



May 1,  
2020

## PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

Volume 14,  
Issue 15



### SIX MISSISSAUGA MPPS AND FINANCE MINISTER HOST ONLINE TOWNHALL

Six Mississauga MPPs (photographed above) hosted an online townhall together on April 21. Joining them as a special guest was Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax). This image was used as the advertisement to promote the online townhall. 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 May 8, 2020.

## TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. ONE MINISTER, FOUR MPPS AND A PARTY LEADER HOST ONLINE TOWNHALLS
2. PEO GLC VICE-CHAIR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP

## PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

This issue will continue to provide subscribers with updates related to past online townhalls, and show how the GLP program works. Everyone is encouraged to call in and participate, if they find one that their local MPP is hosting. It is a great way to maintain relationships. It is important to be aware of consistent updates related to PEO guidelines and COVID-19 responses. A PEO guideline is shared for awareness. Additionally, our interview series with GLP opinion leaders continues. We spoke with the GLC Vice-Chair about the importance of having a GLP.

## PEO NEWS

### PEO ISSUES ADVISORY NOTICE FOR LICENSE HOLDERS AMID COVID-19



101-40 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, ON M2N 6K9  
T: 416 224-1100 800 339-3716 www.peo.on.ca  
Enforcement Hotline: 416 224-9528, ext. 1444

#### Advisory Notice—March 25, 2020

Obligations and responsibilities of professional engineers  
and holders of limited licences during the COVID-19 pandemic

As of 11:59 p.m. on March 24, 2020, all non-essential workplaces in the Province of Ontario were required to close. The provincial government has released a list of workplaces it currently deems to be essential (available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces>). Work may continue in these workplaces, until further notified by the government, provided it is done safely and with due regard to social distancing and other measures to avoid transmission of the virus.

Offices that provide professional engineering services are among those considered essential. In addition, engineers are employed or provide services in a number of other essential workplaces, including construction sites, mines, manufacturing plants and utilities.

PEO recognizes that practitioners will have questions or concerns about carrying out work in any workplace, even one considered essential. We offer the following *general* information to assist professional engineers in making decisions about how they should proceed. Obviously, each individual situation is different and expert advice should be obtained from health, governmental and legal authorities as needed.

PEO issued an advisory notice related to obligations for professional engineers and limited licence holders during COVID-19.

PEO issued an advisory notice on March 25 covering the obligations and responsibilities for professional engineers and limited license holders amid COVID-19.

It covers contractual obligations for essential and specific work practices.

To read the full notice, click [here](#).

## ONLINE TOWNHALLS WITH MPPs

### SIX MISSISSAUGA MPPs AND FINANCE MINISTER HOST ONLINE TOWNHALL



Six Mississauga MPPs (photographed above) hosted an online townhall on April 21.

On April 21, six Mississauga MPPs, all who have excellent relationships with PEO, hosted an online townhall. Their special guest was Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax). They were:

- **Rudy Cuzzetto**, MPP (Mississauga-Lakeshore), Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board –MPP Cuzzetto met with PEO Councillor **Lisa MacCumber**, P.Eng., for one hour just prior to his election in June 2018
- **Sheref Sabawy**, MPP (Mississauga-Erin Mills), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries– MPP Sabawy was the guest speaker at the PEO East and West Central Region GLP Academy and Congress at PEO Headquarters in October 2019
- **Deepak Anand**, MPP (Mississauga-Malton) - MPP Anand has participated in volunteer recognition events with PEO members
- **Kaleed Rasheed**, MPP (Mississauga East-Cooksville), Deputy Government Whip – MPP Rasheed most recently attended a Mississauga Board of Trade event with PEO members in September of 2019
- **Nina Tangri**, MPP (Mississauga-Streetsville), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade– MPP Tangri has participated in numerous PEO events, including an ‘All Candidates Meeting’ sponsored by the PEO Mississauga Chapter
- **Natalia Kusendova**, MPP (Mississauga Centre) - MPP Kusendova most recently met with a PEO GLP representative at an event in February 2020

The GLP Chapter system ensures that we have relationships with MPPs all across Ontario.



## ONLINE TOWNHALLS WITH MPPs

### ONE MINISTER, FOUR MPPS AND A PARTY LEADER HOST ONLINE TOWNHALLS

MPPs continued to host townhalls every week.

Participating in MPPs online townhalls are a great way to maintain existing relationships for PEO licence holders.



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

(NORTH BAY) - Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Minister **Vic Fedeli**, MPP (Nipissing), hosted an online townhall on April 22.

Minister Fedeli has been a long time supporter of PEO, and was the guest speaker at the Northern Region GLP Academy and Congress in January 2019 in North Bay.

Also participating in his townhall were **Stephen Crawford**, MPP (Oakville), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure and **Effie Triantafilopoulos**, MPP (Oakville North- Burlington), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care.

MPP Crawford has met with the PEO Oakville Chapter on numerous occasions.

He most recently met with Oakville Chapter representatives at a Chapter AGM and Licence Ceremony in January 2020.



**Stephen Crawford**, MPP  
(Oakville), Parliamentary  
Assistant to the Minister  
of Infrastructure.



**Effie Triantafilopoulos**,  
MPP (Oakville North-  
Burlington),  
Parliamentary Assistant  
to the Minister of Long-  
Term Care.

MPP Triantafilopoulos has attended Oakville Chapter AGMs, licence ceremonies and Take Your MPP to Work Days.

She continues to be a supporter of PEO, and even has a GLP Weekly photo framed in her office!



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## ONLINE TOWNHALLS WITH MPPs

### ONE MINISTER, FOUR MPPS AND A PARTY LEADER HOST ONLINE TOWNHALLS



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

(RICHMOND HILL) - **Daisy Wai**, MPP (Richmond Hill), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility hosted an online townhall on April 21.

She regularly speaks with PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** at Queen's Park and riding events.

MPP Wai is a former member of the York Regional Police Services Board and former chair of the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce.

Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca**, hosted an online townhall on April 26.

Mr. Del Duca worked closely with PEO during his time as an MPP and in particular during his time as Minister of Transportation, which he served as from 2013 -2017.

He hosted the townhall with a member of his caucus and former Minister **Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood).

Also participating on the call was PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**.



**Steven Del Duca**, Liberal Party Leader and former MPP and Minister.



**Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood)

**Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood) has met several PEO representatives in the Scarborough Chapter on many occasions.

She most recently hosted a New Years Levee in January 2020, which was attended by PEO members.

MPP Hunter participated in a Scarborough Chapter 'All Candidates Meeting' during her first election campaign in July 2013, before her election in August 2013.

### PEO GLC VICE-CHAIR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP



PEO Councillor and Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Vice-Chair **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng., (second from the right) participated in Queen's Park meetings on November 20, 2019. With him in this photo are (right to left) : NDP Attorney General Critic **Gurratan Singh**, MPP (Brampton East), PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., GLC Chair and West Central Region Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng., and Manager of Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng.

(KINCARDINE) - Here is an excerpt from an April 29th interview with PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Vice-Chair and LGA Councillor **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng:

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

Having come to Canada as a political refugee from Afghanistan in the early 1980s, I have a keen appreciation for the value of participating freely in my country's political process and civic life. The least any of us can do is be politically informed and vote, which I do at every opportunity. I've also had extensive dealings with various government agencies at various levels throughout my professional life. Early in my career, as a consulting engineer, I was acquiring building code approvals for various construction products.

When I moved over to manufacturing, I was dealing with various government agencies from other countries to obtain approvals for an innovative building system. And after I acquired my MBA and moved into the nuclear industry, I became intimately aware of the regulations governing that industry. Now, as a real estate investor developing high-quality rental accommodations, I deal with local authorities on a regular basis.

\*story continued on page 7



# PEO GLC VICE-CHAIR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP

As a member of the board of the Electrical Safety Authority, I know the value of grassroots involvement in managing regulatory affairs. Nurturing positive relationships with the people, collaborating to achieve our mutual goals, has always been the key to success. As engineers, we all have a unique opportunity to exercise our influence, not only through voting and our day-to-day professional responsibilities, but also through our professional organization, PEO. As engineers, because we are a self-regulated profession, we can directly affect how our profession is regulated. It is to our benefit, collectively and individually, to do so whenever we can.

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

Joining the Government Liaison Committee (GLC) was an opportunity to get more involved in a process I believe has value. I enjoy building relationships with people, and working with the GLC allows me to widen my personal network and at the same time provide value to PEO and the chapters and further objectives I believe are important to PEO's future.

At the Chapter level, I always made sure to include our local MPPs in Chapter activities and events and encourage all Chapters to do the same. It gives MPPs a chance to connect with their constituents and gives PEO a chance to inform their MPPs on PEO's activities and the importance of engineers and their work in the community. Local GLP members can reach out to the GLC for training and ideas on how best to contact their political representatives and get them involved. We're here to help.

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

One of the biggest challenges we've faced in a long time is for the GLP to stay relevant in light of the Harry Cayton Report. As a regulatory body, PEO must demonstrate that we are protecting public interest and the GLP is, or should be, the group best positioned to show MPPs that PEO is fulfilling its mandate.

All MPPs need to know what PEO is doing on a day-to-day, month-to-month basis with respect to licensing, regulation development, investigations, and its discipline to ensure the public interest is the prime consideration in all its activities. It all starts with building relationships, and this requires both parties to benefit.

This should be an easy fit, since our local Chapters can give MPPs a door to a large and engaged portion of their constituency. It benefits everyone for MPPs to know what engineers and PEO do in their communities.

In the Georgian Bay Chapter, we always invite all the local politicians in the region to our events, and they all appreciate the opportunity to participate.



PEO Councillor and Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Vice-Chair  
**Arjan Arenja, P.Eng.**

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### PEO GLC VICE-CHAIR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP



PEO Councillor and Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Vice-Chair **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng., (front row, fourth from the right) at the PEO Western Region GLP Academy and Congress in Goderich on October 20, 2017. The guest speaker was **Lisa Thompson**, MPP (Huron-Bruce) (front row, centre), now Minister of Government and Consumer Services.

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

Our biggest challenges are also our biggest opportunity.

By increasing the awareness and knowledge MPPs have about their local engineers, and PEO in general, we also ensure they're well informed when questions are raised at the provincial level.

We can become a routine community-based source of expertise, relevant and personal to each MPP. That's a resource they can value.

Smaller communities seem to have an easier time doing this than the larger communities, but it's worth the effort for larger communities to build those relationships as well.

Chapters with active GLPs also have another avenue of participation in PEO, since the GLP is dedicated to supporting our local Chapters with information, tips, training, and events to help them be effective in their communities.



## GLP TRIVIA CONTEST



**Thomas Chong,**  
P.Eng., is the winner  
last week's GLP Trivia  
contest.

CONGRATULATIONS to former PEO President **Thomas Chong**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

**Question:** Which two NDP MPPs did former PEO Councillor and Ottawa Chapter GLP Chair, Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng., speak with in Ottawa on February 27?

**Answer:** NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** and MPP **Joel Harden**

**This week's question:** What are the names of the two newly appointed members of the PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC)?

**Join the Contest:** Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., at [jchau@peo.on.ca](mailto:jchau@peo.on.ca) by Monday, May 4.

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

## 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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