



# A commitment to consultation and collaboration

by Gordon Masters

OACETT has been working closely with government and industry in recent weeks to enhance opportunities for engineering technology professionals in the province.

## Modernization of air and noise approvals

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) granted OACETT stakeholder status in regard to the new proposed Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) for air and noise approvals; hearings were held in the fall to engage interested stakeholders on this proposal. The ministry posted a regulatory proposal on the Environment and Regulatory Registries outlining changes to the air and noise approvals process here: [bit.ly/environmentalregistry](http://bit.ly/environmentalregistry).

OACETT is part of an ad hoc committee of individuals who had discussions with the MOECC on expanding the proposed definition of qualified persons beyond professional engineers. There are models in place in other provinces that accommodate qualified persons other than just professional engineers that our group proposed; however, the new Ontario regulation, which took effect January 31, 2017, excludes other professional designations such as C.E.T. and A.Sc.T. OACETT members qualified in this area of expertise will be denied access which will restrict their ability to continue practising their profession.

OACETT strongly opposed this decision by the ministry that qualifies engineers licensed with PEO as the only qualified person(s) authorized to sign off on these applications. The only option at this time for OACETT members to sign and seal these assessments for the Air Emissions EASR Regulation is to become a Licensed Engineering Technologist (LET) under the Professional Engineers Act.

Ontario Regulation 1/17, can be found on the government's e-Laws website: [www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r17001](http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r17001).

## Ontario College of Trades: an update

In May 2016, the Government of Ontario decided that the regulatory and administrative oversight of the Ontario College of Trades would be transferred from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development to the Ministry of Labour. At that time, the Ministry of Labour informed stakeholders that this change would not have an impact on the day-to-day operations of the college.

Amendments to the Ontario College of Trades and Apprenticeship Act have been in the works, and it was only a matter of time for the amendments to be realized. The unions were butting heads with the ministry over control issues. The amendments put control clearly in the hands of the ministry by diluting the enforcement powers of the Ontario College of Trades. Of course, some unions are not pleased because

they believe that the amendments introduced will devalue a Certificate of Qualification and the compulsory trades designation and are saying that individuals without certification can now do work that is within the scope of the 22 compulsory trades in Ontario.

## Working with Public Services and Procurement Canada to update Qualified Person status

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) has agreed to the request from Canada's engineering technology profession to include Qualified Person (QP) categories in the Technical Engineering and Maintenance Services (TEMS) stream for C.E.T.s, A.Sc.T.s and C.Tech.s. Commencing in May 2017, the engineering technology profession will be included as a stakeholder in the PSPC consultation process, which will establish concrete recognition for engineering technicians and technologists, which will make it a more efficient process for members to bid on national projects.

Canada's engineering technology profession will be designated with QP status that will offer additional employment opportunities across Canada due to the federal government's infrastructure investment plans, which will support the demand for engineering technicians and technologists.

## Spreading the word about manufacturing careers

Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME) – Ontario is working with school boards, schools and students to showcase career options in manufacturing to encourage youth to enter manufacturing careers by showing them:

- a positive image of manufacturing career choices
- the diversity of jobs to choose from
- local data about the trends and future employment needs
- potential career paths and how to get there

Schools offering the Specialist High School Major – manufacturing stream; technical courses; and/or career and guidance programs that would like assistance in engaging and touring local manufacturers are encouraged to contact CME Ontario. Manufacturing accounts for 16 per cent of the GTA workforce. Retiring workers will create significant hiring opportunities.

To assist CME Ontario in recruiting the next generation of manufacturing talent, contact Donald Grant at [donald.grant@cme-mec.ca](mailto:donald.grant@cme-mec.ca).

CME represents more than 2,500 leading companies nationwide with more than 85 per cent of its members being small and medium-sized enterprises. CME's membership network accounts for an estimated 82 per cent of total manufacturing production and 90 per cent of Canada's exports.

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