



# DIVISION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

Joint Division of APEGBC and IStructE

Representing Professional Structural Engineers of British Columbia



## 2003/2004 ANNUAL REPORT – Peter Trainor P. Eng.

A key concern of our members continues to be the implementation of the Struct. Eng. Program. The board continues to support the program but does not support any requirements for the use of the Struct. Eng. Designation before January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 which is the current deadline for qualification. In the meantime, the process is only partially complete, and the DSE has advocated that members not holding the Struct. Eng. designation should not be considered as less qualified for design of Part 3 buildings. Stakeholders wishing to obtain experts for Part 3 buildings should concentrate on background and experience. The Struct. Eng. designation does not, and will not indicate an expertise for all types of Part 3 building.

The DSE Executive Board continues to operate as a Joint Division of APEGBC, and, the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE - UK). The DSE also pays dues to the National Council of Structural Engineering Associations (USA) and the Western Council of Structural Engineering Associations (USA) so that all DSE members automatically become members of NCSEA and WCSEA. This year the WCSEA council meeting was held in Whistler, B.C. to coincide with the APEGBC annual general meeting and conference.

The Board has representatives on the APEGBC Seismic Risk Task force, the Structural Qualifications Board, and, the Consulting Practice committee.

Our Board was represented at a Washington State Structural Engineering III examination workshop held in Seattle, in February 2004. As a division, we are interested in obtaining comity and reciprocity with USA engineers in the future. The Washington State Structures III examination has recently become an alternative to the IStructE. examination for APEGBC members wishing to obtain the Struct. Eng. designation. As of this year, it is possible for APEGBC members to sit the Structures III examination in Vancouver, B.C., and it is no longer necessary for members to apply for registration in Washington State in order to sit this examination.

The board has approved the donation of (2) - \$1000.00 scholarships to the University of British Columbia Department of Civil Engineering to be used in the 2004/2005 academic year. The scholarships will be given to third or fourth year undergraduate students with a demonstrated interest in structural engineering. The scholarships will be renewed annually - subject to the approval of each new Executive Board.

An important issue that arose at the end of this year is that new rules that would trigger seismic design for Part 9 buildings will not be included in the upcoming 2005 NBCC. These rules would ensure that there are adequate lateral load resisting systems in new Part 9 buildings with large openings or unusual spans. The National Codes Committee decided to defer the provisions until the next code cycle. The reason for the delay is that the B.C. Government's Building Policy Branch decided that they wanted to strike a committee to consult the building industry and other

stakeholders. This committee did not finish their review in time to meet the editorial deadline for the 2005 NBCC. Initially, APEGBC was informed that the new rules for Part 9 would nevertheless be included in the 2005 BC Building code. However, recent communications indicate that there is no guarantee that this will happen. The APEGBC Seismic Risk Task force has written to the Building Policy Branch asking for action on this issue and has cited the concern of the DSE executive in their letter.

The board has drafted changes to the APEGBC “Guidelines for Structural Services for Building Projects”. However, we have received a request to include sustainability guidelines into the updated document. A task force has met with the sustainability committee to address this issue.

The board is working on the preparation of a “Structural Checking Guideline”. The guideline had been submitted to the Practice Review Committee for final review and comments in 2003. In 2004, however, the suspension of all activities of the Practice Review Committee effectively stalled the process. Now that the Practice Review Committee is active again, we can expect feedback on our guideline.

The DSE has continued to work closely with the Vancouver Structural Engineers Group Society (VSEGS) whose function is to organize technical seminars and technical courses for structural engineers. A joint dinner meeting for members-at-large was held in Vancouver in June 2004, and a wine and cheese event was held in the galleria of the new Life Sciences Building at UBC in September 2004. It is intended that there will be another joint dinner meeting in the spring of 2005. In addition, the DSE executive cooperated with VSEGS to provide volunteer assistance with the 13<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Earthquake Engineering which was held in Vancouver in August 2004.

This year the Board has implemented an overhaul of the DSE Website to enhance the site and to make it more compatible with the APEGBC main website. The new website is available under the Branches and Divisions link from the main APEGBC website. The old website is currently still functional but will be phased out.

The DSE continues to produce a quarterly newsletter. We encourage members-at-large to contribute articles or to express concerns through this vehicle.

David Davey (Past Chair), is retiring from the board after many years of service. Also Irving Nitkin is retiring both as editor of the newsletter and as a DSE director. On behalf of the DSE I would like to offer our sincere thanks to both Irving and David for all of their hard work and dedication. We hope to see them both at member’s meetings and other DSE functions in the future.

Division Executive 2003/2004

Peter Trainor (Chair)  
Thor Tandy (Vice Chair)  
David Davey (Past Chair)  
Elizabeth Lawrynowicz (Secretary -Treasurer)

Irving Nitkin (Newsletter Editor)

Roy Ellis

David Harvey

Steven Keyes

Marian Podlovsky

Rob Smith