PEO COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE – WEEK OF March 23, 2009

Here is the weekly PEO updated of Brown & Cohen activities for the PEO Government Liaison Program for the week of March 23, 2009

EVENTS ATTENDED/HELD:

- At the invitation of Finance Minister Dwight Duncan MPP, was a guest in the Public Gallery at Queen's Park for the introduction of the 2009 Ontario Budget. Also received invitation to post-Budget reception. Had discussions with many Ministers and MPPs on PEOs Government Liaison Program, upcoming events and other issues including Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa on the Mississauga Chapter June Town Hall meeting.

- At the invitation of PEO Algoma Chapter Alvin Olar, P.Eng., spoke at the Annual Meeting with David Orazietti, MPP (Sault Ste. Marie), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education.. Mr. Orazietti had great things to say about PEO and invited PEO to speak at the hearings for the Green Energy Act. This was his first PEO event and he said he would be pleased to participate in the future. Thanks to Mr. Olar for his hospitality and PEO Chapter Manager Matthew Ng, P. Eng for his help with arrangements and materials

- At the invitation of Chapter Chair Mark Haynes P.Eng, participated in the PEO Simcoe Muskoka Chapter Annual General Meeting, License Certificate ceremony and a lovely dinner at the Canadian Forces Base in Borden. Had discussions with Norm Miller MPP (Parry Sound-Muskoka) about PEO's Government Liaison Program, and PEO's plan to have 11 engineers in the 2011 legislature and the upcoming Progressive Conservative leadership race. Mr. Miller's father Frank was a Chemical Engineer and a former Premier. He told the audience that his late father was as proud of being an engineer as he was being Premier. The meeting was also attended by PEO Councillors Corneliu Chisu, P. Eng and Denis Carlos, P. Eng as well as Scarborough Chapter Vice-chair Madu Suthanan, P. Eng. Had discussions prior to the event with Culture Minister Aileen Carroll MPP (Barrie) who asked me to bring greetings to the Chapter for her. Her father was an Engineer.

- At the invitation of PEO Student Liaison Coordinator Manoj Choudhary P.Eng and Nishit Shah, a student at the University of Toronto, participated in seminar by PEO Student Club and spoke about the Green Energy Act to 30 student engineers.

- Attended first Policy Engagement Series luncheon at Queen's Park entitled "Smart Ways to Spend Infrastructure Dollars" put on by Donald Wallace and the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy. David Zimmer, MPP (Willowdale), Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General spoke briefly about the Centre to a crowd of more than 50 industry experts and government officials. PEO CEO/Registrar Kim Allen, P. Eng and Engineering Dimension Associate Editor Mike Mastromatteo also participated.

- With PEO CEO/Registrar Kim Allen, P. Eng, Brown & Cohen Account Coordinator Kendra Dubyk participated in a Fundraising Reception for David Zimmer, MPP (Willowdale), Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General with Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure George Smitherman MPP. Had discussions with the Minister on PEO issues including the National Framework for Membership and Licensure.

- − . Participated in a fundraising reception with Labour Minister Peter Fonseca MPP (Mississauga-Erindale) in Mississauga for the Halton Provincial Liberal Association. Had discussions with the Minister and his staff on current issues before the Legislative. Minister Fonseca has been very supportive of PEO.

- − . Participated in a Fundraising reception with Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure George Smitherman MPP. Spoke at length about the new Green Energy Act. Advised the Minister that I would be speaking the next evening to a number of his constituents at the University of Toronto Engineering school on the Green Energy Act. Also had discussions with former Energy Minister Lyn McLeod at the event.

- Participated with Nanda Lwin, P. Eng, past Government Liaison Program chair for the Willowdale/Thornhill chapter in the Willowdale Federal Liberal Association Annual meeting with Martha Hall Findlay MP, (Willowdale).

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- Confirmed participation of PEO President David Adams, P. Eng and PEO CEO Registrar Kim Allen, P. Eng at the April 1st Federal Liberal Ontario caucus meeting on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to discuss the National Framework for Membership and Licensure.

- Worked with Donald Wallace, Executive Director of the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy on finalizing additional speakers for his May 8 Policy Conference

- Had discussions with Laurel Craib, Manager, Government Relations for Engineers Canada on encouraging more Ontario Engineers to attend the National Engineering Summit May 19 to 21 in Montreal.

- Had email correspondence with Mississauga Chapter Chair Pappur Shankar P.Eng and Galal Abdelmessih, P. Eng regarding inviting Energy and Infrastructure Minister George Smitherman MPP (Toronto Centre) to the June Town Hall Meeting.

- PEO CEO and Registrar Kim Allen has been invited to be a guest speaker at Today's Challenges: Self-Regulation and Volunteer Management, put on by Professional Associations Research Network (PARN). The June conference focuses on the recent government incursion into regulatory bodies in Ontario raises questions about the Canadian bodies' right to self-regulate.

MPP EVENTS:

- John Gray, Mayor of Oshawa & Honourable Chris Bentley, Attorney General, Government of Ontario. Thursday, April 2nd, 7:30 am – 9:00 am at the Best Western Inn

and Conference Centre. 559 Bloor Street West, Oshawa. Tickets are $49 each. Register online at www.economicclub.ca .

- April 3rd, 2009 from 8 am to 5 pm at the North York Civic Centre. Human Rights and Sri Lanka Conference which is organized by the Canadian Human Rights Voice (CHRV). CHRV is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, and an independent organization committed to the protection and promotion of Human Rights. At the conference, the keynote speakers are the Hon. Bob Rae, MP, George Smitherman, MPP, Barbara Hall, Chair of the Ontario Human Rights Commission and other international acclaimed scholars on human rights and Sri Lanka.

- On April 8th, the Hon. Dwight Duncan will be the guest of honour at an evening reception in support of Ted McMeekin and the Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale Provincial Liberal Association. This will be one of Minister Duncan's first events, following his 2009 budget. Labatt House (207 Queen's Quay, Suite 209, Toronto) from 6pm to 8pm.

- On May 9th, Research and Innovation Minister John Wilkinson MPP (Perth-Wellington) has invited PEO members (who are not attending the PEO AGM) to participate in an afternoon and event in his riding at the Stratford Festival with Premier Dalton McGuinty. It includes the play 'West Side story' and dinner.