



Media Release

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Engineering licensing body welcomes proposed legislation to assist newcomers to Ontario

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Toronto – (June 8, 2006) – Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) expressed support for the proposed legislation announced today by the provincial government to assist internationally trained professionals gain access to their chosen professions.

“PEO has always fully supported fair and inclusive registration practices that permit the association to regulate the practice of professional engineering and govern licence and certificate holders to protect and serve the public interest,” said Patrick J. Quinn, P.Eng., President, PEO.

“This legislation provides the public an open and transparent means to validate these practices and demonstrates a commitment by the government to self-governance of professions.”

As the licensing and regulating body for engineering in the province, PEO relies on the contributions of international engineering graduates. In its 84-year history, more than half of PEO’s elected presidents were educated and trained outside Canada. A similar percentage of professional engineers educated elsewhere volunteer on PEO committees, including those that assess the academic and experience qualifications of licence applicants.

“We’re proud that qualified international graduates play a vital and growing role in the profession,” said Kim Allen, P.Eng., Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, PEO.
“Approximately one-third of Ontario’s 68,000 licensed engineers were educated outside Canada, a testament to PEO’s continuous efforts to facilitate the licensing of internationally trained professionals, while maintaining high standards to protect the public.”

Since 2000, applicants from over 1000 institutions world-wide have been granted licences by PEO. In 2005, for the first time, PEO licensed more international engineering graduates than graduates of Canadian accredited engineering programs, although only 25 per cent of international graduates typically apply for licensure.

Professional Engineers Ontario administers the *Professional Engineers Act* by licensing profession engineers, and setting standards for and regulating engineering in Ontario so that the public interest is served and protected. Rigorously educated, experienced, and committed to a Code of Ethics that puts the public first, licensed professional engineers can be identified by the P.Eng. after their names.

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