



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PETITION DEMANDS FAIR PLAY FOR CANADA'S FOREIGN TRAINED ENGINEERS

Toronto, April 18, 2011– The largest immigrant professional organization in Canada, CAPE Council for Access to the Profession of Engineering, has launched a petition campaign to ensure the Government of Canada ensures that the foreign credential recognition, licensing and accreditation processes its members have undergone are not anti-competition in the public interest.

Only 12% of CAPE members work as engineers in Canada. The organization identifies the two major barriers to success in licensure for foreign-trained engineers:

- Self-regulating provincial engineering associations do not publicly document what criteria constitute the one-year Canadian experience requirement that is necessary for licensure.
- Applicants do not have access to an arm's length appeals process that would allow them to request a formal change to an official decision on their application for licensing e.g. to question how their Canadian experience has been evaluated.

In addition, the organization provides evidence that the self-regulation processes are reducing competition and negatively impacting Canada's economy.

- In 2006, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) found Canada's regulation of the engineering profession highly restrictive of competition.
- In 2010, the Conference Board of Canada rated Canada amongst the lowest of all OECD countries in graduating PhDs ("D"), innovation ("D") and productivity ("C"). Interestingly, CAPE members are 6-times more likely to hold a Masters in engineering, and twice as likely to hold a PhD, than an engineering graduate in Ontario.

The petition (available online at: <http://www.gopetition.com/petition/44432.html>) demands that the Government of Canada initiate a full review of the self-regulated provincial licensing model in order to ensure accountability, objectivity and transparency in the current foreign credential recognition process. The petition has already garnered over 250 signatures.

Media Contact:

Gurmeet Bambrah

Gurmeet@capeinfo.ca

416-955-0563/ 647-230-3111

###