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2020

## PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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Issue 11

### PREMIER ORDERS NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES TO CLOSE IN ONTARIO



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) made an announcement on March 23, which ordered all non-essential businesses to close across Ontario. In response to the growing spread of the coronavirus, PEO closed their head office and instructed employees to work remotely. For more on this story, see page 4.

Through the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO governs over 89,000 licence and certificate holders, and regulates and advances engineering practice in Ontario to protect the public interest. Professional engineering safeguards life, health, property, economic interests, the public welfare and the environment.

Past issues are available on the PEO Government Liaison Program (GLP) website at <https://www.peo.on.ca/index.php/about-peo/glp-weekly-newsletter>

\* Deadline for submissions is the Thursday of the week prior to publication. The next issue will be published on April 3, 2020.

## TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. PEO COUNCIL APPROVES GLP BUDGET AND MOVES AGM ONLINE
2. PEO PRESIDENT AND FORMER COUNCILLOR NOMINATED AS ENGINEERS CANADA DIRECTORS
3. PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES VALUE OF THE GLP

## PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM (GLP)

The Government Liaison Committee (GLC) has oversight of the Government Liaison Program (GLP). In its 11 year history, the GLC has had four Chairs. The current Chair is West Central Region Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng. In this week's issue, he elaborates on the work of the GLP and links his first hand experiences to explain why the GLP is so important.

## QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

### SCALED BACK ECONOMIC STATEMENT RELEASED



Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax) released a scaled back economic statement on March 25.

Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax) was going to release a Spring Budget on March 25.

Due to COVID—19, Minister Phillips has instead presented Ontarians with a scaled back economic statement.

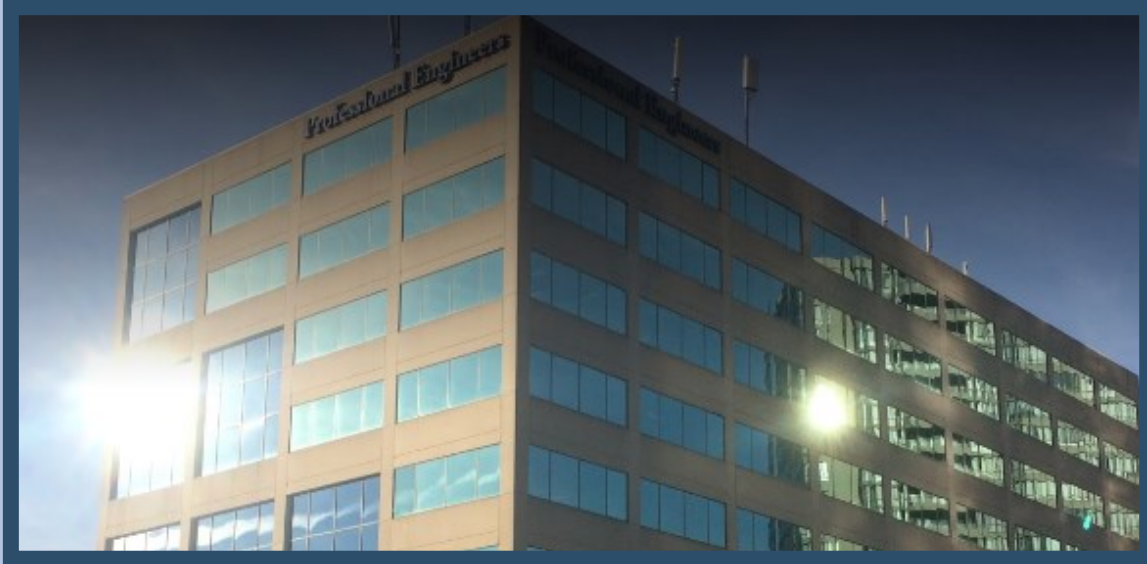
Minister Phillips unveiled the Ontario's \$17 billion action plan to help ease the financial burden on Ontarians amid the COVID—19 crisis.

Funds will be allocated towards health care resources, support for businesses and a contingency fund.

Minister Phillips said, "As Finance Minister, my number one priority right now is ensuring that our front-line health care professionals have the resources they need to fight COVID—19."

To read his full economic statement, click [here](#).

# PEO COUNCIL APPROVES GLP BUDGET AND MOVES AGM ONLINE



PEO Headquarters in Toronto.

PEO held its 532nd Council meeting on March 20 via teleconference.

A few of the items discussed included:

- PEO's COVID—19 response
- Registrar's Report with an Operational Review/Action related to the Activity Filter
- Online Professional Practice Examination (PPE)
- Succession Planning Task Force Final Report
- Emerging Disciplines Task Force Review
- Guidance Document for Member Submissions to the PEO AGM
- Restoring funding to the GLP budget

A Motion was brought forward by PEO West Central Region Councillor and Government Liaison Committee Chair (GLC) **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., which read:

"That Council restore funding to the PEO GLP budget, to enable the GLC to meet its mandate."

Council voted 14 to 5 to pass this motion.

In 2019, PEO Council had voted to impose a one year reduction of \$35,000 for the PEO GLP budget.

PEO Council also voted to move their Annual General Meeting (which was scheduled to be held on April 25 in Ottawa) to an online format.

### PREMIER ORDERS NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES TO CLOSE IN ONTARIO



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) held a press conference on March 23 to announce the immediate closure of all non-essential services in the province of Ontario, in order to prevent the spread of COVID—19.

Both Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** and Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) have held daily press conferences to discuss the ways to prevent the spread of COVID—19.

On March 23, the Premier announced the immediate shut down of all non-essential businesses.

Many industries that are considered essential services, will continue to remain open.

To read the full list of essential services, click [here](#).

One of the industries is Environmental Services, which specifically references professional engineers, Additionally, the Ontario government has asked Ontarians to continue 'social distancing' and avoid crowds of more than 50 people.

Last week, PEO decided to close down their head office and instructed their staff to work from home. As well, PEO will not be hosting and/or participating in any in-person events in the foreseeable future.



### PEO PRESIDENT AND FORMER COUNCILLOR NOMINATED AS ENGINEERS CANADA DIRECTORS



PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., has been elected to the 2020–2021 Engineers Canada Board.



**Danny Chui**, P.Eng., has been re-elected to serve on the 2020–2021 Engineers Canada Board.

PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., has been nominated to serve on the 2020—2021 Board for Engineers Canada.

Former PEO Councillor **Danny Chui**, P.Eng., was nominated for his second term.

Other directors of Engineers Canada for Ontario are:

- PEO Vice– President **Christian Bellini**, P.Eng.
- Former PEO Councillor **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng.
- Former PEO Councillor **Kelly Reid**, P.Eng.

Ms. Hill will be replacing former PEO President **Annette Bergeron**, P.Eng.

Congratulations to Ms. Hill and Mr. Chui.

For a full list of all the Engineers Canada Directors by province, click [here](#).

The nominations are still pending approval by Engineers Canada.

### PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES VALUE OF THE GLP



This photo is from a Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Face to Face meeting in August 2019. In the photo are PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng. (left) and West Central Region Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng. (right), who is the Chair of the Government Liaison Committee.

Here is an excerpt from an interview with PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Chair and West Central Region Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng.:

**1) What is your experience in dealing with the political process?**

I have had experience with the political process from both sides of it including trying to get elected and dealing with elected officials. I have won elections running for the President of the Glen Abbey Residents Association, PEO Oakville Chapter Chair, PEO West Central Region Councillor and Director of Halton Condo Corporation 83.

When I led the Residents Association, it became apparent that the more voices were raised on any particular issue, the more attention it would get from our elected representatives and the more likely it was to be resolved in your favour. The same holds true when PEO is discussing our regulatory role in the public interest with MPPs. We need a well-trained GLP representative in every riding who can talk to the MPPs. With our input on existing regulations,, or hopefully even more so on pending regulations, we can ensure that changes are made in such a way that PEO continues to self-regulate in the public interest. If we are working with all MPPs, we will be visible and asked to be present at the table when new regulations affecting the profession are being drafted. If just PEO personnel at head office are working with only a few bureaucrats, and these bureaucrats are transferred or terminated, our links with the government no longer exist.

### PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES VALUE OF THE GLP

#### 2) Why did you decide to join the GLC?

I have always had a very strong and keen interest in Government Liaison and community outreach.

I have always believed that it is very important for MPPs and the public to be aware of the work that professional engineers do and how PEO ensures that this work is done in the public interest.

#### 3) What do you think are the biggest challenges of the GLP ?

I believe the biggest challenge the GLP program and consequently the GLC faces now is ensuring its own survival within PEO.

Some believe that based on the results of the Activity Filter, government liaison is not regulatory. But I believe, and think most of Council believe, that it should be deemed governance related.

PEO has a mandate to always operate in the public interest.

Ongoing discussions with government are necessary to ensure that when the time comes to amend the *Professional Engineers Act*, we have the relationships necessary to get the job done.

Some have suggested that the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) should be doing all the government liaison work for the profession.

However, OSPE is an advocate for their members, and their positions may not always reflect the public interest.

#### 4) What do your think are the biggest opportunities for the GLP?

Before the findings of the Cayton Report were released, the GLC had assembled a Task Force to work on the Chapter GLP Representative selection, training and succession.

This was in preparation of increasing the number of GLP representatives to one for all 124 MPPs.

It will include upgraded training for all GLP representatives to ensure a consistent message is delivered and succession planning as representatives move on.

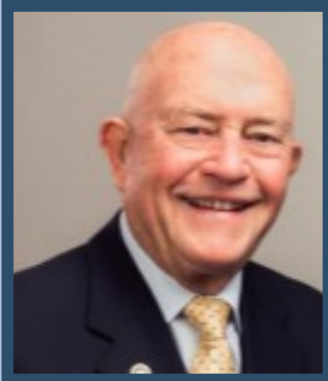
These are currently chapter positions and a joint selection process needs to be developed.

We believe that if we can move forward with this approach, we will have a very effective Government Liaison program. The challenge will be to ensure that we stay relevant as the self--regulator of the engineering profession and that the government and the public recognize that we are doing so in their interest.



PEO West Central Region  
Councillor and GLC Chair  
**Warren Turnbull, P.Eng.**

## GLP TRIVIA CONTEST



Ron Starr, P.Eng., is the winner of the last GLP Trivia contest.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mississauga City Councillor **Ron Starr**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

**Question:** Who is PEO's President—Elect?

**Answer:** Christian Bellini, P.Eng.

**This week's question:** Which PEO Councillor was interviewed this week on the value of the GLP?

**Join the Contest:** Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to **Jeannette Chau** at [ichau@peo.on.ca](mailto:ichau@peo.on.ca) by Monday, March 30. **You may only win once in a four-week span.**

## STAYING IN TOUCH WITH MPPs

At this time, GLP Weekly will no longer share a list of upcoming events, in order to encourage members to practice social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID—19.

This does not mean PEO licence holders will no longer have opportunities to engage with MPPs that they have built relationships with.

Licence holders can use this time to follow what MPPs are doing via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and other regular and social media.

Some MPPs are hosting online town halls to hear from their constituents.

If your MPP is hosting one, this would be a good way to stay current on ongoing issues in the riding and the province.

