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Engineering web portal just one of several projects to help international engineering graduates

October 27, Ottawa (ON) A new web portal designed to improve access to licensure for international engineering graduates (IEGs) in Ontario, is one of several initiatives being planned to help integrate IEGs into the Canadian engineering profession and to gain engineering employment. Development of a comprehensive, single-source web site was just one of the 17 recommendations of *From Consideration to Integration (FC2I)*, a three-phase initiative that has been tackling a range of difficulties in licensing and employing IEGs.

The portal will be developed by Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) which has received funding of nearly \$2 million over two years from the Bridging Projects Fund of the Ontario Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities. It will feature an online mentoring component, a guide to the licensing process and an interactive self-assessment tool.

FC2I is being led by the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE) and its members, which includes PEO. FC2I is a three-phase initiative that has been tackling a range of difficulties IEGs face in obtaining a license and employment in Canada. It is fully funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

"The focus of FC2I is to help immigrants with a background in engineering who want to work in the profession once they are here," said Darrel J. Danyluk, P.Eng., President of CCPE and Chair of the FC2I Steering Committee. "We know they face language and cultural barriers, employment difficulties and challenges in accessing clear information; we looked at each of these areas, as well as the licensing process itself."

In addition to the development of a web portal, other FC2I recommendations included:

- Providing IEGs with a provisional licence once they have met all requirements for licensure, except the one year of Canadian experience. In this way, employers can have full confidence in the IEG's technical and communications abilities. Provisional licences are now available to IEGs in Ontario, British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador, with pending legislation in Alberta;
- Determining which elements of the engineering licensing process can be done overseas, to speed the process after IEGs arrive in Canada; and
- Providing clear information about the engineering profession in Canada to IEGs prior to immigration.

"Resolving the issues facing IEGs becoming licensed is complicated and requires an integrated federal/provincial effort. PEO will continue to make key contributions to the FC2I project and we will be sharing our learning and information with the project team and our sister provincial and territorial licensing bodies," said Kim Allen, P.Eng., CEO and Registrar of Professional Engineers Ontario.

"We are pleased that PEO has taken on the web portal initiative," said Marie Lemay, P.Eng., ing., Chief Executive Officer of the CCPE. "This project is the beginning of a comprehensive program to support IEGs."

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The FC2I Steering Committee has representation from federal and provincial governments, the engineering regulatory bodies, employers, immigrant-serving organizations, educators, engineers and IEGs themselves.

The Canadian Council of Professional Engineers is the national organization of the 12 provincial and territorial associations/ordre that regulate the practice of engineering in Canada and license the country's more than 160,000 professional engineers.

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