

FOREIGN TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

The Ordre banks on three new tools

Changing countries represents a pivotal turning point in one's life, and the host country can benefit from supporting immigrants even before they leave their own country. The Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (hereafter the "Ordre") takes the necessary measures to provide the coaching needed by foreign trained professionals (FTP) who wish to practice engineering in Québec. Currently in the works are three new tools which are sure to get attention from people throughout the world!

In a first step started in 2008, the Ordre devoted most of its efforts on informing FTPs who had already immigrated and facilitating their integration. Through an agreement with the ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, the Ordre designed training, an online educational software and an interactive process to follow one's application file, in addition to revamping the section of the website intended for FTPs.

The Ordre has since embarked on the next step: preparing three tools which will greatly help FTPs in getting ready even before they leave their home country.

GETTING READY BEFORE LEAVING

Let us first reiterate the relevance and importance of these efforts. A quarter of all professionals who immigrate to Canada are future engineering candidates. In 2010-2011, 30% of applications filed with the Ordre came from FTPs, and this percentage increases each year. Demand from foreign graduates is high, and given that Québec has a great need for new engineers, it is in the best interest of society, the Ordre and the candidates to facilitate their admission.

The three online tools currently being developed will particularly help FTPs better understand what's involved in requesting a permit from the Ordre and prepare themselves accordingly.

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As such, wherever the candidate may be in the world, a FTP will be able to use the future online self-evaluation tool to submit his or her file (type of diplomas, work experience, etc.): the expert system will then analyze the data and provide an estimate of the exams the candidate will have to pass as well as the procedures he or she will have to go through in order to get a permit. If he or she decides to proceed with the application, the Examiners Committee will certainly study the case; however, the preliminary estimation will have helped the FTP analyze the situation and plan his or her course of action.

If the FTP feels at ease with the potential requirements given by the self-evaluation tool, he or she will be able to use the online application for admission. While nowadays the great majority of FTPs wait until they are settled in Québec before applying for admission to the Ordre, this new tool will soon allow them to request a permit before having packed their bags.

Finally, the Ordre will provide FTPs who plan on immigrating with online access to their personal file. Through this file, FTPs will be able to keep track of how their request is progressing, be informed of deadlines and, consequently, avoid missing them. Once in Québec, FTPs who will have followed every step will know exactly what is left to do as well as how to proceed.

Implementing these three tools requires that many practices and processes be reviewed. The Ordre plans on making these tools available during the course of 2013.