

Fireside Chat- November 1, 2023:

Question & Answer

- ✚ **Could OACETT consider providing members with a choice of at least two partnership insurance companies dealing with general liability for small business, as the current company offering group discounted rates, had me go around in circles despite providing all details and forms filling, only to direct me to a totally different insurance company, which I could have done myself in the first place?**

Thank you for raising your concern with our current liability insurance provider. Regarding the possibility of OACETT providing members with a choice of at least two partnership insurance companies, unfortunately there are contractual obligations in order to preserve reduced rates. Also, a single insurance provider ensures uniformity in policy terms and coverage limits. Also, working with one broker and underwriter simplifies administrative processes and provides cost effective group rates. This can result in lower premiums for members. OACETT does regularly tender our affinity partner agreements, but have only just renewed with AON.

- ✚ **I graduated for a three-year program and the technical report can be waived. Last week I passed my PPE. When can I be a C.E.T.?**

Once you have met all your certification requirements, certification changes occur at the beginning of each month.

- ✚ **Going forward, how will C.E.T be more engaged in engineering type jobs that have the P.Eng requirement clause?**

If your question relates to outreach, OACETT is currently working with our government relations firm with outreach to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Red Tape Reduction to discuss the Environmental Protection Act and the definition of "qualified person".

- ✚ **In my observation there is very little CPD available in mechanical engineering discipline. Would OACETT address this issue and maybe provide more discipline related courses and/or events?**

We agree that this is a discipline that requires more options. For 2024, we will look into addressing this issue by exploring options to provide more mechanical discipline-related CPD.

- ✚ **CPD for retired members is expensive. Is there any alternative solution in place to get free CPD for retired members?**

Retired members are exempted from CPD. If retired members want to continue to do CPD, OACETT accepts free courses or online learning from LinkedIn for example.

- ✚ **Perhaps a meeting with AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario), so that they fully understand the professionalism that a CET and C.Tech provides municipalities?**

OACETT will be a sponsor and participate in the 2024 AMO Conference scheduled for Aug 18-21, 2024, in Ottawa. Also, OACETT is currently participating in stakeholder interviews with AMO as part of their Workforce Development Initiative.

- ✚ **What are OACETT's thoughts on PEO's recent changes to their licensing program? In particular, it used to be possible to apply for a P. Eng license with only a technologist diploma and then pass a series of technical exams hosted by PEO. Now this path is not possible. Would OACETT considering interfacing with PEO to make it easier for C.E.T.'s to receive a P. Eng designation? That is, a full P.Eng, not a limited license associated with the L.E.T.**

We regularly meet and consult with PEO and President Mooney actually wrote a letter on behalf of OACETT to PEO, objecting to the elimination of the pathway for the holder of an advanced diploma. However, it is our understanding that even when the pathway was available in theory, it was almost impossible for C.E.T.s to successfully challenge the exams - it would be easier to go back to university and take an engineering degree. PEO has come down pretty firmly on accepting only a Bachelor of Engineering or equivalent and we don't see OACETT being able to influence that in the short or medium term. But we will definitely be focusing on ensuring that the L.E.T. is being administered effectively and also communicated effectively to employers.

- ✚ **Regarding experience needed to get CET, is it possible to have Canadian experience or any foreign experience is okay? I have two years of site coordinator experience back home and 6 months of experience as lab tech in Canada.**

Experience is reviewed by the OACETT Admissions Committee. There is a minimum requirement of two years work experience in order to be certified that can be accepted from anywhere. The committee will indicate if the experience obtained is at a technician or technologist level and will ask for additional work experience if necessary.

- ✚ **For over 60 years old, do they still have to get CPD?**

If you are not a retired member and are an active certified member or a long time associate, then CPD is a mandatory requirement.

- ✚ **Are you able to set Reciprocity partnership with OIQS/CIQS?**

OACETT's Board of Directors will be reviewing our strategic partnerships at the November meeting, so we will ensure that OIQS/CIQS are included in the discussion.

- ✚ **There are positions with CET and C.Tech requirements which the employer ends up hiring P.ENG candidate and this doesn't seem fair.**

We agree that there is a disturbing trend towards "overqualification" in engineering-related occupations. If you are encountering this situation with your employer, you are welcome to reach out to OACETT's CEO, who will contact your employer to communicate the value of the certifications and recognition for the work for which you are qualified.

- ✚ **The Canadian Society of Safety Engineers have had ads in Calgary buses (downtown route) focusing on their certified members and why employers should hire them.**

OACETT was going to embark on a bus and streetcar ad campaign in 2020 but it was canceled due to COVID. This idea will be revisited in 2024 for potential adoption in high-traffic areas near colleges as a form of student recruitment.

- ✚ **Is there any alignment or growth strategies within OACETT to assist with the Ontario governments net zero emission goal? Thinking about training opportunities for members, or other ways OACETT can support. There could be a lot of opportunities.**

The OACETT Board is currently considering emerging trends and we will ensure that the net zero emission goal is added to that list for consideration and discussion.

- ✚ **Is a PQS Diploma recognized by OACETT?**

Yes, it is recognized although there are still other certification requirements that will be required to be an OACETT certified member.

- ✚ **What if we wrote a technical report in college but it was about 6 years ago?**

OACETT will only accept technical reports from 5 years ago or less. A new report would have to be created in this case.

- ✚ **Similar to the LET with PEO, has OACETT had discussions with PGO for a similar designation?**

OACETT's Board of Directors will be reviewing our strategic partnerships at the November meeting, so we will ensure that PGO is included in the discussion.

- ✚ **Does OACETT have any reciprocating agreement in US? Similar technology organization like NICET?**

OACETT does not currently have a reciprocal agreement in place, but it is being explored by Technology Professionals Canada (TPC) on behalf of all the provincial organizations. OACETT will provide an update to members in the event that TPC's outreach is successful.

- ✚ **Will this CPD be added to profile if new members are still in process of appearing in exam for certification? Or we should do all CPD once we complete exam for certification?**

While an associate is working towards certification within your required certification timeline (usually three years) you are not required to do CPD. Once certified, it is a mandatory requirement.

- ✚ **When you have the time to get back to me, I would like some more information on getting 309a electrician/ master electrician from my CTEC certification.**

The Electrical Safety Authority would be the best place to get your answers:
<https://esasafe.com/contractors/get-your-licence/>

- ✚ **Do LinkedIn Learning activities qualify for CPD?**

Yes, they will count towards your CPD requirements.

- ✚ **For CPD, in Category 1 and 2, an informal activity must be 6 hours long. Does 6 one-hour webinars contribute as 1 activity? Or do we need a 6-hours long webinar to be considered as 1 activity?**

6 one-hour webinars will count as 1 activity.

- ✚ **I've attended a number of seminars. What is the best way to translate those seminars into CPD's? When it says a summary, what should be included in that summary?**

We are looking for the amount of time each seminar took. The summary is a general statement on the seminar topic and what was learned by attending.

- ✚ **In the ever-changing regulatory landscape, how do we stay proactive and adaptable to ensure OACETT's interests are effectively represented at the governmental level?**

Through continuous monitoring and analysis of any regulatory changes, with the support of our government relations firm, Counsel Public Affairs, we can continuously monitor legislative and regulatory developments. This helps in anticipating changes that might impact the profession and formulating timely responses. Also, we are engaging actively with several government ministries. This involves not only reacting to changes but also advocating for the creation of favourable policies and ensuring OACETT's voice is heard in relevant discussions and decision-making processes. Finally, OACETT continues to build and maintain strategic partnerships with other organizations and stakeholders that can amplify OACETT's influence. Collaborations can lead to a stronger, unified voice when addressing common regulatory concerns. We have also reached out to our members as subject matter experts in discussions with ministries and standards bodies as seeking this expertise is essential. This grassroots approach ensures that the real-world impacts on technicians and technologists are understood and communicated to policy makers.

✚ Is there anyway OACETT can partner with BCIN to provide courses at reduced costs?

This is a good suggestion, and we will look into this in 2024. Currently a large portion of these optional training programs are being provided by colleges through agreements with the Ministry.

✚ Could the electrical installation code part 1 and part 2 be added to the CSA group package offered to members of OACETT? Currently Only the Electrical safety code is offered for free with the membership.

We will look into this for 2024.

✚ Does OACETT have any plans to increase member benefits which normally are not available through the workplace?

OACETT is constantly conducting market scans to ensure we are providing additional benefit programs for our members. Any suggestions should be forwarded to services@oacett.org.

✚ Do retired members have to pay annual membership?

Yes, retired members are subject to annual membership dues, but they pay a reduced rate of one-third of a regular membership. Please visit <https://www.oacett.org/members-area/retired-members> for eligibility.

✚ As a Student Member, can I write the OACETT certificate exam before I graduate? (I will be graduating next year in April).

Yes, and if you are a student member you will get it at a reduced rate.

✚ Is it compulsory to pay the membership fee even if you don't have work?

Yes, it is compulsory to pay annual membership dues even if you aren't working. However, we have a few programs and services for members who are experiencing financial hardship. If you qualify based on certain income-level tests, you may be eligible for the reduced dues application. Please reach out to services@oacett.org to receive an application. If you do not qualify, you can still reach out to finance@oacett.org to discuss installment plans or payment deferrals.

✚ Regarding moving from C.Tech to CET: If am educated in Canada, do I need to submit a report or it's exempted? And is there a timeline to the validity of this report if I need to submit one?

All members seeking their C.E.T. certification have a mandatory requirement to submit a technology report, though depending on the course of study you took, the program may have included an equivalent report or project that would make you eligible for exemption as long as it was completed within the last five years. If you are not exempt, then submission of a technology report proposal is the

first step. Once the proposal has been approved then you have one year from the date of the proposal approval to submit the report.

✚ Are all the CPD's open to all the collective membership or are they restricted to disciplines?

CPD is open to all members regardless of discipline.

✚ How can you help OACETT Certified Members who have lost their job?

We encourage you to register for and regularly consult OACETT's CTEN job board - <https://www.oacett.org/careers> - you can register there as a job seeker and jobs that fit your profile will be sent your way. OACETT also offers a minimum of three no-cost webinars each year related to job search/career development, so keep an eye on your email for information about upcoming sessions. And we always encourage making use of your local Chapter events as a way to network and let people know that you are looking for a new opportunity.

✚ Once I retire, can I be of any help to OACETT, or I am just retired piece of history?

Often our retired and semi-retired members become OACETT's most active volunteers because they have the time to dedicate. We have opportunities within the Chapters, provincial committees and subcommittees and our Board of Directors. Emails are also regularly sent highlighting these opportunities. As mentioned, next year OACETT is also looking at launching a mentorship program, which will be a great way for our retired and semi-retired members to provide support to newer engineering technicians and technologists.

✚ Does OACETT have a limit age to be a C.E.T.? And can we continue to be C.E.T. after receiving the pension plan with a different annual fee?

OACETT does have a "retired" category of membership at a lower fee which is available to members 55 years of age and over who have been a member for over 10 years and work less than 100 hours a year. Members over 65 do not need the 10 years of membership history. At this time, Retired members can still use their C.E.T., but the Registration and Professional Practice Committee is going to be discussing whether a "retired" suffix or something similar should be added. This is from a public safety perspective as much as anything if a member has potentially not been practicing or keeping their CPD up to date for several years, given that Retired members are also not subject to the mandatory CPD audit. We'll take this opportunity to remind you as well that you have to remain a member of OACETT to be able to keep and use the designation. Members who resign rather than retire are no longer eligible to use the C.E.T. or C.Tech.

✚ Is it possible to provide more CPD approved courses on weekends because it's difficult for me to take them during the week?

While we do provide some weekend course offerings, we can certainly look into offering more. This option many times is dependent on the vendor's availability because most of our sessions are curated

through third parties. We do plan on investigating more asynchronous options in the future that members can take at their own convenience, to increase our flexibility in CPD delivery.