



CANADIAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
CONSEIL CANADIEN DES INGÉNIEURS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Engineering profession responds to immigrant employment report

May 18, Ottawa (ON) – The Canadian engineering profession disputes the findings of a report that makes the sweeping statement that internationally educated professionals are being “denied recognition” of their credentials.

“The Canadian engineering profession has been licensing international engineering graduates (IEGs) for decades,” said Marie Lemay, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE). “Recognizing their credentials is based entirely on an assessment of their academic background and work experience and has nothing to do with ethnicity.”

The engineering profession has acknowledged, however, that IEGs face employment and licensing challenges when they come to Canada. In response, CCPE and its constituent members, the provincial and territorial engineering licensing bodies, developed *From Consideration to Integration* (FC2I), an initiative designed to address those issues without compromising public safety or lowering professional standards.

Launched in January 2003, FC2I is a three-phase project, whose Steering Committee had representation from federal and provincial governments, the engineering regulatory bodies, employers, immigrant-serving organizations, educators, engineers and IEGs themselves. Their work resulted in 17 wide-ranging recommendations, which were presented to the CCPE Board of Directors at their Annual General Meeting in May 2004. All 17 recommendations were unanimously passed.

The recommendations fell into the general categories of labour market study, employment, communications and licensing. Examples include:

- Creating a seminar for IEGs on “working in Canada”
- Establishing a database of recognized international institutions and engineering degrees
- Developing a comprehensive, single source Web site to provide information to immigrants
- Determining which elements of the engineering licensing process can be done overseas, to speed the licensure process after IEGs arrive in Canada

CCPE and the provincial and territorial licensing bodies are moving forward with implementation of the recommendations and have begun work on the database of institutions and degrees.

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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For more information, contact:

Marc Bourgeois, CCPE
(613) 232-2474, extension 238
marc.bourgeois@ccpe.ca