

Fireside Chat- March 7, 2024: Question & Answer

- ✚ **Do you provide assistance with program or membership fees for those who wish to become C.E.T. To P.ENG? I am aware that there are other bodies (PEO), however as professionals progress, they seek after P.ENG licenses.**

Unfortunately, OACETT does not have the capacity to support members who are seeking their P.Eng - that support would need to be sought from PEO. That said, at this time, based on PEO's updated requirements, unless an individual has a Bachelor of Engineering degree or a recognized equivalent, there is no pathway to licensure other than the LET or returning to school for a B.Eng.

- ✚ **In order to get rcca from rcsi, is it necessary to have 3 years of working in MTO? Or can it just be working on any project as PM?**

Minimum 3 years' experience as rcsi or minimum 3 years' experience as MTO Contract Services Administrator (CSA), Project Supervisor or minimum 5 years' QAO experience working for MTO or equivalent experience.

- ✚ **Is it possible to apply for the LET path as a self-employed person who does not work under a PEng?**

As the LET is PEO's license, not OACETT's, the question would need to be asked of PEO.

- ✚ **1) Would you be able to provide an update on how successful we currently are on our 2019-2024 Strategic Plan? And what metrics were used to determine how our targets were met?**

2) Would you be able to provide OACETT members a link to the business / operating plan that had been discussed at the beginning of this fireside chat via the OACETT portal to understand where and how funds are utilized and what services are being provided that align with the strategic plan?

The plan in question --> https://www.oacett.org/getmedia/27ea695e-da7d-4063-9aa3-078050903339/Strategic_Plan_2019-2024.pdf

This question was partially answered live, but please tune in to the AGM for the CEO's full strategic plan update, as well as for the financial report on investments in programs. The CEO's report will also be in the July/August issue of the OT.

- ✚ **What plans does the leader have to assist international graduates in obtaining certification quickly, considering the current unfairness of the process? Given that many of these individuals are highly qualified, they should not be subjected to unnecessary delays.**

OACETT has been certifying internationally educated applicants in a shorter time frame than other regulators and their success in becoming certified has been at the same rate or slightly higher than domestic applications. In 2016, OACETT introduced an alternative pathway to the 1-year Canadian work experience as OACETT recognized it as a barrier to foreign educated members from being certified and able to gain employment in their field. This proved to be highly successful and was recognized by the Ontario Fairness Commissioner as a best practice that others should follow. Last year, Ontario legislation was introduced to remove the 1-year Canadian work experience for international applications to regulators; OACETT was the first to remove this requirement seven years before it became a mandatory requirement. Also, to support new Canadians establishing themselves professionally in Canada, OACETT has an application offer for new arrivals to Canada. If you apply for an OACETT membership within one year of initially arriving in Canada, you may be eligible to have your application fee waived.

- ✚ **Why Federal and Provincial Govt. Jobs in Computer/Software Engineering do not require C.E.T. credential?**

While computer/software engineering is one of the disciplines that OACETT covers, there are many competing credentials in the IT space that employers, even in government, tend to seek. In general, OACETT continues to promote to employers in all sectors the value of having certified employees, but we do not yet have "required" certification in any particular discipline.

- ✚ **I have rcca designation, what is the criteria to get the municipal CA designation, how much experience and point require to achieve this designation?**

<https://www.oacett.org/members-area/designations/municipal-infrastructure> is the link for further information.

- ✚ **Not everyone is interested in management or leadership roles, but yet the cpd program requires it.**

‘Contributions to Technical Knowledge’ or ‘Management or Leadership Training’ are mandatory requirements as per the current CPD program. Work is being done to modify the existing program to remove these requirements starting in 2025.

- ✚ **Can the work that the CPD committee work is undertaking be opened up so the membership can directly have input?**

Proposed changes to the CPD Program are being done through a subcommittee and vetted through a task force to confirm proposals are beneficial to members and clearer to understand. Information on the major anticipated changes to the program were indicated in the Fireside Chat. An upcoming article in the OT magazine and website information in the summer will expand further. There is also a discussion

on having CPD webinars in the fall, similar to the fireside chats to have members pose questions before a new program is launched.

- ✚ **I have both C ET and P. Eng credentials with me, CPD requirement and costs associated is a challenge, also OACETT need to streamline with PEO as they also need the CPDs to be taken for continuing license. So the effort is doubling for CPD if one has both the credentials like I have...**

From OACETT's perspective at least, it is likely that the CPD required for PEO would also be accepted towards at least part of your requirements to maintain your OACETT certification as well. OACETT does not require that you submit distinct programming that is separate from what you have submitted to PEO. It simply needs to meet OACETT's requirements, even if you have also used it for your PEO requirements.

- ✚ **For the CPD - Would the removal the 1-hour limit be removed? Most Lunch and Learns or courses at work are 45-minutes to 1 hour and can't be counted. Most CET or C.Techs at work feel left by the minimum time requirement not required by the PEO.**

Lunch and learns can be counted if the presentation is 45 minutes long with allowance for 15 minutes of Q & A. The minimum of a one-hour session is still the smallest amount of time that the committee feels is acceptable.

- ✚ **Can you publish the % of membership by technology segment? e.g. chemical, civil etc...**

We will look at making this as well as other certification-related statistics part of annual reporting in the OT magazine. Thank you for the suggestion.

- ✚ **Is OACETT trying to work with educational institutions to lower the cost for courses offered by them for CPD requirement? Thanks.**

Further to the above question, have you negotiated with our typical community colleges who offer upgrading/ Prof. Devel. courses for an OACETT discount. So far, I've only seen offers from business' like EPIC and Sigma Lean or some Software sellers like ImaginIT. I haven't seen anything from any community colleges, but maybe I missed them?

There were similar responses about other types of CPD during the Fireside Chat webinar. OACETT tries to work with all types of education providers: colleges, universities, private training providers, not-for-profit training providers, in order to secure discounted training for members. There will be a new staff position hired this year dedicated to curating the greatest variety of CPD possible at the best prices. However, the reality is that sometimes discounts are only offered if OACETT can guarantee a minimum number of registrants, which is not possible without incurring unnecessary risk and cost for the association.

- ✚ **Why do most insurance companies are not giving the rates that they usually offer to Professional Engineering Ontario members? Can our organization search more insurance companies to provide better to our members?**

The Personal has been OACETT's insurance partner for many years and the vast majority of members do achieve savings when they purchase with the Personal, which is why we have one their best association renewal rates and over 50% of our membership is subscribed. However, individual circumstances mean that a lower rate cannot be guaranteed in every instance. Working with more providers would dilute the offering that the Personal gives us for exclusivity, so at this time, there are no plans to change. However, OACETT has partnered to offer new insurance opportunities for Life and Critical Illness coverage, so watch for further information in April.

- ✚ **With respect to the annual fees, are there discounts available for health care workers? Past or present military discounts?**

At this time, there are no discounts for these particular segments of workers.

- ✚ **What happens if you are not able to make all the CPD requirements within the allotted time span? Is there an easy way to find out all the CPD Approved events?**

The requirement is four activities over three years and is very flexible on what is accepted. Many activities are accepted and they do not have to be OACETT CPD approved events. The CPD approved ones are there as pre-announcements of their acceptability, but most members submit training activities etc. that are not listed on our website as CPD approved.

- ✚ **Are there any statistics showing how many members of C.Tech or C.E.T. are employed?**

According to the results of our 2023 Member Survey, 71% of our members work full time, 20% are retired, 2% are unemployed and the balance are a combination of part-time, contract work and self-employment.

- ✚ **A lot of companies don't know anything about the LET designation. Can you tell us more about the LET? How would you promote and market the LET?**

OACETT is working with PEO in forming a task force whose goal is to enhance the promotion of the LET and how it is marketed.

- ✚ **I'm wondering if OACETT is currently working in partnership with local colleges to develop flexible pathways of entry into engineering courses or programs? Or is there a plan to do so in the future? I know it can be challenging to access engineering courses through continuing education.**

As was discussed in response to other questions during the webinar, at this time there is no pathway to the P.Eng other than through a Bachelor of Engineering or equivalent program recognized by CEAB,

other than the LET limited license that is available for C.E.T.s. OACETT will be working with PEO to increase the profile of the LET and the processing time, as it remains the only possible pathway for holders of an advanced college diploma.

✚ How can I find the free Coursera through OACETT?

With the recent changes to the OACETT website, some training links were removed which would include Coursera.

✚ What is the most eastern chapter for Ontario? If more members start residing further east, will there be a new chapter such as Northumberland County or Quinte West?

The most eastern chapter is the Cornwall chapter. In order to establish a new chapter. The Board of Directors of the Association, upon receipt of a formal application signed by twenty-five Certified Members or one-quarter of the membership of a defined geographic area, shall designate such area as a Chapter of the Association. The Board of Directors, based on recommendations of the said Chapter and immediate neighbouring Chapter shall set Chapter boundaries.

✚ Does OACETT have any partnership with community colleges and Universities to actively participate designing their course curriculum, mentoring students, training and development of students etc. If not are there any plans?

OACETT does not work with universities as their graduates are not our target membership market, but we do actively work with colleges through the Heads of Technology that includes the Deans of all the engineering technology programs in the colleges across Ontario. We actively encourage the colleges to include OACETT members on their Program Advisory Committees, and OACETT is a standing item on their quarterly meetings so that we keep a dialogue open. OACETT has also just established a relationship with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities' Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB) which undertakes regular standards and curriculum updates. OACETT has been identified as a key source of subject-matter experts and we have been provided with their review schedule for the next three years to ensure our participation. If you are interested in being included on our list of subject matter experts, please email govrelations@oacett.org with a copy of your CV and your discipline.

✚ Does OACETT Part of any Grid Network Alliance/Renewable Energy Association/groups?

We are not at this time, but the issue of grid electrification/future increased need for electricity has been identified by the Board of Directors as an emerging technology about which OACETT should be sharing information with members. A project later this year will inform a strategy as well as some guidance information for members and may well include connecting with these types of organizations that are already active in this area.

- ✚ **Is it possible for OACETT to negotiate with educational institutions to develop some courses tailor made to OACETT's CPD requirements & in line with Certificate Discipline of the Certified member?**

We do on occasion work with providers to create tailor made courses for OACETT. One example is the recent "Low Voltage Electrical Conductor Sizing Essentials" for the electrical discipline. This is rare as justifying the exorbitant cost of creating a course from scratch would be too expensive in terms of course pricing. Therefore, we work with providers with established courses from a variety of disciplines and ensure members get the best price possible.

- ✚ **How can we get a subject on the agenda at the AGM?**

The process is being finalized through our new Governance, Policy and Strategy Committee and will be communicated to members as the preparations for the Annual General Meeting move forward in the coming months.