



**Professional Engineers
Ontario**

April 22, 2005

Mr. Michael Gravelle, MPP
Thunder Bay-Superior North
215 Van Norman Street, Suite 101
Thunder Bay, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Gravelle,

You may recall our meeting on a flight to Toronto last Thursday, April 14th, when I had the pleasure of chatting with you on a number of issues. As the Northern Regional Councillor of Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), it was of particular interest to me that we discussed Bill 124, the *Building Code Statute Law Amendment Act*, in particular Regulation 305/03. The Act essentially requires professional engineers and other design practitioners to pass exams on building code knowledge. This suggests that the *Professional Engineers Act* that regulates licensed professional engineers, as well as other public statutes of self-regulated professions, is not sufficient to achieve the objectives of Bill 124, which is to ensure public safety. However, we have yet to see documentation of such a deficiency in the statutory instruments available under our Act, despite requesting it repeatedly from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Our Government Communications Program is a new PEO initiative that builds on a suggestion from a meeting about this issue with Attorney General Michael Bryant in December 2004. Coordinated by Brown & Cohen Communications and Public Affairs Inc., the program is intended to communicate the following messages to government and to the public:

1. PEO has a legislative mandate under the *Professional Engineers Act* to regulate the practice of professional engineering in order "that the public interest may be served and protected."
2. The self-regulating engineering profession has been successfully protecting the public for more than 80 years.
3. PEO has unique knowledge and expertise and it is in the best interest of government to consult with us before considering any new policy directions that may have the potential to impact the regulation of the practice of professional engineering.

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You requested that I provide you with materials that would help you to gain a greater understanding of the issues. Enclosed you will find a Government Relations Kit that outlines our new Government Communications Program. In addition, there is a link on the PEO website at www.peo.on.ca, under Building Regulation Registration Program, where you will find additional documents chronicling PEO's communications and involvement with this issue.

Mr. Howard Brown of Brown & Cohen Communications and Public Affairs Inc. will contact you to arrange a meeting to discuss PEO. In the meantime, if you have additional questions or would like further information, please contact Johnny Zuccon, P.Eng., Deputy Registrar, Standards and Regulations, at 416-840-1081 or email info@peo.on.ca

Regards,

(original signed)

Seimer Tsang, P.Eng.
Northern Regional Councillor

cc: Howard Brown
Brown & Cohen