



The Association of Professional Engineers,  
Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta

September 7, 2006

Mr. Ron Nowell  
Executive Editor  
Calgary Herald  
215 16 ST SE  
CALGARY AB T2E 7P5

Dear Mr. Nowell:

Calgary Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Heather Douglas had some interesting advice to Alberta Progressive Conservative party leadership candidates in your August 29, 2006 issue "Reducing barriers will be a boon to all provinces." However, her comments regarding the mobility of professional engineers and Alberta's recognition of qualifications and post-secondary credentials are badly misinformed.

The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA), and our sister associations across Canada, are doing a great deal to ensure public safety is protected while still facilitating the mobility of professional engineers within Canada, within North America and indeed from around the world. Qualified professionals who demonstrate their competence are welcome to provide their services in Alberta.

Through the Inter-Association Mobility Agreement, signed in 1999 and renewed in 2004, engineers can move freely throughout Canada thanks to our national standards and credentialing systems and the cooperative effort of the provincial/territorial licensing bodies.

Through our national body, the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE), the engineering profession has shown real leadership in studying problems being experienced by internationally educated graduates seeking to become licensed to practice in Canada and developing solutions. With substantial funding from HRDC Canada, a program known as From Consideration To Integration (FC2I) identified strengths and weaknesses in the Canadian system and action has been taken to eliminate or reduce these impediments to immigration.

We too support the thinking behind the recently announced Alberta and B.C. Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA). In fact, TILMA did not change, but rather recognized, the mobility available to professional engineers, geologists and geophysicists who were already able to apply for registration in Alberta if they were members of The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia. Within days they can become members of APEGGA and as such licensed to work in Alberta.

We work closely with B.C., the Yukon and with five U.S. states in the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) to further increase the mobility of professional engineers between Canada and the U.S.

In fact our record speaks for itself. In each of the past several years we have registered over 1,000 engineers from elsewhere in Canada, plus some 1,500 engineers from other countries around the world. Fully 92 per cent of the internationally trained engineers who apply to APEGGA obtain their licensure.

Protection of public safety and well-being through the self-regulation of the professions of engineering, geology and geophysics is a provincial responsibility and APEGGA has an excellent record of regulatory achievement and innovation for over 85 years. It is completely misleading to claim that professionals in Alberta are not open and welcoming to qualified professionals whether they come from B.C., Saskatchewan, Alaska, Montana, China or India.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Chalcraft', written in a cursive style.

David Chalcraft, P.Eng., President  
The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of  
Alberta