

### **My thoughts on mandatory training for PEO members.**

I believe in professional development and over my career have been lucky enough to attend many interesting training courses about things like emergency response, trenchless technologies and energy management. While manager of the water treatment plant in Sarnia I was fortunate to attend the Ontario Water Works Association water conference annually. I was able to connect with my peers and learn about their work experiences through technical papers and conversations. The trade show provided opportunities to learn about the new products and services available.

Training can also take place by peer-to-peer training and lunch and learn sessions at work places. On line training is now also very popular for training in areas like Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) training, health and safety and ethics.

I believe practicing engineers do already engage in professional development and many work places have mandatory training protocols in place. There are also engineers who have honed their specialized skills though on the job training and who would be hard pressed to find relevant training to support their day-to-day work. For those engineers mandatory training to the extent of other practicing engineers could be seen as a waste of their time. I believe each engineer and their employer needs to decide what professional development they need to be successful at their job.

Therefore, I do not believe the PEO should have mandatory training requirements. However, I do believe PEO should track the training and professional development activities of their members. Perhaps PEO could offer some incentive to encourage members to do that?

If you require any further information please contact me at [susan.macfarlane@sympatico.ca](mailto:susan.macfarlane@sympatico.ca). Please vote Susan MacFarlane, P.Eng. for Western Region Councillor!