

## An eye on ethics

Use this sampling of websites to explore the wide range of ethical issues facing today's professional engineer:

### **PEO Code of Ethics** [www.peo.on.ca](http://www.peo.on.ca)

As the core document guiding professional engineers' professional conduct, the *Code of Ethics* is a logical starting point to explore engineering ethics today. Choose "Code of Ethics" at top left to read about standards of fairness in working relationships, fidelity to public needs, professional integrity and personal honour, competence and maintenance of relevant knowledge. Returning to the left navigation bar, choose "Publications," then "Professional Practice Guidelines," to see practical applications of these ethical principles.

### **Online Ethics Center for Engineering and Science** <http://onlineethics.org>

The Online Ethics Center, hosted by Case Western Reserve University, is one of the richest sources on ethical issues faced by professional engineers, scientists, and students. This site is also an excellent resource for teachers who want to include ethical issues as part of science and engineering courses. It provides links to relevant jour-

nal articles, legal cases, sample problems, and related websites. Choose from the links at the top of the page to access information on engineering practice, research ethics, diversity, engineers and scientists as moral leaders, computers and software, and natural sciences. Alternatively, you can choose the "Topics Index" on the left. The "Code of Ethics" link, also on the left bar, provides an interesting sampling of codes from various engineering and scientific bodies, as well as essays on ethical standards.

### **National Institute for Engineering Ethics** [www.niee.org](http://www.niee.org)

NIEE is another excellent site promoting the study and application of ethics in engineering. It is hosted at Texas Tech University's Murdough Center for Engineering Professionalism. Choose "Resources" at bottom right on the opening page. Then pick any of the "Education" links on the left navigation bar. "NSPE/BER Cases," for example, leads to 25 years' worth of cases brought to the National Society of Professional Engineer's Board of Ethical Review. Returning to the navigation bar, look under "NAFTA Ethics" for principles of ethical conduct in engineering practice under NAFTA. At the bottom of the navigation

bar, the "Web Clearing House" is an outstanding collection of information of different types: books, reports, course syllabi, conferences, newsletters and much more.

### **IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology** <http://policy.rutgers.edu/andrews/projects/ssit>

IEEE's Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT) addresses the environmental, health and safety implications of technology, ethics and professional responsibility, peace technology, as well as social issues relating to energy, IT and telecommunications. Scroll to the bottom of the page to find out how to join the society, or to read about its International Symposium on Technology and Society conferences. Also at the bottom, click "*IEEE Technology and Society Magazine*" to view a recent article, or view tables of contents of past issues.

### **UNESCO/COMEST Ethics Site** [www.unesco.org/ethics](http://www.unesco.org/ethics)

Choose UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology (COMEST) website for a broader perspective on the ethical development of technology. To begin, click "Ethics of Science and Technology" on the left navigation bar. Topics include ethics of the environment and of outer space, ethics education, and ethics in the sciences. From the left menu, "Ethics of Outer Space" describes UNESCO's efforts to promote the safe and peaceful use and exploration of outer space. Returning to the previous screen, look for "Precautionary Principle" at the bottom right. The 52-page report, adopted very recently by COMEST, charts the implications of Precautionary Principle for policy, governance, industry and trade, and draws on well-documented examples, such as asbestos use, where the lack of precautionary action has led to a growing health crisis around the globe.

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Thank you!

Cristina Sewerin

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