



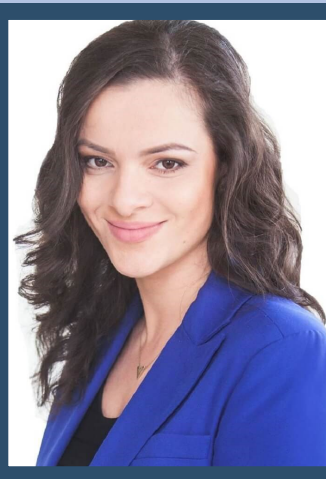
May 8,  
2020

## PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

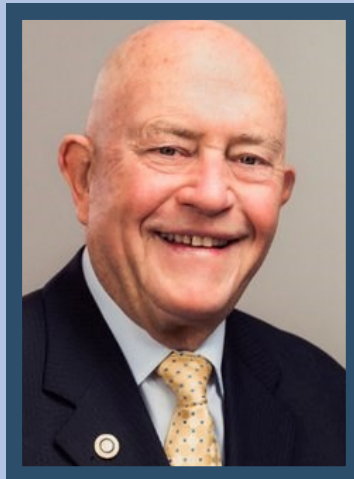
Volume 14,  
Issue 16



**Omar Alghabra, P.Eng., MP**  
(Mississauga Centre),  
Parliamentary Secretary to  
Prime Minister Trudeau



**Natalia Kusendova, MPP**  
(Mississauga Centre)



**Ron Starr, P.Eng.,**  
Mississauga City Councillor  
(Ward 6)

### ENGINEERS JOIN MPP FOR ONLINE TOWN HALL

Three Mississauga elected officials hosted an online town hall on April 27 for constituents. They were **Natalia Kusendova**, MPP (Mississauga Centre), **Omar Alghabra**, P.Eng., MP (Mississauga Centre), Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Trudeau and Mississauga City Councillor **Ron Starr**, P.Eng., (Ward 6). Both MP Alghabra and Councillor Starr are long- time PEO licence holders and supporters.

Eight other MPPs participated in online town halls last week. 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 May 15, 2020.

## TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. PEO EAST TORONTO CHAPTER HAS CORRESPONDENCE WITH FORMER PREMIER
2. NINE MPPS PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE TOWN HALLS TO ENGAGE CONSTITUENTS
3. PEO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE CONSULTATION CLOSES IN JULY
4. PEO GLC MEMBER DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP

## PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

This issue looks at the correspondence shared between a Chapter GLP Chair and one of the MPPs that falls under the Chapter's boundaries, which highlights the importance of local relationship building. GLP Weekly also continues its overview of online town halls that are being held for constituents, which PEO members are encouraged to participate in. The PEO Professional Standards Committee (PSC) has opened an online consultation, which is scheduled to close on July 3, and an overview on the consultation is shared in this week's issue for subscribers. This week we also interviewed GLC member Jeffrey Lee, P.Eng.

## PEO NEWS

### PEO AGM SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30

PEO will be hosting their AGM online on Saturday, May 30. It will take place starting at 8:30 AM.

The AGM was initially scheduled to take place today and tomorrow in Ottawa.

The official notice for the date change can be found [here](#).

A few important items to note are:

- Prior to the meeting, members will be sent log-in credentials to ensure secure voting
- Members can submit submissions via email
- There will be opportunities to submit questions during the meeting as well

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



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

## MPP RELATIONSHIPS

### PEO EAST TORONTO CHAPTER HAS CORRESPONDENCE WITH FORMER PREMIER



Former Premier **Kathleen Wynne**, MPP  
(Don Valley West)



PEO East Toronto Chapter GLP Chair **Omid Sadeghi**, P.Eng.

PEO East Toronto Chapter GLP Chair **Omid Sadeghi**, P.Eng., sent an email to **Kathleen Wynne**, MPP (Don Valley West) on April 28.

The email said:

*"On behalf of Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), East Toronto Chapter, I would like to wish you and your loved ones strength in the days and weeks ahead. We truly appreciate your ongoing support of our chapter, and are looking forward to future collaboration."*

MPP Wynne, who is the former Premier of Ontario, replied to the note saying:

*"Thank you for your kind and thoughtful message. So far we are doing well, and I wish you and your colleagues at PEO the very best. This is a hard and distressing time for many people, and it will take all of us supporting one another to restore our communities to health. I look forward to the ingenuity and intelligence of the Engineering profession being part of that recovery. Stay well and all the best."*

This exchange shows us the importance of building relationships with MPPs at the local level.

PEO GLP Chairs are encouraged to reach out to their MPPs during this time to ensure they stay connected, and maintain existing relationships.

## ONLINE TOWN HALLS WITH MPPs

### NINE MPPs PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE TOWN HALLS TO ENGAGE CONSTITUENTS

Nine MPPs participated in town halls over the last week, in order to maintain engagement with their constituents. As reported on page 1 of this issue, one of the MPPs was Natalia Kusendova. She was joined by two professional engineers, MP **Omar Alghabra**, P.Eng., Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Trudeau and Mississauga City Councillor **Ron Starr**, P.Eng., (Ward 6).

PEO members are encouraged to register and participate in upcoming town halls.

As well, they may wish to send follow up notes to MPPs afterwards to let them know they participated, information about the work of PEO, and to thank them for hosting the online discussion. Other online town halls were held in Barrie, Kitchener and Toronto (see below and page 5).



Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte).

(BARRIE) - Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte) hosted an online town hall with his federal counterpart MP **Doug Shipley** on April 30. Minister Downey has always been an active participant in PEO Simcoe Muskoka Chapter events since he first got elected.

He most recently held a formal meeting with PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., and CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng. in October of 2019. The Ministry of the Attorney General is responsible for PEO's file.

Three NDP MPPs participated in an online town hall on April 27. It was hosted by **Jill Andrew**, MPP (Toronto-St. Paul's), Critic for Women's Issues.

Also participating were:

- **Sara Singh**, MPP (Brampton Centre), Deputy Leader and Housing Critic
- **Suze Morrison**, MPP (Toronto Centre), Tenant Rights, Urban Indigenous Issues and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Response Critic

MPP Andrew spoke with the PEO West Toronto Chapter GLP Chair at an event in June 2019. Deputy Leader Singh has attended several PEO Brampton Chapter events during her time in office.

### Tenants Town Hall

On Facebook Live with...

**Sara Singh**  
Critic for Housing

**Suze Morrison**  
Critic for Tenants Rights

And more to be announced!

**Hosted By**  
**MPP Jill Andrew**

**Monday April 27th**  
**6:00-7:30PM**

\*story continued on page 5



## ONLINE TOWN HALLS WITH MPPs

### NINE MPPS PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE TOWN HALLS TO ENGAGE CONSTITUENTS



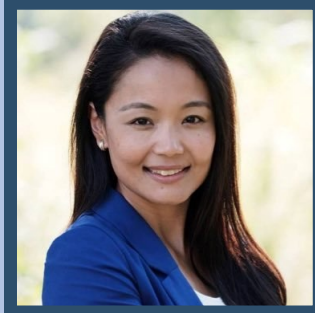
**Jessica Bell, MPP**  
(University –  
Rosedale), NDP Transit  
Critic.

On April 27, **Jessica Bell**, MPP (University-Rosedale), NDP Transit Critic, hosted an online town hall.

MPP Bell spoke with PEO West Toronto Chapter representatives at an event she participated in during the summer of 2019.

On April 28, **Bhutila Karpoche**, MPP (Parkdale-High Park), NDP Mental Health & Addictions Critic hosted an online town hall.

MPP Karpoche has spoken with the PEO West Toronto Chapter GLP Chair at events in the past.



**Bhutila Karpoche, MPP**  
(Parkdale-High Park), NDP  
Mental Health &  
Addictions Critic.

**Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough- Guildwood) hosted an online town hall on April 29. She 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.



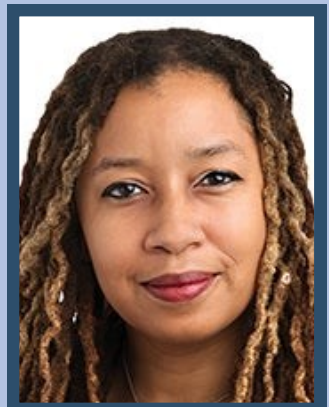
**Mitzie Hunter, MPP**  
(Scarborough-Guildwood)

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

(KITCHENER) - On April 29, **Laura Mae Lindo**, MPP (Kitchener Centre), NDP Critic for Anti-Racism and Citizenship and Immigration Services hosted an online town hall.

MPP Lindo most recently met with representatives from the PEO Grand River Chapter at a New Year's Levee in January 2020.

**Laura Mae Lindo,**  
MPP (Kitchener  
Centre), NDP Critic  
for Anti-Racism and  
Citizenship and  
Immigration  
Services.



### PEO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE CONSULTATION CLOSES IN JULY



PEO Professional Standards Committee has opened up a consultation, which will close on July 3, 2020. This is the image used to share information about the consultation on PEO's social channels.

PHOTO CREDIT: @PEO\_HQ

The PEO Professional Standards Committee (PSC) has opened a consultation for professional engineers, and other external stakeholders, to provide feedback on a proposed guideline.

The guideline is entitled "Providing Engineering Services under O.Reg.1/17 and Part II.2 of the *Environmental Protection Act*."

Click [here](#) to read the guideline.

Contributions to the guideline came from eight engineers. They were:

- **Alfred Lightsone**, P.Eng.
- **Heather Swan**, P.Eng.
- **Linda Drisdelle**, P.Eng.
- **Neil Kennedy**, P.Eng.,
- **Nicholas Sylvestre-Williams**, P.Eng.
- **Ravi Mahabir**, P.Eng.
- **Sadie Bachynski**, P.Eng.
- **Tony van der Vooren**, P.Eng.

The PSC is requesting that those interested:

- Review the guideline
- Submit comments by email to [consultations@peo.on.ca](mailto:consultations@peo.on.ca)

The consultation is scheduled to close on July 3, 2020.

### PEO GLC MEMBER DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP

(OAKVILLE) - GLP Weekly interviewed PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) member and Oakville Chapter GLP Co-ordinator **Jeffrey Lee, P.Eng:**

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

In 2010, I transitioned from working in the private sector to working in the private sector to working in a municipal government. Since then, I've had first hand experiences seeing how staff and politicians interact, and how decisions and policies are made in governments, especially, at the municipal and provincial level.

I was able to see how the public and the voters influencing the process and have their voice heard. I now have a better understanding of the intricacy of how a policy or a legislation is proposed, drafted, legislated, and implemented by various stakeholders and parties.



PEO GLC member and Oakville Chapter GLP Co-ordinator  
**Jeffrey Lee, P.Eng.**

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

With encouragement from a past Chapter GLP Chair, as well as my fellow Oakville Chapter Executives, I accepted the position of GLP Chair in 2015. I started to get interested in government liaison activities because I strongly believe that the GLP plays an important role in linking the Chapter to our local politicians and our community.

I enjoy giving back to my community, and getting involved with the GLP has provided me with many opportunities to do so. At the time, the industrial exception was the main issue for PEO, and I thought it would be important to have engineers to communicate and connect with politicians to have them understand the rationale.

PEO advocated for public interest instead of engineers' self interest.

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

The biggest challenge for the GLP is the lack of knowledge and/or the understanding of the program itself both internally and externally.

First, we have to ensure internally within PEO (e.g. license holders, interns, Chapters, Council, and staff) that everyone understands the importance, goals, and functions of the GLP.

We need everyone to be aware of the achievements and relationship/connections built with our politicians over the years by our volunteers.

\*story continued on page 8

### PEO GLC MEMBER DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP



The PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) met on August 6, 2019 in Toronto at the offices of Brown & Cohen. Attending the meeting were PEO Oakville Chapter's **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng. (left to right): Student Representative **Shawn Yanni**, President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., Grand River Chapter GLP Chair **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng., West Central Region Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., then Advisory Committee Volunteer **Nick Colucci**, P.Eng., and GLP Manager **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng.

If we internally, as license holders, interns, Chapters, Council and staff, do not believe in or see the relevancy of the GLP, it makes it more difficult to explain to others the importance of the investment in this program. In the 2018 election, there were 74 new MPPs elected to the Legislature.

Many of the new MPPs have not heard of PEO and/or its regulatory role for the profession. It takes time and effort to conduct outreach and build relationships with the new MPPs, and we need GLP volunteers to do this, as well as an internal uniformity to do this.

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

The biggest opportunity of the GLP is utilizing the existing GLP system/structure to continue to raise awareness of PEO's mandate. GLP is the perfect vehicle to engage our MPPs and the wider community to:

- Communicate that PEO is able to self-regulate the engineering profession in the public interest, and is not as seen as "red tape" or impediments to the economic development of the province
- Build credibility for PEO, so we can be seen as a valuable resource

With the maturity of the GLP and to build on the current system, we can expand our GLP representation to one representative per riding, so that we can have a dedicated channel contact for each MPP. We can continue to utilize the GLP to connect with politicians locally, and explore collaboration opportunities, especially when we open up again.



## GLP TRIVIA CONTEST



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

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

**Question: What are the names of the two newly appointed members of the PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC)?**

**Answer: Vicki Hillborn, P.Eng., and Changiz Sadr, P.Eng.**

**This week's question: How many MPPs participated in the Mississauga online town hall, which was featured on the front page of last week's issue?**

**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 11.

***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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