



Professional Engineers Ontario

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RE: A scandalous waste, Mary Janigan, July 21, 2003

Congratulations to Mary Janigan for highlighting the wisdom of providing prospective immigrants to Canada complete information about the practice of their profession here, including assessing their qualifications for professional licensing, before they make a life-changing decision to immigrate.

This is the approach Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), the licensing and regulating body for engineering in the province, first put into practice in April 2001, when it extended its licensing process to enable prospective immigrants to apply for licensing as an Ontario professional engineer (P.Eng.) from outside Canada, before they finalize their immigration plans, and to continue the process when they arrive in Ontario. For their convenience, a complete licensing guideline, including licence application form, can be downloaded from our website at www.peo.on.ca.

To further ensure availability of licensing information, PEO collaborated with the Access to Professions and Trades Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) to develop a fact sheet called Access to the Engineering Profession for Internationally Trained Workers. This fact sheet is available from both the PEO and MTCU websites and we have provided information on it and on our out-of-country application process to Canada's immigration officers overseas.

At present, internationally trained professionals represent about one third of Ontario's approximately 65,000 licensed professional engineers. And the most recent amendments to our legislation and changes to our licensing process are simply the latest developments in our ongoing efforts to provide information and facilitate access to practice in Ontario for qualified engineering practitioners.

By combining a traditional review of educational qualifications with an assessment of overseas experientially gained knowledge, a form of Prior Learning Assessment, PEO has in recent years almost doubled the number of P.Eng. licences granted to internationally trained applicants, more than 60 per cent of whom meet the academic requirements for licensure annually without having to write any technical exams. PEO, therefore, grants a licence to practise engineering in Ontario to all qualified applicants.

Furthermore, PEO is a signatory to an Inter-Association Mobility Agreement between the provincial and territorial engineering regulatory organizations that recognizes the credentials of engineers who are licensed to practise in any Canadian jurisdiction who wish to practise in Ontario.

It is worth noting that a licence is not required for engineering employment in Canada so long as a licensed professional engineer supervises and is responsible for the work. Also worth noting is that earlier this year, the Ontario government amended the Professional Engineers Act, at PEO's request, to allow the granting of provisional licences to applicants who satisfy all the requirements for the full P.Eng. licence, except for 12 months of engineering work experience in a Canadian jurisdiction, supervised by a Canadian professional engineer. The provisional licence provides recognition of the applicant's engineering credentials for employment purposes. Consistent with PEO's mandate to protect the Ontario public where engineering is concerned, this requirement is to ensure that the applicant becomes familiar and conversant with the relevant codes, regulations, and standards of engineering practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Allen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Allen, P.Eng.
Chief Executive Officer/Registrar
Professional Engineers Ontario
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