



October 25, 2005

Mr. Peter Van Loan, M.P. (York-Simcoe)
Official Opposition Critic for Human Resources and Skills Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

RE: National Program to Recognize Credentials of Internationally Trained Professionals

Dear Mr. Van Loan:

We saw recently that the Conservative Party of Canada is planning on establishing, if elected, a national program for the recognition of foreign-trained professionals' credentials. As we have mentioned in past correspondence to Stephen Harper, Canada has an *over-supply* of engineers in some areas of our profession. The over-supply, under-employment and under-utilization of professional engineers, are important issues facing our membership in Ontario and in Canada as a whole.

We believe that one of the most serious causes of this over-supply is an immigration policy that encourages professionals to immigrate to Canada – without giving them explicit employment information that would help them link their destination to where employment opportunities might be. We are advocating that guidance be given and incentives offered to assist professionals to relocate to locations within Canada where they can be gainfully employed.

The regulation of professional bodies is a provincial responsibility. In Ontario, the Professional Engineers of Ontario or PEO – is responsible for licensure. PEO is often held up as the model for how self-regulatory bodies accommodate foreign-trained professionals. The province also takes its duties to regulate the professions seriously, and has commissioned Mr. George Thomson to complete a review of the current appeal processes for registration or licensure decisions made by the regulatory bodies of Ontario's self-regulated professions.

While some professions clearly need to do more to make it easier for foreign-trained professionals to get their credentials recognized, the engineering profession in Ontario does not. Our focus is seeking employment for the thousands of professional engineers and internationally-educated engineering graduates who are currently unemployed.

In summary, we believe that the establishment of a national program would be redundant and would not get internationally-educated engineering graduates in Ontario any closer to employment than they are now.

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We are working with the current government to ensure that it is aware of the challenges – indeed the plight - of engineers in Ontario. We would appreciate a meeting with you as well as Diane Ablonczy, Official Opposition Critic for Citizenship and Immigration and James Rajotte, Official Opposition Critic for Industry, to discuss this issue in detail. Hanan Jibry, P.Eng., our Director of Policy and Government Relations, would be pleased to work with you and your staff on this. She can be reached at 416-223-9961 ext. 236.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Cragg", written in a cursive style.

Chris Cragg, M.A.Sc., MBA, P.Eng.
President and Chair, OSPE

cc: Mr. Robert A. Goodings, P.Eng., PEO President

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