

## ENGINEERS FROM OTHER CANADIAN PROVINCES

# How to apply for a permit with the Ordre?

**Canadian engineers are expanding their horizons! Each year, 3,000 of them obtain a permit to practise in a province other than the one in which they normally practise.**

In the fall of 2010, the Québec government adopted a regulation aimed at engineers from other Canadian provinces and territories who wish to become members of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (hereafter "the Ordre") and obtain the right to practise engineering in its territory. Recently, Marc B. Laforge, Eng., complied with the Regulation respecting the legal authorizations to practise the engineering profession outside Québec which give rise to a permit from the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (unofficial translation of the Règlement sur les autorisations légales d'exercer la profession d'ingénieur hors du Québec qui donnent ouverture au permis de l'Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec) in order to get his licence to practise engineering in Québec.

"Being a member of the board of directors and the admissions committee of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick (APEGNB), I was already aware of this regulation. The need to become a member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec became more pressing when the company for which I worked, GEMTEC Ltd., began to carry out projects in Québec. Consequently, I requested my permit last spring."

Mr. Laforge described the process of obtaining a permit from the Ordre as a clear and simple one. "First, I referred to the section on the Web site pertaining to the subject. The information is very well presented. Then, I mailed in my application." In his file, Marc B. Laforge included:

- a duly completed and signed original of the form entitled "Application for permit";
- a recent photograph, signed on the back;
- his original birth certificate, as well as a photocopy;
- an up to date résumé;
- a document showing a knowledge of French, appropriate for practising engineering;
- payment of the costs associated with the application for a permit.

Once it had received the file, the Ordre requested proof from the APEGNB that Mr. Laforge did in fact hold a valid permit to practice and that it was not subjected to any restrictions or limitations. Indeed, an engineer who has the right to practise engineering elsewhere in Canada and who applies for a permit in Québec must hold a permit issued by another Canadian engineers' association.

**KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE**

Incidentally, pursuant to the Charter of the French Language, the Ordre is required to assess every future engineer's skills with respect to the French language. Knowledge of the language is deemed appropriate if the applicant complies with one of the following conditions:

- having completed, on a full time basis, at least three years of education equivalent to secondary (high school) or postsecondary education in French;
- having successfully passed the French as a first language ("Français, langue maternelle") examinations given during secondary four or five;
- having obtained a Québec high school diploma from a French institution? ("certificat d'études secondaires") during or after the 1985-1986 school year.

The applicant must provide a copy of all transcripts evidencing such compliance. Otherwise, he or she will have to obtain a certificate issued by the Office québécois de la langue française. As for Mr. Laforge, he submitted his transcripts from Moncton University, where he completed his bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

**THE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION**

"A representative of the Ordre then contacted me to tell me about the professional examination I had to take", says Mr. Laforge.

Québec being under in a distinctive legal jurisdiction compared to other provinces, Canadian engineers who wish to obtain a permit from the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec must demonstrate their knowledge of the laws and regulations that govern engineering in Québec. Thus, the Ordre requires that applicants pass the sections of the professional examination pertaining to the professional system and legal environment in Québec (sections 1 and 3 respectively).

"Engineers who work with me have obtained permits from other provinces without having to take such tests, but I completely understand the relevance of this exam, and reviewing the material in question is not very time consuming", points out the new member of the Ordre.

"I could have waited until an exam session was offered in Rimouski, a city close to my home, but I went to Montréal where I was able to take the exam earlier." Examining a candidate's file normally takes four to eight weeks. Mr. Laforge received his permit in a mere six weeks and he is now a member in good standing of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec.