

PEO COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE – WEEK OF August 24, 2009

Here is the Brown & Cohen update for the week of August 24:

GOVERNMENT/MPP BRIEFINGS

- As part of the ongoing effort to introduce both the PEO Government Liaison Program and the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy to Government officials, OCEPP Executive Director Donald Wallace and I had an excellent meeting with the Deputy Minister of Transportation Bruce McCuaig, Director and Chief Engineer Provincial Highway Management (PHM) Gerry Chaput P.Eng., and Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Highway Management (PHM) Brian Gaston. They were very interested in PEOs program and in partnering with OCEPP initiatives.

EVENTS ATTENDED

- Met at the Mississauga Central Library with PEO Mississauga Chapter representatives, GLP Chair Galal Abdelmessih, P. Eng., Chapter Chair Pappur Shankar, P.Eng., Past GLP Chair Tapas Das, P. Eng and PEO Councillors Phil Maka, P.Eng., and Colin Moore, P.Eng. Had positive discussions on a town hall meeting. They are going to work with the Brampton Chapter on a joint town hall meeting in October.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Finalized a 1500 word article for the Journal for Policy Engagement on the success of the Algoma PEO Chapter submission to the Legislative hearings on the Green Energy and the Green Economy Act. Had discussion with Algoma Chapter Chair Alvin Olar, P. Eng to confirm details.
- Continued to work on a speech on getting engineers involved in public life for the Engineering Arts Symposium at the University of Windsor on September 4. Confirmed plans to participate in the conference on September 3 and 4. See <http://web4.uwindsor.ca/units/ctl/main.nsf/main/9236584E58C6114D85257610006EC9B?OpenDocument>
- Called over 50 MPPs to confirm their participation in the September 16th PEO Queen's Park MPP reception. To date over 15 MPPs have confirmed their attendance including Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure George Smitherman MPP (Toronto Centre), Laura Albanese MPP (York South--Weston), Bas Balkissoon MPP (Scarborough--Rouge River), Minister of Health Promotion Margaret Best MPP (Scarborough--Guildwood), Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield MPP, (Etobicoke Centre), Bob Delaney MPP (Mississauga--Streetsville), Joe Dickson MPP (Ajax--Pickering), Linda Jeffrey MPP (Brampton--Springdale), Dr. Kuldip Kular (Bramalea--Gore--Malton), Sophia Aggelonitis MPP (Hamilton-Mountain), Wayne Arthurs MPP (Pickering--Scarborough East), Mike Colle MPP (Eglinton--Lawrence), Kevin Flynn MPP (Oakville), David Zimmer MPP (Willowdale), Sylvia Jones MPP (Dufferin--Caledon) and Paul Miller MPP (Hamilton--Stoney Creek).
- At the request of PEO CEO/Registrar Kim Allen P.Eng, worked with Donald Wallace, on six policy position papers written by Engineers Canada.

- Had brief telephone discussion with PEO Councillor David Euler, P. Eng regarding the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy. Mr. Euler is looking forward to receiving the briefing paper on the plans for the centre.
- Had phone and email discussion with PEO Chapter Coordinator Marisa Sterling, P. Eng about conversations she had this week at the Canadian National Exhibition Association (CNE) VIP dinner with Revenue Minister John Wilkinson MPP (Perth-Wellington) and Helena Jaczek MPP (Oak Ridges Markham), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health Promotion. Ms. Sterling, who is a CNE Citizen Member and Director, spoke about PEO's goal for 11 Engineers in the 2011 Legislature. Both are familiar with the plan from previous work with PEO's Government Liaison Program.
- Confirmed plans for an update meeting with PEO President Catherine Karakatsanis P.Eng will take place on either September 14 or 21. We are working to finalize the date.
- Received invitation from West Toronto Chapter Chair Georg Kralik P.Eng., to help with a Chapter meeting looking at Engineering and Public Policy on September 23, 2009. Donald Wallace will be speaking at the event and the chapter has asked for help finding an MPP to attend.

NEW MPP EVENTS:

All donations to MPP fundraisers are eligible for a tax credit of up to 75 per cent on the first \$400.

All political fundraising donations are subject to a tax credit refund of up to 75 per cent on the first \$400 annually both federally and provincially.

- Fundraising reception for Peter Shurman, M.P.P. (Thornhill) with guest speaker, Tony Clement MP, Canada's Minister of Industry Hosted by the Thornhill Provincial PC Riding Association on September 24 from 6:30-8:30 pm at The Paradise Banquet Hall, 7601 Jane Street, Concord. Tickets are \$180 from Gila Martow at (416) 804-7360, e-mail: gila.martow@rogers.com .
- For those not attending the PEO Queen's Park MPP reception on September 16, Lou Rinaldi MPP (Northumberland Quinte West) is having a fundraising reception with Finance Minister Dwight Duncan MPP at Labatt House, 299 Queen's Quay West. Tickets are \$200 and available from Darlene Warner at 416-899-3996. or by email at dwarner@liberal.ola.org
- There will be a lunch with former Reform Party leader and current President & CEO of Manning Centre for Building Democracy, Preston Manning hosted by the Empire Club of Canada on September 10, 2009 at 12 p.m at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. For tickets, visit www.empireclub.org or call 416.364.2878. Tickets are \$65/50 for members.
- The Leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party Tim Hudak, MPP (Niagara West-Glanbrook) will speak at the Economic Club of Canada on Wednesday September 9, 2009 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Marriot Eaton Centre, 525 Bay Street. For more information please www.economicclub.ca or call 416.306.0899. Tickets are \$79.
- Received invitation to the Ontario Centres of Excellence's Annual General Meeting(AGM) on September 22nd, 2009 from 5 to 7:30 pm at the Design Exchange, 234 Bay Street, 2nd Floor, Trading Room, Toronto, ON.