



Media Release

International Graduates Among Those to Benefit from Changes to *Professional Engineers Act*

Toronto – (October 22, 2010) – Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) is pleased to announce the passage yesterday of Bill 68, legislation that includes the first major amendments to the *Professional Engineers Act* in more than 25 years. The amendments include changes to assist international engineering graduates seeking licensure in the province.

“The 66 amendments to the *Professional Engineers Act* reflect the provincial government's commitment to a strong engineering profession that can best serve the public and respond to the needs of Ontario businesses and individuals seeking to be licensed to practise professional engineering,” said PEO President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC.

The changes are the most significant to the *Professional Engineers Act* since 1984. Bill 68 can be accessed at http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2358. The amendments to the *Professional Engineers Act* are included in Schedule 2.

“We believe the changes to the *Professional Engineers Act* will increase the clarity, transparency, accountability and effectiveness of our work,” said Kim Allen, P.Eng., Chief Executive Officer and Registrar of PEO. “At the same time, they streamline PEO's ability as a regulator to safeguard life, health, property, economic interests, the public welfare and the environment”

Highlights of Bill 68

Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status requirement – The requirement to be a citizen or to have the status of a permanent resident of Canada to obtain a licence to practise professional engineering has been eliminated. Despite PEO having completely eliminating application fees for internationally trained engineering graduates three years ago, some 60 per cent of those who apply for a professional engineer licence live in Canada for more than three years before they apply. PEO research has shown that a misunderstanding of the residency requirement is the primary reason for this. With the elimination of the residency requirement, many qualified applicants could now arrive in Canada with a provisional licence in hand and be ready to immediately enter the engineering workforce.

Industrial Exception – The exception related to having to be licensed to carry out an act within the practice of professional engineering in relation to machinery and equipment for use in the facilities of a person's employer has been repealed. This exception exists only in Ontario. Repealing it levels the playing field across the country. This change will be effective on a future date to be proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor to able PEO to engage business in its implementation.

National Framework for Licensure – PEO is leading the effort to create a national framework where all Canadian jurisdictions have the same requirements for licensure to best serve the public interest. Through Bill 68, the *Professional Engineers Act* adopts the national definition of "professional engineering," which is essential to harmonizing these requirements.

Certificate of Authorization—PEO has for years collaborated with the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists to enable highly skilled technologists and applied science graduates to practise professional engineering within their areas of expertise through a limited licence issued by PEO. The bill enables limited licensees to offer professional engineering services within the limitation of their licences independently to the public. Having all professionals publicly accountable through licences and certificates of authorization eliminates the need for government to prescribe unnecessary regulations to protect the public interest. This change will become effective on a future date to be proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor to allow PEO to put in place the necessary associated regulation changes.

About Professional Engineers Ontario

Professional Engineers Ontario administers the *Professional Engineers Act* by licensing Ontario's 73,000 professional engineers, granting temporary, limited and provisional licences to practise professional engineering, and authorizing businesses to provide engineering services to the public. It sets standards for and regulates engineering in Ontario to serve and protect the public interest. Rigorously educated, experienced, and committed to a Code of Ethics that puts the public first, licensed professional engineers can be identified by the P.Eng. after their names. Limited engineering licensees can be identified by the LEL after their names. Visit www.peo.on.ca.

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