have powers of inspection built into the act to follow up on whether Cs of A who have opted for compulsory disclosure are providing clients with a disclosure notice;
- that PEO ensure C of A holders provide proper, professional working conditions (i.e. that P.Eng. decisions are not overridden by unlicensed individuals, thereby giving P.Engs more control over the professional engineering activities of a firm); and
- that practitioners be required to file a declaration of competency on an annual basis.

Licensing

- that a new regulation be added to cover licensing of applicants already registered in another jurisdiction with which PEO has a mobility agreement, by which such applicants will be deemed to meet all requirements for licensure except for the good character requirement with the following provisions:
 - (a) the applicant has successfully passed a professional practice examination in a Canadian jurisdiction or has been licensed to practise professional engineering in a Canadian jurisdiction for at least five years,
 - (b) the applicant has provided satisfactory evidence of having at least 12 months of Canadian experience that meets the requirements of subsection 33.(3)3 of the regulation, and
 - (c) the applicant has not previously applied to PEO for a licence and been deemed to not meet the academic requirements.
- that PEO delete all reference to the number of examinations required in each category of each syllabus. Σ