



Media Release

Toronto-area man fined \$15,625 for illegal use of the title "professional engineer" and use of false licence certificate

Toronto – (March 2, 2018) – On February 22, the Ontario Court of Justice fined a Toronto-area man \$15,625 (including a 25 per cent victim fine surcharge of \$3,125) after his guilty plea to four counts of breaching the *Professional Engineers Act* by misrepresenting himself as a professional engineer.

Kevin Kirk Smith used the titles "professional engineer" and "P.Eng." in the employment application and interview for a position as a senior consultant, a position which called for credentials as a professional engineer. After being hired, Smith presented and displayed a forged licence certificate and used the title "P.Eng." in internal correspondence and reports issued to clients.

The employer contacted Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) and determined that Smith was not licensed as a professional engineer.

Smith subsequently used the titles "professional engineer" and "P.Eng." in the employment application and interview for a position with a PEO certificate of authorization holder. For the duration of his employment, Smith displayed a forged licence certificate at his desk and used the title "P.Eng." in email correspondence.

Her Worship Justice of the Peace Ruby Wong convicted Smith of one count of breaching section 41(1) of the *Professional Engineers Act*, which prohibits issuing a false licence certificate, and levied a fine of \$5,000 for this offence. Her worship further convicted Smith of three counts of breaching section 40(2)(a) of the *Professional Engineers Act*, which prohibits use of the titles "professional engineer" and "P.Eng.", and levied fines of \$2,500 for each offence.

Nick Hambleton, associate counsel, regulatory compliance, represented PEO in this matter. PEO would like to thank both employers for their diligence and cooperation in its investigation.

How to verify licensure

To check whether an individual is licensed or a firm holds a certificate of authorization (C of A), search the directories of practitioners (licence and C of A holders) at www.peo.on.ca. To report unlicensed individuals and unauthorized companies, contact PEO's enforcement hotline at 416-840-1444 or 1-800-339-3716, ext. 1444, or email enforcement@peo.on.ca.

About Professional Engineers Ontario

Under the authority of the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO governs over 85,000 licence and certificate holders and regulates professional engineering in Ontario. PEO's mission is to regulate and advance the practice of engineering to protect the public interest. Its vision is to be the trusted leader in professional self-regulation. Professional engineering safeguards life, health, property, economic interests, the public welfare and the environment. Professional engineers can be identified by the P.Eng. after their names. Holders of limited licences can be identified by LEL or LET after their names.

-30-

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