

## **Written Submission on Bill 2 – *Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025***

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) to provide input on Bill 2, *Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025*. As the advocacy body for Ontario's engineering profession, OSPE strongly supports the intent of Bill 2 to reduce barriers to labour mobility and streamline interprovincial trade. However, we believe that without addressing the systemic licensing challenges engineers face in Ontario, particularly under the current regulatory regime, the province will continue to fall short of these goals.

### **Challenges in the Current Licensure Process**

#### **1. Academic Requirements**

The existing criteria heavily favor graduates from programs accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB). This approach excludes many qualified engineers with non-CEAB credentials, including those from respected international programs and domestic institutions that offer relevant degrees or diplomas.

#### **2. Experience Verification**

The requirement for 48 months of verifiable engineering experience, including Canadian-based work, places an undue burden on internationally educated professionals. Obtaining validation from past employers, especially overseas, is often difficult due to time zones, language barriers, or closed companies.

#### **3. Redundancy in Assessments**

The mandatory technical exams for internationally educated engineers—even those with years of relevant experience—create duplication, particularly when real-world competency has already been demonstrated or assessed in other jurisdictions.

#### **4. Barriers to Temporary Interprovincial Work**

Currently, engineers must pay full licensing fees to practice temporarily in another province, even for short-term assignments under six months. This discourages interprovincial collaboration and imposes unnecessary costs on both professionals and employers.

## **Recommendations**

#### **1. Broaden Recognition of Academic Credentials**

Expand the Recognized Programs List to include domestic and international programs that meet competency standards—even if not CEAB-accredited—to reflect Ontario’s diverse engineering workforce.

#### **2. Streamline Experience Verification**

Introduce flexible options for experience validation such as affidavits, alternative referees, or professional attestations, especially for internationally educated applicants.

#### **3. Reduce Redundancy in Assessments**

Waive technical exams for applicants who can demonstrate equivalent competencies through work experience, professional references, or licensure in another Canadian jurisdiction.

#### **4. Modernize Interprovincial Mobility**

Support the move toward a single national engineering licence. In the interim, waive Ontario’s licensing fees for engineers temporarily working in another province for less than six months. This would promote true labour mobility, reduce administrative burden, and better align with the spirit of Bill 2.

#### **5. Establish a National Engineering Licence**

Ontario should lead the charge and work with the other Provinces and the Government of Ontario in establishing a National Engineering Licence, which could be issued in the Province in which the Professional Engineer primarily resides, but is recognized across all provinces and territories.

## Conclusion

Modernizing Ontario's engineering licensing system and advancing national licensure are essential steps to building a more resilient, mobile, and competitive workforce. These changes will:

- Improve access for qualified professionals
- Ensure fairness and transparency
- Attract and retain top engineering talent
- Eliminate unnecessary interprovincial barriers
- Significantly improve labour mobility for timely deployment of people resources and capital on National infrastructure projects
- Support Ontario's infrastructure, sustainability, and innovation goals

Thank you for considering my submission. I would welcome the opportunity to appear before the Committee to provide further input on this matter.