Response to Belanger Key Summary Recommendations.

After 1300+ pages Belanger comes down to 4 key ones that apply to engineers. While there are many other recommendations, including CPD, these others must take a back seat to what is upper most in the mind of Belanger and of the AG and the public press reflecting these key points. To do otherwise will make PEO look like it is out of touch with reality.

These are the four key recommendations that apply to Engineers directly in Belanger’s summary recommendations:
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1. Properly qualified structural engineers should inspect buildings when sold, more frequently if public safety dictates.
2. Make information about building condition easily accessible and understandable to owners, the public and potential buyers.
3. Enforcement of standards should be straightforward and make public authorities accountable for their decisions and actions.
4. Professional engineers and municipal building officials should be trained and certified, and information about them accessible to owners and the public.```

How do we do these things so that there are teeth in the methods and PEO has a significant measure of control over the actions by and of its Licensees.

1. The government must pass amendments to several Acts and/or regulations to create demand requirements that all buildings when sold must be inspected by a PEO certified P.Eng. before title can change. A similar inspection can be mandated by PEO given bonified evidence that a building or structure poses a safety risk. This inspection must be registered in a publicly accessible media to declare the inspection as complete.
   (PEOs legislation Committee or a special Task Force working with the Ontario Government will need to review which Acts and/or regulations need amending to effect this change.)

2. Legislation must specify that all building inspections will be recorded in a publically accessible website. This Web site could be maintained by PEO or by an Ontario ministry like the AG, or Ministry of Infrastructure or maybe modifying the Ministry of Research and Innovation into the ‘Ministry of Research, Innovation and Engineering’ (I know this minister). The LC or Task Force along with government will need to determine the best place to do this and the associated costs.

3. PEO will create the standards to be met. The Ministry of Labour legislation needs to be amended to require all Ministry inspectors to provide a copy of their uncensored report directly to PEO, on issues relating to Engineering and in particular that relate to the standards set by PEO with respect to structures and their fatigue.

4. PEO will implement a Certification process for structural inspections that can be referred to in other pieces of legislation. PEO will maintain a registry of such certified inspectors and their credentials as a matter of public record for anyone to review over the Internet. The new legislation will require that building officials must be PEO certified P.Eng.s when dealing with
buildings of over a PEO pre-determined height or other type of critical structures (bridges, etc). These sizes and specifics need to be determined and set in PEO regulations.

NOTE: in the creation of this certification, PEO may elect to specify a CPD program for these specific engineers who wish to do structural inspections. This will not be the ONLY thing required but is a reasonable addition given that forensic science is advancing rapidly particularly as we learn more about nano particles and how they function.

As well as the Belanger key recommendations above it is well to keep the statement issued by the AG as part of our response and approach. The statement issued was:

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October 15, 2014 11:30 A.M.
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Starting today, we will immediately act on a number of recommendations:
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- We will establish an advisory panel and begin consulting with stakeholders, including our municipal partners on how to move forward with the recommendations.
- We will develop guidelines and work with first responders to clarify the role and responsibilities of Ministry of Labour inspectors and engineers at the scene of an ongoing rescue or recovery effort.
- We will review the Incident Management System doctrine that guides first responders when multiple agencies are involved in the response, and outlines how command is structured."
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1. On the 1st bullet, the PEO LC or special Task Force can be the mechanism through which the AG can consult with PEO.
2. Part of the second bullet response is contained in response to Belanger (3) above. The Ministry of Labour Inspectors are additionally to call PEO during a disaster to assist with the investigations. In emergency situations, PEO can recommend a suitable engineering firm to assist the Ministry.
3. Bullet 3 is for the AG to decide. Generally, engineers are not first responders. This is the role of agents like the Firefighters, Paramedics etc. However, it is reasonable to expect that engineers may be needed to help move or lift major structural components rapidly in a rescue attempt. Engineers will be in the best position to know if such components will maintain enough integrity so they can be moved in order to save a life.

In summary, the main response for PEO is to focus on the type of legislation changes required that will help PEO do a better job in protecting and serving the public interest. A direct response to Belanger`s key recommendations is likely to meet with great government favour and the applaud of the public press who have also picked up on these same key recommendations. These must be PEO`s first actions. While there are many other secondary actions that are possible they must not override the focus on these four key points and the expectations of the AG who is responsible for PEO.

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Sept 23, 2015