

Exemption versus exception

If anyone does not yet know the difference between an exemption and an Ontario-style exception, read the article by Ken McMartin in the March/April 2003 issue of *Engineering*

Dimensions (pp. 20-22).

We have debated this before and, as a matter of interest, I have just found out that the Texas State Attorney General sent out a letter in September 2002, stating that engineers practising within the [U.S.-style.] complete industrial exemption without a licence may not use the title of engineer on letters, business cards, etc.

This is close to the authority that PEO now has to limit the use of title, since the February 28 overhaul of the *Professional Engineers Act*.

*Peter Broad, P.Eng.
Timmins, ON*

What cost?

A letter in the March/April 2003 issue (p. 7, "Method of payment antiquated") expressed concern about the inability to pay the annual dues by credit card. This sounds like the philosophy that "the higher the technology, the better the product or service." Yet the Viewpoint article (p. 18, "Preventive engineering for a better tomorrow") in the same issue suggests that technology alone is almost never the solution to problems.

I don't question the fact that the ability to pay by credit card is convenient and embraces 20th century technology, but at what cost? If PEO decides to accept credit card payments, I would like to see PEO demonstrate fortitude by requiring the credit card company's commission to be an added charge, like the GST, for those choosing the credit card option of payment.

*Ramon A. Raoux, P.Eng.
Gloucester, ON*

Correction

Photographs that accompanied the article on p. 3 of the June/July 2003 issue of *The Link* entitled "Gold medallist tells

new P.Eng.s to put public first" should have been credited to Roman Lysiak, P.Eng., and Barry Westhead, P.Eng., who were involved in organizing the licence presentation ceremony. *Engineering Dimensions* apologizes for the oversight.

Letters to the editor are welcomed, but should be kept brief and are subject to editing. Publication is at the editor's discretion; unsigned letters will not be published. The ideas expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions and policies of the association, nor does the association assume responsibility for the opinions expressed. All letters pertaining to a current PEO issue are also forwarded to the appropriate committee for information. Address letters to jbailey@peo.on.ca

Update on retired P.Eng.s' eligibility to act as passport guarantors

Since going to press with the May/June issue of *Engineering Dimensions*, PEO received a letter dated May 2, 2003 from Alexandra Schmidt, manager, policy and legislation, Ministry of Consumer and Business Services. The letter was in response to an October 21, 2002 letter from PEO, which concerned the inability of retired engineers to act as guarantors on applications for Ontario Birth Certificates or Canadian Passports.

In the letter, Schmidt states: "I would like to thank you for clarification on the status of your 'retired' members. We appreciate that your regulatory body is in the unique position to ensure that its [retired] members maintain their position of public trust and are subject to the same duties and responsibilities as active members. From this point on, please instruct your members to simply state 'professional engineer' rather than identifying themselves as 'retired professional engineer.' We shall continue with the current practice of contacting your office to verify a guarantor's professional standing.... Currently we are in the process of amending the Birth Certificate application form. These amendments will address the guarantor section within the application and will clarify the requirements for a qualified guarantor."

Who to contact at PEO

Association staff can provide information to answer any questions you may have about PEO. Simply phone us at (416) 224-1100 or 1-800-339-3716. Frequently called extensions are listed below.

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Deputy Registrar, Admissions– Norm Williams, PhD, P.Eng.	485
Director, Professional Affairs– Johnny Zuccon, P.Eng.	401
Manager, Licensure–Richard Furst, P.Eng.	480
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Manager, Research and Communications–Gayle Aitken	425