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For President-Elect, 2010

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Experience, Focus and Determination....

The chair of PEO's Search and Election Committee, Dr Bilanski, plus Councilors and engineer friends have asked me to run again. They believe that my past accomplishments demonstrate what I can do for PEO. So I have decided it was time to stand again for President Elect of PEO.

The Engineering Act mandates PEO to 'govern the practice of Engineering in order that the Public Interest may be [both] **served and protected**'.

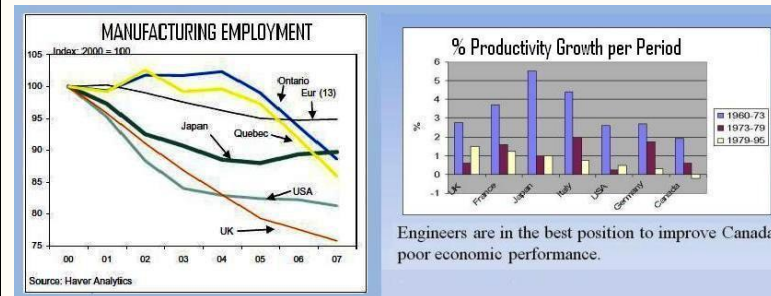
Herein are three issues I will address, the first two are strategic and deal with Serving and Protecting the Public interest. The third is tactical and deals with improving Council's effectiveness so we can get more done in a session of Council.

'Serving the Public Interest' – Engineering and the Economy

Canadian Engineers are very good at infrastructure engineering (the world's 4th largest exporter of such services¹) but we continue to lose ground on our industry related engineering. This is exemplified by our high loss of manufacturing jobs from the Ontario economy – the supposed heartland of Canadian industry. The current 'Great Recession' makes it clear that our economy is faltering. Canadian unemployment is running at 8.6% with Ontario at 9.2%, mostly coming from manufacturing job losses.

Dr Tom Brzustowski, author of 'the way ahead', gives us several ideas on what we can do.

He describes how innovative engineering (R&D) leads to the commercialization of new inventions that create new products and services to fill our production facilities. As creators of real wealth, engineers must lead in driving this prosperity. However, going it alone without solid political ties, leads to disasters². With OSPE and our politically oriented committees (GLP & PAN) we are in a much better position to positively influence the growth of Ontario industry.



The engineering profession MUST be constantly at the decision making table for our economy. This is essential to 'Serving the public interest'. Dr Brzustowski's book gives us the message and our new political arms give us the means to deliver it.

¹ Canadian Academy of Engineering report, 1997

² The Avro Arrow is one such example from Canadian history; some others are Nortel, Mitel, Massey Ferguson, Canada's Merchant Marine, Ontario Hydro, etc. – lost, killed or sold off to non-Canadians - where was the profession on these decisions?

Country	R&D as % GDP (Source: OECD)	
	Total (1993)	By Industry (1991)
Sweden	3.26	1.74
Japan	2.73	2.22
Germany	2.48	1.61
UK	2.19	1.03
Switzerland	2.68	1.90
US	2.66	1.40
France	2.45	1.03
Canada	1.52	0.61
Average	2.43	1.44

'Protecting the Public Interest' – Rights to Practice

We protect the public interest by ensuring that we truly govern the practice of engineering, which means Engineering is only practiced by Licensed Engineers, i.e. P.Eng's. Here again much of our infrastructure engineering is properly licensed with exclusive rights to practice. In extreme contrast, manufacturing oriented engineering is faced with the Industrial Exception in Ontario's engineering Act in spite of a lot of PEO talk. We have a majority of engineering practice not covered by rights to practice, the fundamental property of a Licence. This condition gets worse with the introduction of new Engineering disciplines.

The creation of OSPE and PEO's Enforcement Committee are two major steps forward in helping PEO here. We need to use these new organizational structures.

Fortunately, I chaired the OSPE committee that spent almost 2 years examining the industrial exception and how we might change it. It is time for PEO to compliment that effort and prepare a joint strategy with OSPE on addressing this long time thorn.

Council Effectiveness

Each year, the new Council spends over half its time getting up to speed from the last session. I propose two specifics from the 1997 Election Reform committee I chaired that can help us be more effective:

1. Increase the President's term of office to two years

A one year term as President is barely enough time to learn the job. The technologists under OACETT, already have two year terms for their Presidents. The chart shows how this could be done while maintaining 1 year for President Elec (PE) and Past President (PP):

	Years >>>							
Presidents	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
v v v								
Aaa	PE	P	P	PP				
Bbb			PE	P	P	PP		
Ccc					PE	P	P	PP
Ddd							PE	P
P= President	PE= President Elect			PP=Past President				

2. Increase elected Councilors' terms to 3 years

About 1/3 of Council changes every year, and, is only mandated to meet 4 times per year. Our 1997 Election Reform committee found that the Lawyers' elect their members for 4 year terms, and meet 10 times per year. In 4 months, they have as much experience as PEO Council does in one year. Then, they coast on full throttle for $3\frac{2}{3}$ years while we repeat the annual learning curve.

Extending Councilors' terms improves our ability to tackle serious issues.

Summary

- Engineers understand the needs of our economy, and the economy needs engineering – to serve the public interest. We can adopt Dr Brzustowski's ideas and use the GLP and PAN to drive positive change.
- We can improve 'protecting the public interest' by collaborating with OSPE on removing the Industrial Exception to establish proper licensure with rights to practice. We now have the political tools and a draft plan.
- Finally, by increasing the President and Councilors' terms of office we can improve the probabilities for a more effective Council that will get more done.

I ask for your support to turn these ideals into reality.

Thank You.

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Bio Information

Peter has 30+ years of volunteer service in his Profession. He was recognized publicly in 2003 for such service and invested as a Companion of Professional Engineers Ontario's Order of Honour. The Companion level is the highest of PEO's Awards. In Nov 2009, Peter was named a Fellow of Engineers Canada (FEC) for his contributions to the profession.

PEO experience (1991-2009):

- Chair of Emerging Disciplines Task Force
- President, 2000-2001
- Chair of
 - Audit Committee
 - Election Reform Task Force
 - PEO-CSPE Joint Committee
 - PEO-CCPE Relations TF
 - Nominations Committee
- Member of Discipline Committee;
- First Chair of Whole Discipline Committee
- Chair of Emerging Disciplines Task Force

Other Professional Experience (1976-1986):

On the board of the Canadian Society for Professional Engineers for 10 years, and was the Society's president for two years (1984-1986).

- Initiated co-operative relationship with PEO. This led to the cooperative work in creating the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers.
- Active in the 1984 Engineer's Act revision.
- On OSPE Board 2004-2007
- Chair of OSPE committee to study the Industrial Exception in Act

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