



September 18, 2023

Roydon Fraser, PhD, P.Eng., FEC
President
Professional Engineers Ontario
40 Sheppard Avenue West, Suite 101
Toronto, ON M2N 6K9

Dear Mr. Fraser,

On behalf of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-Ontario (ACEC-Ontario), and its 140-plus member firms operating across the province, I am writing to provide feedback on the suspension of the Engineering Intern (EIT) program.

As you may know, ACEC-Ontario was disappointed to learn of the program's suspension. We therefore invited input from members to formulate the association's response to the survey conducted by Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) concerning the ramifications of the suspension of the program. Here is what we heard.

Question 1

Does your organization have an in-house engineering development program?

A number of member firms stated they have an in-house engineering development program. One firm noted they have in place a Member in Training program based on the Engineers and Geoscientists BC Model and use a competency based framework.

Question 2

In what way was the EIT program most helpful to your organization?

Member firms indicated that the EIT program was used:

- To confirm the acceptable academic qualifications for licensure by PEO of a potential employee
- To verify a potential employee's commitment to licensure
- To promote to clients and others of having EITs on staff and provide a level of status to new engineering hires.

The EIT status recognition was useful because it let firms know that people were committed to a journey to getting their professional designation.

Question 3

How would you rank the value of the EIT program to your organization? (1 star being the lowest and 5 stars the highest)

Member firms generally ranked the value of the program at four stars.

Question 4

How likely was your organization to hire a candidate who was enrolled in the EIT program versus a candidate who was not?

The general consensus was that firms would be more likely to hire a candidate in the EIT program. It was also mentioned that knowing if someone was enrolled in the program provided useful context.

Question 5

If the EIT program, or a version of it, was available, would you encourage your employees to participate?

A number of member firms replied they would encourage employees to participate in the program if it was available.

Question 6

What features would you recommend if a new version of the EIT program were to be developed?

We received constructive comments from all respondents. If a new version of the EIT program were to be developed, it should:

- Be based on a competency framework and companies should be able to register.
- Allow for collaboration and best practice and synergy across Canada and similar professional Engineering bodies.
- Have more adequate support and visibility.
- Include a marketing campaign that advertises what an EIT is (namely a graduate that is on their way to becoming a professional engineer).
- Promote EITs and the professional engineering community.

As you can see, ACEC-Ontario member firms, who employ a vast number of engineers and EITs, see value in the program. Accordingly, we call upon PEO to bring back the EIT program (or a version of it). We ask that you work with us and other stakeholders to make this happen.

Should you have any questions, or would like to discuss further, please contact me directly at ahurd@acecontario.ca or 416-620-1400 Ext.224. We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hurd
Executive Director

cc. Jennifer Quaglietta, P.Eng., CEO/Registrar, Professional Engineers Ontario
ACEC-Ontario Board of Directors