

GATHERING MOMENTUM



Jennifer Coombes
Editor

PEO IS NOW ENTERING a crucial phase in the development of its continuing professional development (CPD) program, with a new task force in place to flesh out the framework and general elements of the program envisioned by the Continuing Professional Development, Competence and Quality Assurance Task Force (p. 8, 23, 38).

The Continuing Professional Competence Program Task Force, or (CP)² TF, as it's currently being called, will focus on developing the centrepiece of the program—the risk review—among other elements. Licence holders will eventually use the risk review to determine the level of risk they personally present to the public and the profession with the engineering work they do and, consequently, the amount of professional development they will be required to report to PEO (right now, set to a maximum of 30 hours). For those members who self-declare as non-practising, CPD requirements will be minimal.

The (CP)² TF will work through the details of the program for much of this year and provide a report to council in November. It's expected that a version of the program will be ready for members to test drive as we near the end of 2016. PEO's CPD program will at first be a voluntary endeavour. Members will decide by referendum if the program will be made mandatory at a date yet to be decided.

PEO is also working on projects stemming from recommendations made by Justice Bélanger in his report of the inquiry into the partial collapse of the Algo Centre Mall in Elliot Lake. In fact, council approved the policy intents for several amendments to the *Professional Engineers Act* that, when enacted, fulfill some of Bélanger's recommendations, including expanding information on PEO's register to include

any discipline hearings a licence holder may have undergone and the outcomes (p. 23).

PEO is, of course, also closely watching the investigation into the failure of the Nipigon River Bridge and is in touch weekly with the transportation ministry to determine if engineering may have contributed to the failure (p. 16). *Engineering Dimensions* will report on the investigation as details emerge.

Although our attorney general has clearly stated the government has no intention of eliminating the industrial exception, research PEO began before the announcement last November to maintain the exception permanently is still ongoing. PEO has continued to collect and analyze Ministry of Labour data and now anticipates releasing its final report in June (p. 10).

This issue, we also include a summary of the annual OSPE/Mercer compensation survey. If you're a member of OSPE, you have free access to the full report. If you don't, this summary is the next best thing and a must-read for engineers and employers of engineers—especially those of the millennial generation (p. 19).

Finally, our Order of Honour (OOH) gala is fast approaching. On April 29, PEO inducts two Officers and five Members into the OOH, an honorary society that recognizes outstanding service to the engineering profession. For more on these seven exemplary individuals, see page 11. Σ

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