



Bylaw Change Q&A's – 2016

Why is OSPE changing its membership categories?

OSPE is the only engineering association in the province that is mandated to serve the needs of the entire engineering community, including Professional Engineers, engineering professionals, graduates, and students.

We haven't changed the criteria of our [membership categories](#), rather, we are updating the names of our membership categories in order to more accurately define the groups we represent.

Why is OSPE making this change now?

The Board Development and Strategic Planning Committee will be bringing these updates forward on May 3, 2016 at OSPE's Annual General Meeting so that members can hear about the changes as a group, ask questions and vote on the proposed adjustments.

OSPE is bringing the change forward to fulfill one of the goals of the Society's [five-year Strategic Plan](#), which is to become the association of choice for all engineers and engineering professionals in Ontario.

How are Professional members reacting?

Professional Engineers understand [the importance of their advocacy association](#). They also know that OSPE is the voice of the entire engineering community.

Even though roughly 70% of their fellow engineering graduates do not pursue licensure, Professional Engineers know that their former classmates have acquired a solid background in problem solving and critical thinking skills, which make them important contributors to Ontario's economy, no matter where their careers take them.

Does OSPE encourage engineering professionals to get their P.Eng. designation?

OSPE always encourages all engineering professionals to pursue licensure through PEO. We offer assistance for those eligible to get their licence through access to [various programs and professional development courses](#) to help them succeed. The Society hosts [free monthly webinars](#) to walk members through the steps of PEO's application process and discuss the

details of five courses the OSPE offers to support individuals as they work their way towards obtaining their P.Eng. licence.

Why does OSPE want to represent all engineers and engineering professionals in Ontario?

OSPE encourages all Ontario youth to study engineering at the post-secondary level and to consider engineering as a career. However, only about 30% of engineering graduates go on to pursue licensure.

We recognize that many engineering graduates go on to work in industries or fields where their work is not recognized or required to get licensure.

For those in emerging disciplines not already recognized by PEO, OSPE wants to work with these individuals to provide the required information to PEO's Emerging Disciplines Task Force, so that these individuals can become Professional Engineers.

For those working in industries where the P.Eng. designation is not required (either through the industrial exception or the personal exception), we want to demonstrate the inherent value that the P.Eng. designation brings personally and professionally to this member.

OSPE represents all engineering professionals – people who have graduated from an accredited engineering program – whether they go on to pursue licensure or not, because we recognize and promote that the problem solving and critical thinking skills acquired with an engineering degree can be applied to a variety of industries that ultimately contribute to Ontario's economy.