

A number of Ontario's professions are currently experiencing changes, both positive and negative, to their self-regulatory status. While engineers and architects face regulatory incursions, the province's legal and accounting professions are moving towards improved regulation of allied fields. The following websites provide a convenient way to keep up to date on how these professions are meeting the challenge.

 **PEO: Professional Engineers Ontario**  
[www.peo.on.ca](http://www.peo.on.ca)

Trying to stay up to date with developments on Bill 124? Use PEO's "BRRAG" link on the homepage under "Quick Links." The extensive list of documents includes *Engineering Dimensions* articles, news flashes, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers BRRAG course offerings, and a lengthy collection of BRRAG-related correspondence between PEO and government officials. PEO's position statement offers essential, quick context on current regulatory concerns. If you are looking for answers to practical questions about how Bill 124 affects you or your practice, try the "Frequently Asked Questions about Building Regulation Registration."

 **OSPE: Ontario Society of Professional Engineers**  
[www.ospe.on.ca](http://www.ospe.on.ca)

Look to OSPE's website for additional background on Bill 124 and other issues surrounding self-regulation of the profession. To begin, roll your mouse over the "Government Relations" arrow and choose "Our Issues." You'll find synopses of issues, OSPE's responses, and chronologically arranged links to previously published letters and reports. Besides regulatory issues such as Brownfields and Bill 124, OSPE also

## Self-regulation in action

offers information on other important issues, including energy supply, land drainage, safe water, and quality-based selection. On the left menu choose "Professional Development" for a full list of continuing education courses.

 **OAA: Ontario Association of Architects**  
[www.oaa.on.ca](http://www.oaa.on.ca)

The late OAA President, Randy Roberts, had described Bill 124 as a "huge 'wake up call' for the OAA and all architects." Like engineers, architects in this province are alarmed over recent government incursions on self-regulation. On the left menu bar choose "OAA Building Code Designation System (BCDS)." You'll learn how the OAA has managed, using its Professional Excellence Program (details available from the top navigation bar), to cope by negotiating a parallel system that allows it to deal independently with building code compliance under the *Architects Act*. The five-pronged program includes consumer protection, education, performance and practice standards, practice advisory services, and practice consultation services.

 **LSUC: Law Society of Upper Canada**  
[www.lsuc.on.ca](http://www.lsuc.on.ca)

Ontario's powerful Law Society regulates and governs the legal profession in the public interest. Created in 1797, at a current membership of 32,000, it is the oldest and largest law society in Canada. To begin, choose "News and Convocation." An interesting development is the recent proposed legislation that will extend regulation to include paralegals. Choose the link

"Law Society welcomes introduction of legislation..." for details. On the top menu bar, choose "About the Society." On the left, "Management and Convocation" leads to information regarding the society's governance. As with many other professional governing bodies, the society's governing board includes public representation. In this case, 40 elected members of the profession are balanced by eight appointed lay people. Returning to the top menu bar, look for "Lawyer Regulation." You will see links to the society's governing documents, including the *Law Society Act*, regulations, by-laws and rules of professional conduct.

 **ICAO: Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario**  
[www.icao.on.ca](http://www.icao.on.ca)

The accounting profession in Ontario has recently undergone some interesting regulatory changes with the introduction of the *Public Accounting Act*, 2004. The new act enables a single council to oversee Ontario accounting standards and to benchmark them against international standards. The act has also introduced regulatory upgrades to Certified Management Accountants (CMAs) and Certified General Accountants (CGAs). To read about these changes, choose "Media Room" at lower left. Then, in the new window, look to the right and click "New Public Accounting Act." Ontario's 31,000 chartered accountants are governed by *The Chartered Accountants Act*, while public accounting—the activity that lends credibility to financial statements—is governed by the *Public Accounting Act*, 2004.

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