

Fireside Chat- March 7, 2025: Question & Answer

- ✚ **I received my certification 37 years ago and am recognized as a C.E.T. with a 2-year diploma. What designation will I receive under the new scenario?**

As a Certified Engineering Technician, you will still be able to use the designation C.E.T.

- ✚ **In the C.E.T. to P.Tech. survey, what is the breakdown regarding certified members/associate members?**

The detailed breakdown of the survey results by membership segment and certification has been added to the Portal.

- ✚ **If C.E.T. were to change to P.Tech., would A.Sc.T. remain unchanged?**

Correct, A.Sc.T. would remain unchanged and would be grandfathered, just as it is currently grandfathered.

- ✚ **Does OACETT have mobility or agreement with Engineers Ireland and Engineers Australia and if not, is OACETT planning or working towards to establishes relationship with them, as this will add more strength to OACETT?**

Through Technology Professionals Canada (TPC), OACETT did have linkages to both those organizations through the Accords and Agreements of the International Engineering Alliance. However, TPC has recently made the decision to withdraw from these agreements as they were resulting in very few reciprocal registrations and required a great deal of work for little perceived return. TPC's focus is going to be on maximizing awareness within Canada.

- ✚ **Instructor led training internally with work (OBC for BCIN) can that count towards active or passive?**

This would be active learning as there is interaction with the trainer.

- ✚ **Can we get a LinkedIn premium subscription discount on our perks?**

Discounts are available for OACETT as a non-profit organization, where members can receive significant discounts on Sales Navigator and Recruiter Lite subscriptions depending on the contract length and purchase volume; however, there is no explicit "bulk discount" (which would be for OACETT members who are mainly represented by businesses) option readily available for standard business organizations.

🚩 **Why wasn't the full cost communicated earlier?**

The development of the detailed budget took time for staff to prepare and needed to be presented to the Board of Directors for validation prior to communication to the members, and the Board just met on February 28.

🚩 **If we are looking to align with other provinces, will there be a Canada association and will assist going for province to province?**

OACETT is part of a Canadian association called Technology Professionals Canada (TPC). The proposal to change from C.E.T. to P.Tech. originated through discussions within TPC so that we could have a harmonized national title for technologists. There is currently mutual recognition among the provincial members of TPC of each other's certifications, but a harmonized title would definitely strengthen that and would support national advocacy efforts.

🚩 **Will the title change be harmonized across all provinces including Quebec?**

Although L'Ordre des Technologues Professionnels du Quebec (OTPO) is not currently a member of TPC, their certification is "technologue professionnel", which is a direct translation of "Professional Technologist" or P.Tech. Discussions have been underway for a couple of years to encourage Quebec to join the TPC alliance.

🚩 **The Ontario Nationally Accredited Program list was last updated in 2022, when will it be updated again?**

The accreditation list is now located on Technology Accreditation Canada website [technologyaccreditation.ca](https://www.technologyaccreditation.ca).

🚩 **Beyond certification and membership recognition, what benefits or resources does OACETT provide to support working professionals in their careers?**

Individual members tend to find their own individual value propositions, but we feel that the main additional opportunities that we provide are: access to a dedicated job board for technicians and technologists (cten.ca), access to a network of professional colleagues through the local Chapters and other networking events, volunteer opportunities to build leadership skills, an annual career summit for internationally educated professionals, a wide variety of virtual and in-person CPD programs, access to a salary survey to support salary negotiation, and ongoing promotion to industry about the value of hiring certified professionals.

🚩 **As motions at the Chapter level meetings, and at the Association's AGM and at Board meetings are voted on by certified members only, please verify that only certified members will be voting at the Special meeting this Fall to choose the OACETT name change and designation change**

That is correct - only certified members will be eligible to vote on the OACETT name change and certification title change. The vote will be determined by a simple majority, as advised by legal counsel.

- ✚ **Approximately how much of the \$750k budget will be spent prior to deciding if the post nominal change is a go or not?**

There will be no spending related to the title change or the name change of the organization until there is a decision from members whether or not to proceed.

- ✚ **Do professional Technologists get a ring and can stamp the design drawings or design as the professional engineers or not?**

OACETT does offer certified members the opportunity to purchase a ring and a stamp, but those items do not carry the same authority as that of a professional engineer, which is a specific licensing requirement in Ontario. C.E.T.'s do have the ability to apply for a Licensed Engineering Technologist (LET) limited license through Professional Engineers Ontario.

- ✚ **Why don't we keep "engineering" in the title?**

Our provincial organizations across Canada certify individuals from engineering technology and applied science programs. One of the reasons for the agreement to pursue "Professional Technologist" as the preferred title is the fact that it is inclusive of those from both sets of disciplines.

- ✚ **Was the C.E.T designation at one point the same in all provinces across the country or has it always been different?**

To our knowledge, there has never been a harmonized certification title for technologists in Canada.

- ✚ **Does the OACETT contingency take into consideration any potential increases from tariffs?**

Assuming that the reference is the contingency in the proposed budget for the name change, then the 15% contingency is designed for unexpected circumstances/costs that may arise, and the tariffs issue is a possible example.

- ✚ **Whom would I contact to change my registered discipline?**

You can send your inquiry to certify@oacett.org and a staff member will assist you.

- ✚ **Do we have any information where other provinces stand on this change CET to P.Tech.? It seems like we are moving on two fronts: 1) OACETT has members voting whether to move or not; 2) OACETT is discussing with other provinces to harmonize. Now what happens if our members vote "No", but all provinces agree to harmonize? How is OACETT going to proceed then? It seems like it would be a better idea to leave CET alone and harmonize with other provinces based on CET as a common title.**

Currently NL, SK And NB confer the P.Tech. and BC has applied for it within their new legislation. Alberta confers P.Tech. (Eng) which is more like the LET in Ontario and would require a change so that all provinces would use the P.Tech. to mean the same thing. When OACETT members vote on the potential to change the title in the fall of 2025, the vote will be conditional on all other provinces agreeing to

change to P.Tech. If we do not reach unanimity on the P.Tech. title across the country, OACETT will not change.

✚ **Pardon my ignorance if this is an inappropriate or obvious question but I am wondering if OACETT has been involved with the government's actions regarding the cap on foreign students, since this has caused so much grief for our technical learning institutions.**

OACETT has been working very closely with the Ontario Heads of Technology (the deans of the technology schools in Ontario colleges) to advocate on both this issue and on the issue of changes that Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada has made to the programs that are eligible for post-graduate work permits. As both decisions were actually made by federal agencies, OACETT's advocacy voice is more limited. That's why we need to equip Technology Professionals Canada with the ability to advocate effectively at a federal level, and harmonized titles is seen as important to those efforts.

✚ **In a condo corporation, it takes 51% of owner majority to change a bylaw, and a higher percentage if it's a declaration. What percentage will you need to make the change?**

We have been advised by legal counsel that the votes on a name change to the C.E.T. title or to the name of the organization would be determined by simple majority (50% plus 1) of those certified members in good standing eligible to vote who participate in the special meeting of members to be called in the fall, or who submit their vote by proxy.

✚ **The C.E.T. designation appears to be more recognized in certain industries, while the P.Eng. designation holds greater recognition in others, such as Mechanical Engineering. What steps are being taken to promote the C.E.T. designation across more industries?**

It is important to first make the distinction between the P.Eng. designation and our certification. In Ontario, in order to practice engineering as a Professional Engineer, an individual must be licensed. This is not the case for technicians and technologists. We have a "Right to Title" act which is very different from a "Right to Practice" act. Although you cannot use our certification titles (C.E.T., C.Tech.) without being certified, you can practice the profession as an engineering technologist in Ontario without being an OACETT members. By default, P.Eng.'s will always have a greater penetration depending on the type of work (structural, certain building design, etc.). Having said this, OACETT has created the 360 Corporate Program, to bring more recognition of our certifications to a myriad of industries. This is accomplished via marketing and lunch and learns. We apply a contractual agreement to companies to apply particular wording to their job postings to hire our certified members. Also, we are working with different boards of trade and advocating with provincial ministries to ensure scope of work practices are inclusive of our membership. Finally, we are conducting many public awareness campaigns through media and career fairs and community events.

✚ **Can taking online courses to prepare for the Ontario Trade Certificate of Qualification (CofQ) count toward Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements?**

Yes, they will. They would be considered active activities if they are instructor led and have a form of interaction such as a quiz or responding to a topic as an exercise at the end of a section for example. If the course is self study in the form of a webinar with no set timeline to complete the course and no

submission for grading, then it is likely a passive activity.

- ✚ **Is there any work being done to increase the recognition of the OACETT Stamp? In my short experience having it, it has never been a requirement of my work or requested by my employer or clients.**

While the OACETT stamp is not a legal requirement in Ontario, some municipal and private corporations do look highly on the stamp. The stamp remains an important symbol of accountability, professionalism, and technical expertise. As such, OACETT does plan to create a promotion campaign to bring more employer awareness through our 360 Corporate program by emphasizing the stamp as a mark of professional standards and ethical conduct. Ultimately, because each workplace and sector handles signoffs differently, the stamp may not always be mandated in the same way as a P.Eng. stamp.

- ✚ **Does OACETT currently promote the association at tradeshow or other technology centered events ADM, CMTS, German Technology Day etc.? A lot of students attend these events, and it can lead to more members joining as they discover the benefits.**

OACETT promotes the association and membership at trade shows and to students through college events and classroom visits. The trade shows OACETT has attended over the past few months include but are not limited to: Ontario Secondary School Counsellor Association (OSCA) conference and trade show, Construction Specifiers Canada (CSC) Build Expo, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference and trade shows, CANECT, Rural Municipalities of Ontario Association (ROMA) trade show, Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA) conference and trade show, Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) conference and trade show. We do plan on attending German Technology Day next year as we had scheduling conflicts this year. If you have any recommendations of shows you feel OACETT should be attending, please let us know at events@oacett.org.

- ✚ **OACETT has been actively collaborating with the Ontario government to enhance the professional recognition of its members. Have there been any notable advancements in this endeavor? Additionally, I am aware that existing legislation imposes certain constraints, favoring members of the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO). Could you provide an update on this matter?**

OACETT has been focused on our government relations efforts to date on increasing awareness of the association and the profession, which we feel have been successful and culminated during National Engineering and Applied Science Technology (NEAT) Week when MPP Patrice Barnes made special mention of OACETT and the contribution of our profession on the floor of the legislature. We also had a very productive meeting with the Minister of Colleges and Universities on the issue of the post-graduate work permits, and they agreed to include all of OACETT's requests in their submission to the federal government. We have also established OACETT as a source of subject matter experts in terms of curriculum review related to technology. Work is also still underway on seeking some equivalency against the BCIN exams. We continue to strive to address the issue of Qualified Persons (which you have identified in your question as legislation creating certain constraints) and other than the identification of qualification to perform environmental site inspections, we have not had any members come forward with other examples of such limitations, despite repeated requests. If you have an example of a constraint where you feel you are qualified to perform work that legislation indicates requires a license from PEO, please share it to govrelations@oacett.org and we will follow up with you for more details.

✚ We need stronger marketing strategies for our events created by our chapters. Any possible ideas?

The OACETT Chapter Best Practices Modules are a good start. They were created to provide support on how to engage your chapter membership. Chapter executive members are always welcome to reach out to your Chapter and Program Advisor, Sarah Yazdi (syazdi@oacett.org), for curated personal marketing support as well.

✚ How can I network with other Chapter College Liaison members? I would like to understand better how they promote OACETT in their regions.

We have a new chapter college liaison network group. Please contact your Chapter and Program advisor Sarah Yazdi at syazdi@oacett.org for further information.

✚ I am wondering if OACETT has had, or plans to have, any discussions with the Ministry of Transportation regarding the changes to qualifications for Project Managers on many MTO projects. While historically the PM did not have to be a P.Eng., most projects are now requiring that the PM be a P.Eng. without offering an option to be a C.E.T. with equivalent or more experience. MTO does not seem to give any weight to OACETT certification with exception to the CA, rcsi, rcji?

We are in the process of scheduling a meeting with MTO to discuss this issue further.

✚ What does the C.E.T that other provinces are using stand for and what provinces are using the C.E.T. for something other than Certified Engineering Technologist?

C.E.T. as used by other provinces is the same - Certified Engineering Technologist. We do have some grandfathered individuals in Ontario where C.E.T. meant Certified Engineering Technician. BC has been using A.Sc.T. instead of C.E.T., but has submitted the request to change to P.Tech. as part of legislative changes in their province. A.Sc.T. is also a grandfathered title in Ontario that is no longer conferred.

✚ When is the Final Date of the change from C.E.T. to P.Tech.? Perhaps, I missed this answer, and I am double-checking the OACETT Search Bar, as we speak. However, I am unable to find the Final Date. Thank you.

The decision to change the names has not yet been made. A special meeting of members (date TBD) will be convened in the fall of 2025 to bring this decision to the members.

✚ I missed the current membership total, can you please repeat the answer?

OACETT currently has just under 21,000 members

✚ Could we make a vote about the C.E.T. changing by whole certified title personnel?

As clarified above, according to OACETT's by-laws, only certified members in good standing are eligible to vote at meetings of members.

- ✚ **I have been an OACETT member since 2002, the company I work for has Lunch and Learn every 2 weeks. Does this count towards my CPD passive learning?**

Yes, this counts as passive learning as long as the session is at least one hour in length.

- ✚ **Would it be possible for companies or individuals to post job opportunities for members seeking employment, particularly student members?**

As an OACETT member, you have free access to post your CV and search for jobs on the Canadian Technology Engineering Network ([CTEN](#)) on our website. Hundreds of companies post on our job board every year.