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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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ATTORNEY GENERAL HOSTS VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte) (centre) hosted a virtual town hall for his riding on May 22. This photograph was taken in October 2019 during a meeting held with PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., (left) and CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng. (right). Minister Downey was one of several Ministers and MPPs who hosted town halls over the last two weeks. For more on this story, see page 3.

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 June 5, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. PEO NORTH BAY, WEST TORONTO AND YORK CHAPTER GLP CHAIRS PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE TOWN HALLS WITH MPPS
2. PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETS VIRTUALLY
3. FORMER PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS INSIGHT ON THE GLP

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

This issue provides an overview of virtual events hosted and participated in by Ministers and MPPs throughout the course of the last two weeks. We also provide a recap of a monthly Government Liaison Committee (GLC) call. Ahead of the PEO AGM, an Annual Review was released. Sections related to the work of the GLP are featured in this issue. A former PEO Councillor, and current GLC Engineers Canada representative **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., shared his thoughts on the work of the GLP.

PEO NEWS

JOIN US ONLINE FOR THE PEO AGM TOMORROW

A reminder that PEO will be hosting their AGM online tomorrow on May 30.

It will begin at 8:30 AM, and will be chaired by PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng.

To review member submissions and minutes from last year's AGM, click [here](#).

PEO members can access the AGM by clicking [here](#).

At the conclusion of the AGM, the 2020-2021 PEO Council, including President-Elect **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., will be sworn in.



PEO President-Elect **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng.



PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., is scheduled to provide an address at the PEO virtual AGM tomorrow. Ms. Hill is pictured here at the 2019 PEO AGM, which was held on May 4 at the Hilton in Toronto.

ONLINE EVENTS WITH MPPs

PEO NORTH BAY, WEST TORONTO AND YORK CHAPTER GLP CHAIRS PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE TOWN HALLS WITH MPPs

Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte) hosted a virtual town hall for his constituents on May 22.

Minister Downey was one of several Ministers and MPPs who hosted online events over the last two weeks.



Vic Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing),
Minister of Economic
Development, Job Creation
and Trade.



John Severino, P.Eng., PEO
North Bay GLP Chair.

Vic Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing), Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade hosted an online town hall on May 13.

Also participating was PEO North Bay Chapter GLP Chair **John Severino**, P.Eng., who has a long standing relationship with the Minister.

Mr. Severino sent Minister Fedeli a follow up note after attending the virtual event, which Minister Fedeli personally replied to very positively.

Minister Fedeli was the guest speaker at the PEO Northern Region GLP Academy and Congress in January of 2019 in North Bay.



Jessica Bell, MPP (University-
Rosedale), NDP Transit Critic



Janet Han, P.Eng., PEO West
Toronto GLP Chair

Jessica Bell, MPP (University-Rosedale), NDP Transit Critic hosted an online town hall on May 14.

PEO's West Toronto Chapter GLP Chair **Janet Han**, P.Eng., also joined the call.

Ms. Han sent a note to MPP Bell recalling a previous event they met at in June 2019, as well as sharing information about the work of PEO and its role in regulating professional engineering in the public interest.

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ONLINE EVENTS WITH MPPs

PEO NORTH BAY, WEST TORONTO AND YORK CHAPTER GLP CHAIRS PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE TOWN HALLS WITH MPPs



Daisy Wai, MPP (Richmond Hill), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility.



Stephen Lecce, MPP (King-Vaughan), Minister of Education



Anita Eisakhani, P.Eng., PEO York Chapter GLP Chair

Daisy Wai, MPP (Richmond Hill), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility hosted a virtual town hall on May 13. Joining her for the call was Education Minister **Stephen Lecce**, MPP (King-Vaughan).

Also participating was PEO's York Chapter GLP Chair **Anita Eisakhani**, P.Eng.



Natalia Kusendova, MPP (Mississauga Centre) (top left), Transportation and Francophone Affairs Minister **Caroline Mulroney**, MPP (York-Simcoe) (bottom left) and **Gila Martow**, MPP (Thornhill), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Francophone Affairs (bottom right) hosted a Francophone virtual town hall on May 19.

Another town hall that occurred over the last two weeks was a virtual Francophone town hall, which was hosted by **Natalia Kusendova**, MPP (Mississauga Centre), on May 19.

Also participating were Transportation and Francophone Affairs Minister **Caroline Mulroney**, MPP (York-Simcoe), **Gila Martow**, MPP (Thornhill), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Francophone Affairs, **Chef Guy Dongué**, Cuisine Santé Kids and **Florence Ngenzeuhoro**, Executive Director of the Centre Francophone du Grant Toronto.

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETS VIRTUALLY



PEO Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng (centre left), Chair of the PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) and (left to right) PEO Grand River Chapter GLP Chair **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng., PEO Manager, Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., GLC Vice-Chair **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng., PEO Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng., and PEO Oakville Chapter GLP Co-ordinator **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng., at an in person GLC meeting on January 16, 2020.

The PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) hosted a videoconference meeting on May 13, which was chaired by West Central Regional Councillor and GLC Chair **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng.

Items on the agenda included:

- Review of current GLP activities
- A report from the GLP Manager **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., about MPP town halls and the success that comes with participating and sending follow up notes to the MPPs
- Reports from Engineers Canada representative **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., and the Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario (ESSCO) representative **Shawn Yanni**
- Discussions on regulatory issues and enhanced government outreach
- Looking at ways to stay connected with MPPs during COVID-19

This was the first GLC meeting held with its two new members, **Vicki Hillborn**, P.Eng., representing the Advisory Committee on Volunteers and Mr. Sadr. The announcement of their appointments was featured in the April 24 GLP Weekly issue.

As reported in the 2019 PEO Annual GLP Review, "The GLC is one of the few PEO committees with both student and EIT representation, and is the only PEO committee with representatives from Consulting Engineers Ontario **Christine Hill**, P.Eng." and Engineers Canada.

PEO RELEASES 2019 ANNUAL REVIEW



PEO released their 2019 Annual Review. To read the entire report, click [here](#).

PEO has released its 2019 Annual Review ahead of the upcoming 2020 AGM.

The report includes an overview of PEO Council activities, a message from PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., a message from PEO CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng., information about the regulatory activity filter, licensing statistics, an overview of complaints and discipline hearings and a membership breakdown. It also includes recommendations from the Cayton report and the Radiohead Coroner's inquest.

A [section](#) of the Review is devoted to a recap of Government Liaison Program (GLP) Activities, which includes:

- Take Your MPP to Work Days with five MPPs in Sudbury, Burlington, Etobicoke and Oakville
- GLP Academies and Congresses with two Ministers, two Deputy Opposition leaders, the Deputy Speaker, the Attorney General Critic and three other MPPs in North Bay, Chatham, Kingston and Toronto
- A meeting with **Attorney General** Doug Downey, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte) on October 29
- Queen's Park Visit on November 20, where PEO formally met with three MPPs
- Government Liaison Committee (GLC) activities
- Professional engineers who were elected in the Federal Election
- Overview of the GLP Weekly and the GLP Journal in *Engineering Dimensions*

FORMER PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS INSIGHT ON THE GLP

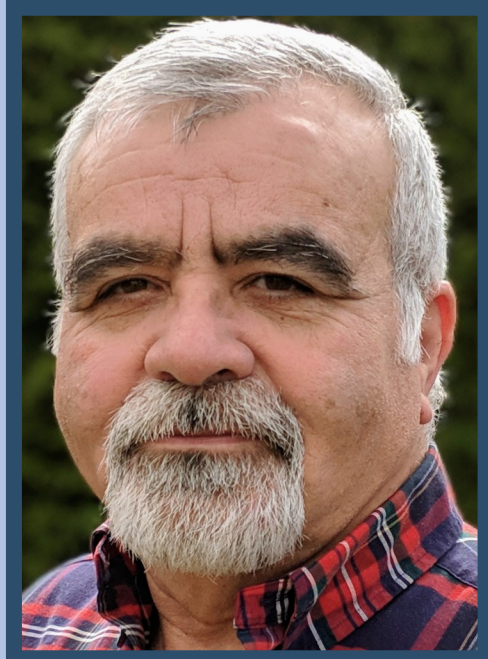
Below is an interview with former PEO Councillor and current Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Engineers Canada representative **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., from May 25.

1. What is your experience dealing with the political process?

My experience with the political process goes back to the early 70's when I was in high school back home in Tehran. But my experience in Canada started back in the 90's, when I was preparing myself to write the PEO's Professional Practice Exam for law and ethics.

For that I had to learn about the Canadian government and the political structure and processes. Later in year 2000, when I joined the Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter executives, I got involved with the GLP activities at the Chapter.

I also became involved in local initiatives such as the Iranian Canadian Congress, which I attended as one of the advisers to prepare its constitution. Through my active attendance at Queen's Park events, I developed good relationships with some of the MPPs in our Chapter ridings and in my own riding.



Former PEO Councillor and current
Director of Engineers Canada **Changiz
Sadr**, P.Eng.

2. Why did you get interested in government liaison activities at PEO?

One of the issues I noticed in Canada since my arrival was the low recognition of the engineering profession by the public and even with the government. This has many consequences.

I wrote an article about this in 2010, which was published in Engineering Dimensions, about the lack of public awareness of engineering as a profession. I truly believe that government liaison is one of the key activities needed to raise our profile with the government, which can ultimately end up with more legislation for engineering and raising our profile with the public.

For this reason, once I joined the Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter, I got involved with GLP activities and attended GLP academies. In addition to being a member of the GLP committee, for a short time, I became the interim chair.

One of the events that I organized as the Chapter chair, and am very proud of, was the HST event on January 18, 2011. Several Ministers and MPPs attended as well.

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FORMER PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS INSIGHT ON THE GLP



Former PEO Councillor and GLC Engineers Canada representative **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng. (right) with **Michael Parsa**, MPP (Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill), then Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and current Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board at an event on June 1, 2019.

3. What do you think the biggest challenges are for the GLP?

PEO recently created an 'Activity Filter' in response to the Cayton Report recommendations. This filter is used to determine whether or not a task taken on by PEO is regulatory or not. This created a bit of an internal debate about GLP and GLC activities, and if they are indeed regulatory.

As I mentioned earlier for the previous questions, I see GLP/GLC as a very powerful tool to work and liaise with government to improve the regulatory role of PEO and the engineering profession. Considering the number of MPPs in Ontario, Chapters and the GLP are the best tools for establishing relationships with every MPP across the province. So, the biggest challenge at this time is to have the GLP function of the chapters maintained and continued.

4. What do you think the biggest opportunities are for the GLP?

Due to COVID-19 and the requirements of being at home/quarantine, there are opportunities to engage in new activities.

Despite all the negativity that comes with COVID-19, I see this as an opportunity to work online, with MPP meetings and GLP activities too. A prime opportunity for Chapter members are the panels and roundtables hosted online with MPPs for their ridings.

GLP Chapters should contact their MPPs and meet them online, participate in online town halls with their local MPP's to get updates on what the government is doing for us, and help raise the profile of engineers and what PEO as a regulatory body can do. We can also start looking for ways to host training for the GLP and even GLP academies virtually.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to PEO Scarborough Chapter GLP representative, **Samuel Jacob** P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

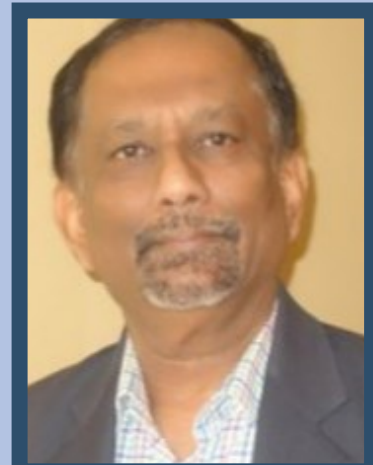
Question: What are the names of the two professional engineers who participated in an online town hall with Mississauga Centre MPP Natalia Kusendova on April 27? (HINT: They are an MP and City Councillor).

Answer: Omar Alghabra, P.Eng., and Ron Starr, P.Eng.

This week's question: What is the name of the new PEO Councillor who was interviewed in the May 15 issue of GLP Weekly?

Join the Contest: Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., at ichau@peo.on.ca by Monday, June 1.

You may only win once in a four-week span.



Samuel Jacob P.Eng., is the winner of the last GLP Trivia contest.

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.



MPPs are still receiving and sending emails, taking calls, conducting meetings remotely, and happy to connect.

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.

If you have any comments, additions or questions about *The GLP Weekly* please do not hesitate to call or email:
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