

Myths and Facts on the Repeal of Section 12.3(a) of the *Professional Engineers Act* in Ontario

Professional Engineers Ontario and Engineers Canada believe that repealing section 12.3(a) of the *Professional Engineers Act* is good for Ontario, good for business and in the public interest of Ontarians.

Here are a few myths and facts on the impact of the repeal:

Myth 1: Complying with the *Professional Engineers Act* once the Repeal comes into force will be very costly for manufacturers.

The facts:

The manufacturing sector in Ontario generates \$270 billion on GDP. The cost of licensing the 4000 individuals that PEO estimates will need to be licensed will be \$1.6 million in the first year.

The current annual cost to renew an engineering licence is \$220 + HST.

PEO is offering a 42 percent discount on the usual \$715 rate for new licenses, essentially investing an estimated \$1.2 million in worker safety in Ontario.

Myth 2: Businesses were not sufficiently consulted.

The facts:

Public consultations on the contents of the *Open for Business Act, 2010*, started in 2008. The Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, and the Ontario Forest Industries Association all participated in those consultations.

Between 2010 and 2013 PEO has been actively promoting tools for compliance, offering briefings for companies and industry associations, and providing assistance and flexibility with compliance. In total, PEO has:

- Made contact with 450 companies;
- Held 35 workshops;
- Held 19 open houses for manufacturers; and
- Contacted to 108 industry associations and labour groups.

Myth 3: Ontario manufacturers gain a competitive advantage and save money by having the exception in place in Ontario.

The facts:

Reducing workplace injury is in the public interest and can save businesses money. According to the Ontario WSIB, the average costs of a workplace injury claim for 2010 as estimated at over \$19,000. The associated costs for a workplace injury could total three to 10 times that amount.

The cost of licensing 4000 individuals to protect workers in Ontario is far less than the cost of a workplace injury or fatality.

The accident and fatality rate, on a per capita basis, in the manufacturing sector is higher in Ontario than in other provinces.