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RECEIVED

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September 29, 2004

Mr. Kim Allen, P.Eng  
Chief Executive Officer  
Professional Engineers of Ontario  
25 Sheppard Avenue West, Suite 1000  
Toronto, ON M2N 6S9

Dear Mr. Allen,

I am pleased to be working with regulators, educators, employers and community groups on an integrated strategy to improve access for internationally trained individuals. These initiatives will increase opportunities for highly qualified, internationally trained professionals and tradespersons to work in their chosen field, here in their chosen province.

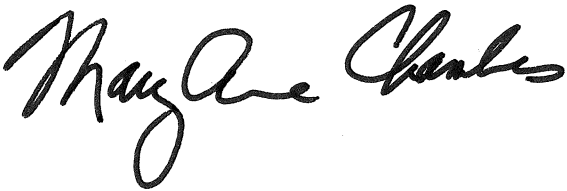
As part of this strategy, we have been working to identify and remove major barriers facing immigrants seeking entry to Ontario's regulated professions. I have met with representatives of many of Ontario's 38 occupational regulatory bodies. It is evident from these meetings that regulators have made significant strides to remove barriers that prevent qualified internationally trained professionals from gaining registration or licensure in Ontario. However, there is much more to be done and each regulator plays a critical role in improving access for the internationally trained.

Internationally trained individuals often express concerns that Ontario's regulatory bodies require more effective processes to review registration or licensure decisions. I believe that a transparent and fair merit-based registration or licensure process should be supported by access to an independent appeal process. This belief is also supported by community stakeholders. Therefore, I am pleased to announce the appointment of George M. Thomson, Executive Director of the National Judicial Institute, who will conduct a review of appeal processes in regulated professions and make recommendations on the best model(s) of appeal mechanism. The recommendations will focus on model(s) that provide individuals with "due process" in reviewing registration or licensure decisions by regulatory bodies while maintaining the professional standards that Ontarians expect. There are several processes in place now that we can learn from.

The government recognizes that the mandate of regulated professions is to protect the public interest by ensuring that practitioners are qualified in accordance with established standards. The mandate for the review has been developed in consultation with Ministries with legislative responsibility for regulated professions. Mr. Thomson will work closely with these Ministries to review all current appeal processes and make recommendations that consider the unique aspects of each profession. Of course, he will also work with professional regulatory bodies as well as groups representing immigrants and other stakeholders. Your input is important to us. You can expect Mr. Thomson to be in contact with your organization.

I would like to thank you for your continued efforts to improve access for internationally trained individuals and I will continue to work with you to remove the major barriers facing immigrants trying to enter Ontario's professions and trades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Anne Chambers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Anne Chambers  
Minister

c: Honourable Michael Bryant, Minister of Attorney General  
Anne Chhanqur, Registrar