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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) announced that the province would be extending its state of emergency for another two weeks, due to the COVID—19 crisis. With the Premier in the photo are Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax) and Deputy Premier and Health Minister **Christine Elliott**, MPP (Newmarket—Aurora).

To read the official announcement, click [here](#).

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. There will be no issue on April 10 due to the shortened holiday week. The next issue will be published on April 17, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. TWO NEW LGAs APPOINTED TO PEO COUNCIL FROM NORTHERN ONTARIO
2. MINISTER HOSTS ONLINE TOWN HALL FROM OTTAWA
3. NDP LEADER HOSTS HAMILTON ONLINE ROUNDTABLE
4. PEO GLC MEMBER DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING MPP RELATIONSHIPS

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM (GLP)

During the COVID—19 crisis, it is important to stay connected in every way possible. Be it keeping up with the Ontario government's updates regarding the pandemic, calling in to teleconferences hosted by your local MPP, or staying up to date with PEO News. The GLP Weekly is a great way to receive a brief overview of Queen's Park and PEO related news.

MPP NEWS

MISSISSAUGA MPP ON THE FRONTLINE OF COVID—19



Natalia Kusendova, MPP (Mississauga Centre) is helping health—care workers at Etobicoke General Hospital amid the COVID—19 crisis.

(MISSISSAUGA) - **Natalia Kusendova**, MPP (Mississauga Centre) has been doing her part in helping Ontario combat the COVID—19 crisis.

In addition to being an MPP, she is also a registered nurse, and regularly does shifts at a local hospital.

She recently signed up for three 12 hour shifts at Etobicoke General Hospital to help health care workers who are dealing with the large amounts of patients.

MPP Kusendova used her first hand experience with the crisis to provide suggestions to the Premier, including creating a hotline for front-line staff to report shortages of equipment.

She said "I do see myself as playing the role of that front-line health-care worker and being their voice in the legislature."

For the full story, shared by CBC News, click [here](#).

PEO's Manager of Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., and Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** had the chance to speak with MPP Kusendova at an event in Mississauga on [February 4](#).

TWO NEW LGAs APPOINTED TO PEO COUNCIL FROM NORTHERN ONTARIO



Todd Bruyere, P.Eng.



Andy William Dryland, C.E.T.

Two new Councillors have been appointed by the Ontario government to serve on PEO Council, both from Northern Ontario.

They are:

- **Todd Bruyere, P.Eng.**, who is from Fort Frances, ON
- **Andy William Dryland, C.E.T.**, who is from Sudbury, ON

Mr. Bruyere is a member of the Couchiching First Nation in Northwestern Ontario.

After graduating from the University of Manitoba with a Civil Engineering degree, he began working at Public Works Canada's Dedicated Unit (DIAND) as a Project Manager, working alongside the Department of Indian Affairs Canada.

He then worked as a Tribunal Engineer for Matawa First Nations Management for 17 years.

Following this, Mr. Bruyere started his own company, Saulteaux Consulting and Engineering. He is a founding board member of the Canadian Aboriginal Science and Engineering Society.

Mr. Dryland is a Senior Technologist and Associate of R.V. Anderson Associated Limited.

He is involved with several multi-discipline projects in the mechanical, electrical, SCADA and process works for both water and waste water plants.

TELECONFERENCES WITH MPPs

MINISTER HOSTS ONLINE TOWN HALL FROM OTTAWA



Lisa MacLeod, MPP (Nepean), Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries hosted a teleconference town hall on March 27.

(OTTAWA) - **Lisa MacLeod**, MPP (Nepean), Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries hosted a teleconference town hall for her constituents on March 27.

Minister MacLeod addresses the economic impact that COVID—19 has had on the community. She spoke about ways her constituents can stay informed on updates from the government and health care specialists. Joining her for the teleconference were:

- **Dr. Andrew Falconer**, President and CEO, Queensway Carleton Hospital
- **Dr. Vera Etches**, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Ottawa Public Health

To listen to the entire townhall live stream, click [here](#).

PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** was with Minister MacLeod at the Premier's Dinner on March 5, which was held prior to the Ontario government shutdown.

TELECONFERENCES WITH MPPs

NDP LEADER HOSTS HAMILTON ONLINE ROUNDTABLE

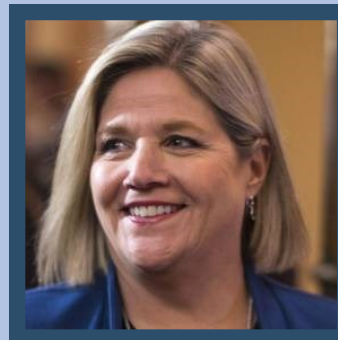
(HAMILTON) - NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre) hosted an online roundtable for Ontarians on March 31.

She held an open discussion with individuals across the province who are dealing with the economic impacts of COVID—19.

She also had a number of guests join her remotely.

PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** participated in a reception with MPP Horwath and **Mike Mantha**, MPP (Algoma—Manitoulin) on March 10, prior to the government shutdown.

Online townhalls are an excellent way to stay in touch with MPPs during the COVID—19 crisis. These townhalls are usually open to anyone who registers, and are actively being done even federally and municipally by MPs and City Councillors.



NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre) hosted an online roundtable on March 31.

PEO GLC MEMBER DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING MPP RELATIONSHIPS



PEO Grand River Chapter Representative **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng., (left), with **Belinda Karahalios**, MPP (Cambridge), Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General (right) on January 19.

(KITCHENER) - Here is an excerpt from an April 1st interview with PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) member and Grand River Chapter representative **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng.:

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

I have been active politically in my own community for over 30 years, as a volunteer and contributor in policy committees and other activities.

I have been involved with Grand River Chapter GLP activities for over 10 years.

Specifically, I have been a member of the PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) for six years, which provides oversight for the program. I have helped out on another activities, from helping organize Queen's Park Days and participating in events with MPPs in the six Chapters in our area.

We are in a unique location in Ontario, because our ridings are represented by both Government and Opposition MPPs.

PEO GLC MEMBER DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING MPP RELATIONSHIPS

2) Why did you decide to join the GLC?

I applied to join the Government Liaison Committee because I was interested in the various ideas and initiatives that the committee took an active role in. The GLC has well established structures and communication vehicles. We need to utilize these resources to get the maximum exposure for PEO. Based on my experience with both Federal and Provincial political involvement, and my day job as a Business Development Engineer, I believed that I could contribute to the GLC.

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

The Government Liaison Program (GLP) needs to move to the next level with regards to our relationship building with MPPs. We do have the structure in place, and can expand on it by having a GLP representative in all 124 ridings. As well as open communication channels with members of the Legislature (on all sides of the House). We must use our relationships to advocate for a say in policies that impact our the regulation of our profession in the public interest. As well, we need to work with MPP's to show them that PEO is a valuable technical partner. I would suggest that we do not reopen issues such as the Industrial Exception. Instead, we should use our relationships and open lines of communication to fight for other, and more current, issues.

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

After the COVID—19 crisis, the GLP Chairs across the province should consider working with their local chamber of commerce and local universities, to plan presentations on ways PEO builds its reputation as a self-regulated profession. I would like to promote this at our regular GLC meetings. We can consider revisiting the idea of a "Chief Engineer" in Ontario as well.



PEO Grand River Chapter Representative **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng., (left), with **Laura Mae Lindo**, MPP (Kitchener Centre), NDP Critic for Citizenship, Immigration Services and Anti-Racism (right) at a Chinese New Year celebration on January 19.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST



Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., is the winner of last week's GLP Trivia contest.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Nanda Lwin**, Chair of the PEO Willowdale-Thornhill Chapter for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

Question: Which PEO Councillor was interviewed this week on the value of the GLP?

Answer: Warren Turnbull, P.Eng.

This week's question: What are the names of the two PEO representatives that were nominated as Engineers Canada Directors at a PEO Council meeting on March 20?

Join the Contest: Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to **Jeannette Chau** at jchau@peo.on.ca by Monday, April 6. ***You may only win once in a four-week span.***

CORRECTION: Last week's GLP Weekly incorrectly stated that the term for office for newly appointed Engineers Canada Directors was 2020 — 2021. It is in fact a three year term. Newly appointed directors will serve from 2020—2023.

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH MPPs DURING COVID—19

At this time, the PEO GLP Weekly will not be sharing any upcoming events, in order to encourage PEO licence holders to practice social distancing and to prevent the spread of COVID—19.

This does not mean they will no longer have opportunities to engage with MPPs that they have built relationships with. They 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 (see page 4). If your MPP is hosting one, this would be a good way to stay current on ongoing issues in the riding and the province. GLP Weekly is keeping an eye out for upcoming online town halls, and will circulate them as we come across them.

