



## Professional Engineers Ontario

1000-25 Sheppard Avenue West  
Toronto, ON M2N 6S9  
Tel: 416 224-1100  
800 339-3716  
Fax: 416 224-8168  
800 268-0496  
[www.peo.on.ca](http://www.peo.on.ca)

Enforcement Hotline:  
416 224 9528 Ext. 444

February 5, 2004

Letters to the Editor  
The Globe and Mail  
444 Front Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2S9

**RE: International credentials lose value in Canada, by Marina Jimenez,  
The Globe and Mail, January 30, 2004.**

Thank you for your continued coverage of newcomers to our province. Since approximately one-third of the 65,000 licensed professional engineers in Ontario were educated outside Canada, internationally-trained professionals are an important part of our profession. In recent years, Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), the licensing and regulating body for engineering in the province, has almost doubled the number of P.Eng. licences granted to internationally-trained applicants.

With changes to the *Professional Engineers Act* effective February 2003, PEO is now permitted to issue provisional licences to applicants who qualify for licensing as professional engineers even though they may not have completed the required 12 months Canadian work experience under a Canadian professional engineer. The provisional licence provides employers and applicants with the assurance that an internationally-qualified engineering practitioner has satisfied the academic and expected professional practice and ethics requirements. The necessity for Canadian experience ensures that a licence applicant is conversant with Canadian engineering codes, legislation, technical standards and regulations.

It is also worth noting that a licence is not required for engineering employment in Ontario, so long as a licensed professional engineer supervises and is responsible for the work.

Access to practice in Ontario for those who received their engineering education and experience elsewhere is an issue on which PEO has been working for some time. One of our more recent endeavours involves the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC). As an appointed member of this newly-formed, multi-stakeholder council, I will work to improve access to employment for immigrants in the Toronto region so that they are better able to use the skills, education, and experience they bring with them.

Should you require any additional material relating to the licensing of international engineering graduates, please feel free to contact either myself at (416) 224-9528, ext. 426 or David Smith, Media Specialist at (416) 224-9528, ext.402.

Sincerely,

Kim Allen, P.Eng.  
Chief Executive Officer/Registrar