



ONTARIO
SOCIETY
OF PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS

January 7, 2016

The Honourable Kathleen O. Wynne, MPP (Don Valley West)
Room 281, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne,

On behalf of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), we would like to express our support for your decision to develop Ontario's Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy. We are also delighted that the 5-member expert panel consists of an accomplished leader in the engineering community, Robert Hardt, President and CEO of Siemens Canada Limited.

As you may know, in January 2015 OSPE released its most recent report on the labour market conditions facing Ontario's engineers. Drawing on the 2011 National Household Survey, *Crisis in Ontario's Engineering Labour Market: Underemployment Among Ontario's Engineering-Degree Holders* found that:

- Over 33% of engineering-degree holders worked in jobs that did not necessarily require a university degree;
- Only about 30% of employed individuals in Ontario who held a bachelor's degree or higher in engineering worked as engineers or engineering managers – the lowest match rate of all the regulated professions that the survey compared;
- Only 21% of internationally trained engineers (ITEs) actually worked as engineers or engineering managers, while 44% of ITEs worked in jobs that did not require a university degree; and
- Nearly 22% of women with engineering degrees actually worked as engineers or engineering managers.

OSPE believes that these statistics represent a vast underutilization of both Canadian and internationally-trained engineering (ITEs) professionals who obtained a rigorous university degree, but work in jobs that likely do not take full advantage of their valuable knowledge and skills. Also troubling is that the number of Ontarians holding an engineering degree but not working in the field has more than doubled since 1995. If left unaddressed, this situation will impact various sectors and Ontario's economy as a whole. OSPE has long advocated for bridge training and co-op opportunities to equip ITEs and engineering students with the tools needed to succeed in Ontario's evolving economic landscape.

In addition to consulting with universities, industry, and other stakeholder groups, OSPE urges the Government of Ontario to consult with professional associations. Engineers will be critical to meeting the demands of a tech-driven, knowledge economy. With 15,000 members, OSPE's membership base represents licensed and unlicensed engineering professionals, engineering graduates, and engineering students who work, or will one-day work, in several of the most strategic sectors in Ontario's economy.

OSPE is pleased to participate in stakeholder consultations scheduled for 2016 as well as the Talent and Skills Summit on January 20, 2016. If you would like to arrange for a meeting on how the engineering community can help grow Ontario's economy and provide socio-economic benefit to all Ontarians, please contact Catrina Kronfli, Policy Analyst, at ckronfli@ospe.on.ca or (416) 223 – 9961 ext. 243.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandro Perruzza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandro Perruzza
Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Society of Professional Engineers

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