

## PEO MEMBERS' SUBMISSIONS

WHEREAS: Members with Permanent Resident and Canadian Citizenship Immigration Status in Canada are eligible and exempt (under the Engineering Intern Financial Credit Program (FCP)) from having to pay membership fees for first 12 months (after submitting to FCP within six months of their landing date in Canada). They enjoy the benefits of membership within the PEO, the same conditions should apply or be extended to similarly situated; Refugee International Engineering Graduates in the interest of parity and fairness.

WHEREAS Canadians men and women of various ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds are looking for entry into either engineering, engineering technology, computers and information technology, accounting, health and other various fields of employment, be it resolved that, given the PEO provides accreditation of academic and professional engineering experience, providing guidelines to newcomers and skilled immigrants, is within the mandate of the PEO to provide assistance to qualified applicants.

WHEREAS the PEO provides workshops and seminars on various aspects and approaches to seeking and securing employment for newcomers through its chapters, that; registration fees on job seekers who fit the profile of "refugees international engineering graduates" be waived where they may otherwise be too onerous and an impediment to satisfying the requirements to be members, so as to benefit from the rights and privileges that would otherwise accrue to fee paying members.

WHEREAS the Engineering Intern Financial Credit Program (FCP) motion was approved by PEO Council in 2007 in the same spirit and intent of this Member's Submission "Inclusiveness". *"At its January 2007 meeting, Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Council approved motions to enhance inclusiveness in the profession by creating an Engineering Intern Financial Credit Program (FCP). Subsequently, at its March meeting, Council approved the implementation plan for this program. Under this initiative, which will launch May 1, 2007, individuals who have graduated from Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) accredited bachelor of engineering programs or International Engineering Graduates (IEG) with a Bachelor of Engineering or Applied Science Degree may be able to apply for PEO's professional engineer licence at no cost. Also at no cost, individuals may register in the Engineering Intern (EIT) program for the first year provided they meet specific criteria established by PEO."*

The spirit and intent of the motion is to extend goodwill and enhance inclusiveness on behalf of the organization to the individuals and classification of applicants and successful candidates, as well as the communities, industries, employers in which we are engaged, employed and invest our time and talent, so they too will recruit, train, mentor and then employ these individuals who meet provincial and professional standards, with the support of the PEO behind it.

**THEREFORE IT BE SUBMITTED THAT: The Engineering Intern Financial Credit Program (FCP) be expanded to include refugee international engineering graduates.**

Moved by: Gedewon G/Yohannes, P. Eng. (PEO #90497496)

Seconded by: Alyona Pereroslova, P.Eng. (PEO #100157172)



Chair Signature       N/A       (applicable only if brought forth by a chapter)

Date: April 05, 2017

## **Background information**

My name is Gedewon G/Yohannes, P. Eng., Senior Project Manager at Engineering & Structural Consultants located in Markham, who does engineering employment mentoring for refugees and newcomers to Canada.

Having immigrated to Canada from Eritrea in 1990, and having completed all of my formal high school and Engineering degrees in Canada, I tend to look through the world through multi-lens: immigrant, visible minority, educated in a professional vocation and so employed.

I am involved with my local church where there is a mentor-ship program focused on supporting recent refugees and immigrants (regardless of status) in obtaining employment in their chosen profession area. Plus guide them for accreditation of their education and profession to satisfy the prerequisite of universities and governing bodies.

In my time with the group I have met a number of individuals, men and women of various, ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds who are looking for entry into either engineering, engineering technology, computers and information technology, accounting, health and other various fields of employment.

I wish to introduce a motion to waive registration fees on job seekers who typically fit the profile of "refugees and newcomers" to Canada and "international graduates". The spirit and intent of the motion demonstrates goodwill of the organization and service to the communities, industries, employers in which we are engaged, employed and invest our time and talent.

As it enshrines in the Canadians core values; Canadians of all stripes, private/public organizations, social services and employment agencies, religious groups, etc from west to east coast are welcoming and supporting the refugees. I plead with our organization (PEO) to extend these welcoming and supporting attributes of Canadians to the refugees by waiving the registration and other fees until they settle and find meaningful employment.

Without detailed accounts and personalizing this motion; with the limited refugees and international graduates I have encountered; I have witnessed and heard firsthand the pain and **barriers** of these fees creates for the betterment of these refugees futures. To highlight these barriers; let us close/summarize the submission with the power full words of one of refugees who inspire us write this members' submission..." with all fees and other document application issues, I am tired and don't want go any more to that PEO building, located at Yonge and Sheppard"!

Please feel free to contact to advise whether you are able to assist in this regard or with any questions or comments you may have.

Thanks,  
Gedewon G/Yohannes, P. Eng.  
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