

NAPEG President's Message – Summer 2010

“Communication - the Key to Success”

In my very first message and in other presentations to members of NAPEG I noted that one of my goals was to improve communications both within and outside the organization. The greatest plan, idea, proposal, design or concept will bear no fruit without the ability to effectively communicate a clear message to the audience. In this day and age we are bombarded with information through a wide variety of mediums - all with the intent of grabbing our attention. As a professional organization we too must be effective in attracting your attention and pass on both intelligence and information. Everyone has a different comfort zone in the method of receiving information and the various generations in the work place make this a real challenge. Whether these mediums are books, texts, on line, twitter, newsletters or conferences, we need to employ a wide variety of tools to serve our members. Our web site is proving to be extremely useful and we now need to reinforce this tool. The MITs have recently published two professional newsletters and the *BBQ meet and greet* events are proving excellent mediums to get the messages spread out. We also hosted an effective Professional Development Conference, Awards Banquet and a national Annual General Meeting. In the end, NAPEG is attempting to employ the necessary means to serve our membership. I will maintain the aim of effective communications and we will continue to use a wide range of options; however, the internet is proving to be a powerful and successful tool for NAPEG and we must complete our work in this area.

I had both the honour and privilege of representing NAPEG at the Annual General Meetings for Engineers Canada and Geoscientists Canada. Both of these events were well run and professionally conducted. I was impressed with the level of commitment from the groups across Canada and quickly realized that the challenges we face in NAPEG are the exact same ones faced by all the other organizations. We may have a different priority but our issues were similar. As an example the key issues discussed by the Presidents included:

- ❖ Review of the Code of Ethics to reflect current society;
- ❖ Review of the Limitations Acts;
- ❖ Renewing the various Acts;
- ❖ Ensuring qualified geoscientists and engineers are operating in their jurisdictions;
- ❖ Continuing Education (mandatory vs volunteer);
- ❖ Recruiting of new professionals;
- ❖ Effectively communicating with members, other Professional organizations and National bodies; and
- ❖ Ensuring the organizations are providing a service to the Public.

Many of the organizations were going through strategic planning sessions and developing their own long range plans. I was extremely pleased to see that NAPEG was well positioned for the future and in fact we were able to provide some sage advice and recommendations to others based on our own recent experiences to include introducing our new Act.

NAPEG completed a very successful PD session and awards dinner. I would like to congratulate all the award winners for their outstanding contributions to the profession and to the Honours and Awards Committee for the excellent work in setting up the awards event. Our Professional Development Session entitled "Advancing Together" was extremely well organized and well done. Thanks to Richard LeBreton and the PD committee for their efforts in putting together such a tremendous event. PD will play a huge role in the future and it will be the work of those on the PD committee which will assist all members in realizing their full potential.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Michele Taylor as our new Office Manager. She brings a wealth of knowledge and skill to the organization. Please welcome Michele to the team.

In closing, geoscientists and engineers continue to lead the way in making the world a better place. The rebuilding of Haiti post the earthquake, the response to the BP oil spill, the reconstruction of the flood damaged and fire damaged regions of the world and the many other challenges facing the world, will take ingenuity, teamwork and concise communications. I look forward to working with you and seeing NAPEG remain a leader in serving our members.

Kevin McLeod, P.Eng.

President

