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### **Advocating for the Public Interest**

I am hoping that my colleagues on Council will be receptive to considering that the PEO should develop a new strategic plan (the current one expired at the end of 2020) that includes a provision for advocating for legislation/regulation that strives to do the best for the public interest. The PEO has done so in the past. For example, in response to the Elliot Lake Algo Mall collapse that resulted in 2 deaths, the PEO proactively advocated to amend the Building Code to include a provision that owners may be required to provide a Structural Adequacy Report. It also called on the Government to establish the position of "Provincial Engineer". What a great idea. The Provincial Engineer position would better enable the government to better track, assess and address engineering based public interest issues such as ageing infrastructure and the climate crisis. It could provide a watchdog and advisory role on engineering related issues for the Province much like that of the Chief Medical Officer of Health does for public health issues and the Chief Drinking Water Inspector does for safe drinking water issues. The PEO advocacy for regulatory/legislative changes in the shadow of the Algo Mall collapse shows that the PEO can be proactively engaged with the government to advocate for the public interest. Moving forward, I am hoping that my Council colleagues will be willing to consider the wisdom of the PEO engaging some of their subject matter experts in various Technical Advisory Committees to provide an engineering public interest perspective to the government on various regulatory/legislative enhancements or changes needed in the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Building Code, the Environmental Protection Act, etc. that otherwise would likely be missing.