



INFO ONLY

GLP Notes 13.1 –Elliott Lake Recommendations Issued August 2015

Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), regulator of professional engineering in Ontario, requested and was granted standing in Part I of the Elliot Lake Inquiry, which dealt with events prior to the collapse. PEO also opened its own investigations related to the mall collapse.

PEO was given a formal opportunity to recommend changes or additions to applicable legislation, regulations, standards and codes in relation to professional engineers and engineering

PEO's recommendations endorsed by the Commissioner include:

- developing a new performance standard for structural inspections of existing buildings, based on PEO's existing practice bulletin *;
- mandating that a Structural Adequacy Report of existing buildings be prepared and sealed by professional engineers who are certified as structural engineering specialists; and
- releasing additional information about PEO practitioners disciplined for professional misconduct.

Other recommendations made in Commissioner Paul Bélanger's report include:

- mandatory release of documents regarding structural condition of a building upon request by owner, building official or potential purchaser.
- requiring an owner to retain a prime consultant on every project that requires professional designers.
- PEO establishing a system of mandatory continuing professional education for PEO licence holders as soon as possible, and no later than March 2016.

*PEO's practice bulletin outlines expectations for PEO's licensed practitioners, including how detailed reports should be and what kind of background information should be included.

Implementing the Commissioner's recommendations is a strategic objective of PEO's 2015-2017 strategic plan, which was approved by PEO council in November 2015. Progress on the strategic plan's objectives is being tracked and reported to council regularly, ensuring PEO is working toward delivering what it has promised to do.

As PEO's authority to implement to implement some of the recommendations is limited, it is working with the Ministry of the Attorney General to put these recommendations into practice.

Please see www.peo.on.ca for more detailed information.

Key Points:

- The Elliot Lake Commission of Inquiry's Final Report was released on October 15, 2014.
- Commissioner Paul Bélanger's report endorsed almost all 11 recommendations put forward by PEO to strengthen regulation of the engineering profession.
- PEO is working with the Ministry of Attorney General as required to put its recommendations into practice.
- Implementing the Elliot Lake recommendations is an objective of PEO's 2015-2017 strategic plan. Progress is being monitored and reported to PEO council regularly, ensuring PEO is working to deliver what it has promised to do.

For information only. No GLP action required.