

**Regional Councillors Committee****(RCC)**

The Regional Councillors Committee (RCC) comprises the 10 elected regional councillors (each serving two-year terms) of each of the five regions. In 2014, the members of the RCC were:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Senior regional councillor (term expires at 2015 AGM)</b>	<b>Junior regional councillor (term expires at 2016 AGM)</b>
Northern	Michael Wesa, P.Eng.	Serge Robert, P.Eng.
Eastern	David Brown, P.Eng.	Charles Kidd, P.Eng.
Western	Ewald Kuczera, P.Eng.	Len King, P.Eng.
West Central	Robert Willson, P.Eng.	Danny Chui, P.Eng.
East Central	Changiz Sadr, P.Eng.	Nick Colucci, P.Eng.

The RCC's mandate is to act on behalf of council in relation to all matters of concern to PEO's 36 chapters organized into five regions. The RCC has the authority from PEO council to respond to all matters pertaining to the mandate of the association in the context of chapters and their volunteers.

The following generally summarizes the responsibilities and business of the RCC:

- ◆ meet as a committee on a regular basis to discuss/resolve relevant chapter issues;
- ◆ recommend budget allocations for activities of the RCC, and the chapter system;
- ◆ host regional congresses and meet with chapters on a regular basis; and
- ◆ facilitate reports and studies related to regional and chapter business.

In 2014, the regional councillors participated in numerous events organized by chapters in their own regions and, in some cases, attended chapter events in other regions to gain broader insight into the profession throughout Ontario.

The RCC's Chapter Scholarship Program continued in 2014, under which chapters can award up to \$1,000 in total to one or several deserving student(s) entering an engineering program in Ontario.

**Election of 2014-2015 RCC Chair**

RCC elects its chair annually from among the 10 regional councillors.

For 2014, Len King, P.Eng., was re-elected as RCC chair by acclamation during the April 26, 2014 Special RCC meeting.

Councillor Robert Willson, P.Eng., had expressed the intention of running for the RCC vice chair position. However, due to an unforeseen family emergency, he was called away and could not participate in the election of the vice chair. The committee decided to postpone the election until a later meeting. At the July 26 RCC meeting in Peterborough, there were two candidates vying for the vice chair position. Councillor Willson was elected as RCC vice chair on the first ballot.

**2014 Regional Congresses**

Regional congresses are business meetings of chapter volunteers and their regional councillors, which are scheduled to take place in February, June and September of each year. Chaired by

each region's senior regional councillor, they are intended to facilitate effective two-way communications between PEO council, chapter staff and chapter volunteers.

As a pilot in 2014, the February congresses were all teleconference meetings. The intention was to avoid unnecessary volunteer travel in possibly inclement weather conditions, save on the costs of holding regional congresses, and enable broader chapter participation. Fifteen regional congresses took place in 2014, with a total attendance of 275 delegates. Attendees at regional congresses include two delegates from each chapter in the region, the two regional councillors, chapter office staff and some invited guests.

Because RCC wants to encourage succession planning by chapters, one engineering intern was permitted to attend regional congresses with all out-of-pocket expenses paid.

### 2014 Regional Congress Schedule

	Northern	Eastern	Western	East Central	West Central
<b>February</b>	Feb. 18 22 attended teleconference	Feb. 27 15 attended teleconference	Feb. 24 14 attended teleconference	Feb. 8 17 attended PEO offices	Feb. 20 20 attended PEO offices
<b>June</b>	June 7 15 attended Porcupine/ Kapusksasing	May 31 24 attended Upper Canada	June 14 23 attended Georgian Bay	July 7 16 attended PEO offices	June 26 20 attended Toronto
<b>September</b>	Sept. 13 15 attended Temiskaming	Sept. 20 24 attended Kingston	Sept. 6 22 attended Chatham Kent	Sept. 27 19 attended PEO offices	Oct. 4 15 attended PEO offices

### 2014 Regional Councillors Committee meetings

The Regional Councillors Committee meets when necessary to resolve chapter-related issues, like reviewing the regional congress open issues list; establish allotments; and evaluate chapters' special project requests, etc.

In 2014, RCC met six times with five meeting agendas (one meeting was split into two meetings to complete the agenda on teleconference). The following table shows the meeting schedule. Although face-to-face meetings are preferred, technology (in particular using Adobe Connect to share documents and Momentum as teleconference technologies) is fully leveraged to help the regional councillors connect to carry out RCC's mandate and maintain quorum.

### 2014 RCC meeting schedule

Date	Location	Details
March 31, 2014	Not applicable	Teleconference meeting (1 of 2)
April 9, 2014	Not applicable	Teleconference meeting (2 of 2)
April 26, 2014	Niagara Falls Fallsview Hotel, Niagara Falls, ON	Election meeting
July 26, 2014	Holiday Inn Waterfront, Peterborough, ON	Face-to-face meeting
October 18, 2014	Doubletree Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls, ON	Face-to-face meeting
December 16, 2014	Not applicable	Teleconference meeting

### 2014 PEO AGM training (April 26, 2014)

RCC organized three training sessions. The chapter office staff provided training to volunteers after the 2014 PEO AGM Luncheon and RCC election meeting. The training sessions were about training for chapter executive members, chapter SharePoint use, and the Government Liaison Program. Information on PEO committees was included in the Chapter Executive Training.

- ◆ Chapter Executive Training
  - 22 chapter volunteers registered for this popular training session to learn about chapter operations and the responsibilities of a chapter executive.
  - 26 chapter volunteers participated.
  - 2.5-hour session was provided by Matthew Ng, P.Eng., chapter manager
- ◆ Chapter Wordpress Training
  - 20 chapter volunteers registered for the new hands-on training to gain familiarity with the new chapter Wordpress template.
  - 18 chapter volunteers participated.
  - The 2.5-hour session was provided by Yulia Milashchenko, chapter coordinator, and Sharon Gillam, chapter administration.

### 2014 Chapter Leader Conference (November 22, 2014)

RCC nominated Michael Wesa, P.Eng., to lead the organization of the 2014 Chapter Leaders Conference (CLC). Serge Robert, P.Eng., was nominated as vice chair of the organizing committee.

The conference successfully took place on November 22, 2014 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel, 801 Dixon Road, Toronto. Theme for the 2014 CLC was “PEO Chapters–Who are we?” Delegates were asked to think about who the chapters are and what they can bring to the table to help PEO achieve its mandate.

The program comprised:

- ◆ Guest speaker David Meslin, an activist, journalist, community organizer and professional rabble-rouser with a focus on public space, voting reform and defeating apathy. Mr. Meslin was chosen to provide ideas and provoke thoughts towards PEO overcoming members’

apathy. Mr. Meslin gave a presentation on “Building a Culture of Engagement”, followed by a workshop titled “From Apathy to Action”. Mr. Meslin’s portion of the CLC was amongst the highest scoring. The material struck a chord with the chapter volunteers in attendance.

- ◆ No breakouts were organized for the 2014 CLC. Instead, linear sessions were organized for all delegates, with topics (in order):
  - One Vision. One Plan. One Team—where the PEO 2015-2017 Strategic Plan was rolled out;
  - PEO Chapters—Leaders in the Community—where a few chapters highlighted what they do uniquely in their respective communities, with the hope that other chapters will replicate what they do; and
  - 3rd Annual Chapter Story Contest, The People’s Choice.
- ◆ CLC delegates’ overall feedback scores on the sessions were 89 per cent for appropriateness and 83 per cent for quality of execution.

### **RCC 2014 achievements**

- ◆ 2014 chapter allotment distribution
  - \$500,000 was budgeted in 2014 for chapter allotments.
  - All chapters received their full allotment requests based on their proposed business plans.
  - RCC distributed all 2014 chapter allotments from February through May, after having received chapters’ activity reports (financial statements and activity report) for 2014.

### **2015 chapter budget planning**

RCC reviewed the 36 proposed 2015 chapter business plans in accordance with the business plan and expense guideline. Collectively, the 36 chapters requested \$632,261.61 for their 2015 allotment (27 per cent increase from 2014 allotment).

At its July 26, 2014 meeting, after much deliberation, RCC arrived at the regional division of the budget. PEO chapters subsequently met regionally to reduce the total budget allotment request to reflect the budget limitations.

The total allotment budget proposed by RCC for 2015 was \$510,000. It was approved by PEO council during the November 2014 council meeting. When the 2015 PEO operating budget was approved, the chapters had agreed on what their received allotments would be.

### **Chapter open issues**

During the year, RCC dealt with all the issues formally raised by chapter leaders in the regional congresses.

**Committee chair:** Len King, P.Eng.

**Staff advisor:** Matthew Ng, P.Eng., manager, chapters