



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (GLC)

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 6:00pm – 9:00pm (Dinner: 6pm, Meeting: 7pm)**

**Location: PEO HQ, 40 Sheppard Ave W, Toronto, Room 8A**

**Teleconference Dial In: 1.866.512.0904 Access code: 8804517#**

Chair:	Darla Campbell, P.Eng.	P.Eng. active in a Riding Association
Vice chair:	Gabe Tse, P.Eng.	GLP Chair
Members:	Michael Chan, P.Eng.	Advisory Committee – Volunteers
	Charles Kidd, P.Eng.	Regional Councillors Committee
	Bill Allison, P.Eng.	Consulting Engineers Ontario (CEO)
	Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng.	LGA Councillor
	Daniel King, EIT	EIT representative
Staff Advisor:	Jeannette Chau, P.Eng.	PEO Manager, Student and Government Liaison Programs
Ex-Officio:	Howard Brown	PEO Government Relations Consultant, Brown & Cohen
Regrets:	Hafiz Bashir, P.Eng.	GLP Chair
	Jonathan Hack, P.Eng.	Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE)
	Angel Serah	Student representative
	Rakesh Shreewastav, P.Eng.	Engineers Canada BG&E Representative
	Rick Hilton, P.Eng.	LGA Councillor

### 1. Call to Order

Darla Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Gabe Tse was selected as the meeting evaluator.

### 2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Daniel King motioned to approve the Agenda. Charles Kidd seconded the motion. All approved.

Bill Allison motioned to approve the Jan 19, 2016 Minutes. Gabe Tse seconded the motion. All approved.

Bill Allison motioned to approve the Feb 16, 2016 Notes. Daniel King seconded the motion. All approved.

Michael Chan motioned to approve the Mar 22, 2016 Minutes. Bill Allison seconded the motion. All approved.

### 3. Presentation and Discussion with Bob Dony, Legislation Committee

Bob Dony, Chair of the PEO Legislation Committee, gave a presentation about the committee to the GLC. Darla Campbell asked how the GLC can assist the Legislation committee. Bob replied that at the moment they are just working through their changes with the Attorney General and don't have any political issues that require assistance.

## 4. Partner reports

### CEO (Bill Allison)

#### Bill 186 – *An Act to establish the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan*

- Associate Minister of Finance, Mitzie Hunter, tabled the government's legislation that will create the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) on Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup>
- CEO is reviewing the legislation to stay abreast of the contents and nature of the plan and will follow the bill through the legislative process

#### Political fundraising and campaign finance reform

- CEO is following this issue in the lead-up to the government tabling legislation on this issue before the end of the current legislative session in early June
- Opposition parties are working together to try and force the government to reform political donations and campaign finance through a more public and independent process
- It is expected that the government will get this legislation to the consultation phase by the end of the current legislative session in order to engage the public and other stakeholders over the summer legislative recess

#### CEO Queen's Park Day

- Nothing new to report – work continues
- CEO's second annual Queen's Park Lobby Day is taking place Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>
- The program for the day is in development and will include meetings with MPPs and staff as well as an evening reception

#### Independent Review of the *Construction Lien Act & Prompt Payment*

- Nothing new to report – work continues
- The review is completing the report writing stage and will be submitted to government April 30<sup>th</sup>
- CEO has secured Review Counsel, Bruce Reynolds, as luncheon keynote speaker at its AGM Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the review and recommendations

#### Bill 6 – *The Infrastructure for Jobs & Prosperity Act*

- Nothing new to report – work continues
- CEO continues to work with the government of Ontario to further define specific elements of this framework legislation

#### Municipal Class Environmental Assessment System Reform

- Nothing new to report – work continues
- CEO is soliciting input from members to provide advice to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- The municipal class environmental assessment process is currently delays projects 28 months, interfering with the province's infrastructure investment plans
- CEO will provide Minister's staff with recommendations to streamline the process and clear the current backlog

#### Litigation Exclusion

- Nothing new to report – work continues

- CEO members are noting an increasing trend of municipalities and regional governments using litigation exclusion policies to try and manage risk
- Concern is growing that this is becoming more of a punitive tool rather than risk mitigation policy
- Members are ineligible to respond to RFQs & RFPs if in any way involved in a litigation with a growing number of municipalities or regional governments
- CEO will be pursuing this issue at the provincial and municipal level

#### **Municipal Engineers Association/Consulting Engineers of Ontario Standard Agreement**

- Nothing new to report – work continues
- CEO has worked with MEA to update the standard agreement for engineering services
- A marketing plan for the renewed agreement is in development that will drive municipal engagement once complete

#### **City of Toronto – Broader Construction Association Consultation Group**

- Nothing new to report
- CEO remains an active member of this consultative body working with City staff to address infrastructure policies and delivery

#### **OSPE (Jonathan Hack)**

The following report was submitted to the GLC via email.

##### **General:**

OSPE elections will close on April 15<sup>th</sup> for the election of 4 new board members. The AGM has been scheduled at the Novotel in North York for May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Michael Monette will become the new chair of OSPE in May, succeeding Karen Chan. Danny Young and Claire Morris are leaving the board, as is Karen Chan. Jonathan Hack (me) is up for re-election.

##### **OSPE activity in advocacy / government affairs:**

To ensure that the GLC is informed of our primary advocacy activities – I am listing them according to the 7 areas of focus.

1. **Energy:** Ontario needs a reliable, environmentally responsible and affordable energy supply. OSPE has made recommendations on a 'smart' electricity price plan, and continues to work with the government and industry to encourage investments in smart energy technology.
2. **Engineering labour market:** Based on OSPE's research – 33% of engineering degree holders are working in jobs that do not make use of their degree. OSPE wants to create more job opportunities for engineers. Focus is on mentoring for new graduates, newcomers to Canada, and seasoned professionals. We have an active program to help graduate engineers with their P.Eng courses, and an active job board that continues to grow. Recently we entered a partnership with Ranstad on job postings for engineers.
3. **Environment and Climate Change:** Climate change is a reality and engineers are critical to alleviating its effects. OSPE believes Ontario needs to implement a comprehensive range of carbon emission reduction policies and programs that span all ministries and agencies. OSPE has provided input on cap-and-trade, transportation, and green buildings initiatives to government. OSPE continues to work to ensure that the engineering voice is heard on these critical issues – by insisting on representation in the working groups.
4. **Infrastructure:** OSPE believes that engineers are essential to the development of infrastructure that is safe, reliable and affordable. OSPE supports the government of Ontario's \$130B in infrastructure investment to fund roads, bridges, transportation transit, health centres and educational institutions.

5. **Research and Innovation:** OSPE believes that engineers are at the forefront of inventing new technologies and products. OSPE is striving to identify and link engineering entrepreneurs and innovators to funding sources. We have initiated a pilot program with the Ottawa chapter that has met with enthusiasm for additional funding. We are investigating alternative government funding sources to support this in collaboration with other partners. We hope to eventually bring the program to other jurisdictions in Ontario.
6. **Ring of Fire:** OSPE believes that the Ring of Fire provides the potential to unlock significant development potential in Ontario's north. OSPE believes that government should invest on an upfront basis in the infrastructure required to secure the needed investments in this project. We have recently met with FedNor to discuss mutual areas of cooperation with them.
7. **Women in Engineering:** OSPE continues to work towards a more progressive and diverse engineering profession. Currently only 18% of the graduates from Canadian engineering programs are female – and only 10% of the P.Eng holders in Ontario are female. OSPE is currently working on a mentorship program that will help to mentor young women in the engineering profession that is funded by Status of Women - Canada.

### **ESSCO (Serah Angel)**

- Conestoga College is hosting ESSCO's Annual General Meeting at the end of May so they have been preparing for that with support from ESSCO executives and council members.
- Most member schools had their Eng Soc executive elections this month or last, so the new VP Externals have been attending ESSCO teleconferences and will be transitioned at AGM in May.

### **Engineers Canada**

- The Engineers Canada representative was not present. Jeannette Chau provided an update. The Engineers Canada BG&E committee held a meeting in April and they are following up with any questions that were posed from the MP meetings that were held in March.

## **5. Sub-committee Reports**

### **Regulatory Issues sub-committee**

- No new issues. The sub-committee brainstormed possible topics for the GLC conference at their last meeting.

### **GLP Chair Engagement sub-committee**

- A GLP chair call was held on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Take your MPP to Work Days were discussed.
- The next quarterly call will be targeted for June.

### **Take Your MPP to Work Day**

- Some chapters are concerned that they are not able to hold a Take Your MPP to Work Day because they didn't know of a company that could host it. Darla will ask Hafiz Bashir to follow up with the chapters at the next GLP chair call.
- Gila Martow MPP is interested in attending a Take Your MPP to Work Day. Willowdale chapter has been informed.

### **GLC Conference and Queen's Park Day**

- Hart House has been booked as the venue. It is adjacent to Queen's Park.
- Suggestions - panel session with Associations that have both regulatory and advocacy and how they work together.
- Breakouts/Workshops – how PEO GLP and OSPE PAN can work together
- Engineers Want In Part 2
- Conference to be used as training with material that they can use afterwards
- Look externally. How can we as a government liaison program, affect issues that government is dealing with
- Theme should reflect the joint nature of OSPE and PEO working together

### **6. Operational Plan Review**

Darla Campbell reviewed the GLC Operational Plan and the status of the various items. We are on track.

### **7. Strategy - Industrial Exception workplan**

The Industrial Exception workplan was reviewed. Additional activities have been actioned. Meetings were held with Andrea Horwath, Leader of the NDP and Marie-France Lalonde, MPP. A response to Minister of Labour Kevin Flynn, MPP Order Paper Question response that was given to Vic Fedeli. Comment that accessibility of MPPs at Queen's Park when go for lunch.

### **8. Regulatory Issues update**

The committee is asked to review the recommendations from the PARN report.

### **9. GLP Engagement: Measuring what we do**

Darla will develop some items for the next meeting. Michael Chan offered to help with measures.

**Action: Darla Campbell to develop some GLP Engagement measurements for the next meeting.**

### **10. Regulatory Issues update and discussion (article)**

OSPE article reviewed. Suggestion was made that it could be possibly reviewed at the GLC conference.

### **11. Other business**

There is a PEO Leadership Workshop on April 29. GLC is allocated two spots to it. Darla cannot attend. Gabe Tse will attend. If anyone would like to attend, they are to let Darla know.

### **12. Meeting evaluation**

Gabe Tse provided an evaluation of the meeting to the committee.

**13. Next meeting and adjournment**

The next GLC meeting will be via teleconference on Tuesday May 17, 2016, 4:30pm-6:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.