

Spotlight on the licence

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The latest statistics released by PEO's Licensing and Registration department are all about increases. As the department in charge of granting licences, designations and authorizations, Licensing and Registration is called on to manage the increasing number of applications for the P.Eng. from Canadian and international engineering applicants.

Reflecting the upward trend, the number of licence applications from Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) students and international engineering graduates has risen sharply over the period 2001 to 2004 (Figure 1).

As well, Licensing and Registration has seen a steady rise in its workload stemming from PEO's continued efforts to eliminate obstacles to licensing faced by internationally trained engineers. This increased workload manifests itself in the need to undertake individual academic and experience assessments for the internationally trained as a way of measuring each of their equivalency with Canadian standards and expectations for the licensing of professional engineers.

As Figure 2 indicates, since 2001, Licensing and Registration has seen an annual average 20 per cent increase in the number of academic assessments completed on international applicants for licensure. Experience interviews, by which department staff and committee volunteers determine an applicant's need for examinations or additional qualification, have climbed 45 per cent annually over the last three years.

Licensing and Registration is also actively involved in what are termed "pre-licensing programs." These are aimed primarily at promoting the professional licence in Canadian engineering schools to ensure graduates stay on the path to a P.Eng. The department is acutely aware that many engineering students fail to appreciate the need for the full P.Eng. to practise engineering in Ontario.

Upholding the value of the professional engineering licence, while looking for ways to make the P.Eng. more accessible to students and international applicants, presents unique challenges for PEO's Licensing and Registration department. Here's a snapshot of the department in action.

Greater outreach to engineering students and recent graduates is part of the department's "seamless transition" approach. Underlying the concept is support and assistance as the applicant proceeds from student to intern and, finally, to fully licensed professional engineer.

It's all in a day's work for the 25 full-time staff members of Licensing and Registration. While it is the highest of the PEO departments in terms of staff mem-

bers, it is least among PEO's major administrative units in terms of net expenditure of PEO resources. Licensing and Registration's work consumes 5 per cent of PEO resources when expressed as a percentage of members' fees.

The department's budget for 2005 has been set at \$2.5 million. In general terms, some two-thirds of Licensing and Registration's budget is taken up by the licensing process.

Figure 1

New Application	2001	2002	2003	2004 YTD 10 months	2004 YTD % Increase	2004 Projected	3 year % average Increase
CEAB	925	1018	1333	1377	14%	1571	19%
Non-CEAB	1463	2007	2028	1999	11%	2252	15%
Total	2388	3025	3359	3376	13%	3827	17%

Figure 2

Completed	2001	2002	2003	2004 YTD 10 months	2004 YTD % Increase	2004 Projected	3 year % average Increase
Non-CEAB Academic Assessment	1400	1935	2127	2118	14%	2405	20%
Experience Interview	525	717	834	1323	92%	1601	45%