

Expanded Public Information Model set to launch in early 2007

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At its September 2004 meeting, Council adopted the concept of an Expanded Public Information Model (EPIM), part of the Privacy Policy approved at the same meeting, following analysis that indicated a public interest need for more information about practitioners than is currently available. Removing as many barriers to information about P.Engs as possible allows PEO to better fulfill its regulatory mandate as it fosters informed choice by and greater protection for the public, and promotes professional accountability in practitioners. We have to see privacy in the light of technology today, and in terms of the public's interest and rights to knowledge about the professionals whose work impacts their lives.

Engineering Dimensions, January/February 2005, pp. 54-57).

What the EPIM means for licence holders is that certain information about practitioners will be made publicly available starting in early 2007. At first, the information available on the EPIM online directory will be basic. In fact, most of this core information is already available on the current online directory of professional engineers and engineers-in-training on the PEO website (which will be phased out in early 2007).

Information contained in the first EPIM member profiles will include licence number, name, employer name and contact information, gender, immigration status (EITs only), type of licence, and licence status. It will also include the Cer-

as home address, will only ever be available to the public or another member via a written request that will be personally reviewed by the Chief Privacy Officer. Each written request for information (a form will be provided on the website) will require the requestor to identify himself or herself, and state an acceptable public interest need for the information.

For an overview of the types of information that will be made available over the course of the implementation of the EPIM project, and by which mechanism the information will be made available (either online or by written request), see In Council, *Engineering Dimensions*, March/April, p. 30.

There is a great deal of work to be done before the searchable EPIM online directory goes live in early 2007. In par-

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PEO is a not-for-profit organization and, as such, is exempted from the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA). However, taking the public's best interests into account, PEO has adopted voluntary privacy policies that follow the act's principles of accountability, and that safeguard personal information and identify the purposes for which it is collected, used and disclosed. Council's approval of the PEO Privacy Policy underscores the regulator's commitment to protecting members' personal information, and using and disclosing it responsibly (see "Privacy protection is good business,"

tificate of Authorization number of a member's employer, designation, date registered, date of first licensure with PEO, position/title, C of A, consulting designation, and education information (degrees, disciplines the degrees were granted in, the institution granting degree, year of graduation).

Over time, more information will gradually be made available to the public as it is collected from members through such activities as the Strategic Plan Voluntary Annual Reporting project (see *Engineering Dimensions*, March/April 2006, p. 20). This process will occur in phases. Certain sensitive information, such

particular, on August 1, the member profile will be made available to each member (but not yet publicly) via the members' area on the PEO website. During this time, members can update their profiles using the online address change function on the website.

In certain special circumstances, determined by PEO's privacy officer (primarily for safety reasons) a member's information may be excluded from the online directory. Members may request that their information not be included in the EPIM online directory by filing a *Request to Withhold Information from the Public Form*, which will be available on PEO's website.