



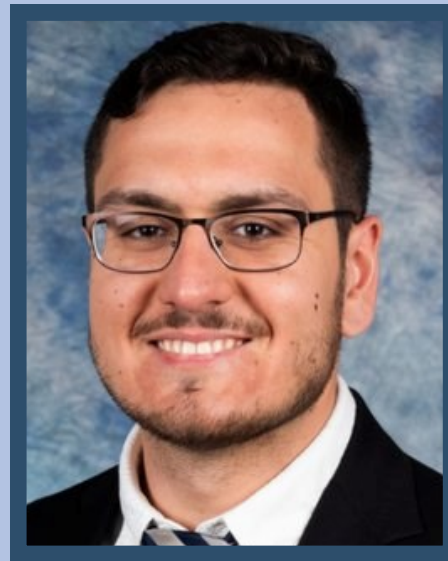
May 15,
2020

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM
GLP WEEKLY

Volume 14,
Issue 17



PEO Ottawa Chapter GLP Chair **Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng.**



PEO Mississauga Chapter GLP Chair **Feras Alsheet, P.Eng.,**

**PEO OTTAWA AND MISSISSAUGA GLP CHAIRS
PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE MPP TOWN HALLS**

Two Ministers and four MPPs held online events last week. PEO Ottawa Chapter GLP Chair **Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng.** participated in one with MPP **Jeremy Roberts** (Ottawa West-Nepean), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services on May 5. PEO Mississauga Chapter GLP Chair **Feras Alsheet, P.Eng.,** participated in another with MPPs **Natalia Kusendova** (Mississauga Centre) and **Michael Tibollo** (Vaughan– Woodbridge), Associate Minister of Mental Health & Addictions on May 7. 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/glpl-weekly-newsletter>

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday of the week prior to publication. There will be no issue on May 22 due to the shortened holiday week. The next issue will be published on May 29, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. MINISTER, NDP LEADER AND MPP HOLD ONLINE EVENTS
2. PEO RELEASES 'PREPARING AS-BUILT AND RECORD DOCUMENTS GUIDELINE'
3. NEW PEO COUNCILLOR PROVIDES HIS TAKE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

This issue provides an overview of events hosted and participated in by Ministers and MPPs throughout the course of the week. PEO GLP Chairs from the Ottawa and Mississauga Chapters participated in two of them. PEO also released a guideline related to as-built and record documents. This week we featured an interview with PEO Councillor **Rob Brunet**, P.Eng., where he shares some of his thoughts on the value of the GLP.

PEO NEWS

PEO AGM SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30

A reminder that PEO will be hosting their AGM online on **Saturday, May 30**. It will begin at 8:30 AM, and will be chaired by PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng.

The AGM was initially scheduled to take place 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 send in 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.

As well, the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers held their virtual Annual General Meeting on May 6, 2020.

A number of PEO members registered and attended.



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.

ONLINE EVENTS WITH MPPs

PEO OTTAWA AND MISSISSAUGA GLP CHAIRS PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE MPP TOWN HALLS



Jeremy Roberts, MPP (Ottawa West—Nepean), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

(OTTAWA) - PEO Ottawa Chapter GLP Chair **Ishwar Bhatia**, P.Eng., participated in an online town hall with **Jeremy Roberts**, MPP (Ottawa West-Nepean), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services on May 5.

Following the town hall, Mr. Bhatia wrote a note to MPP Roberts, which provided an introduction of himself, and an overview of the work of PEO and the Ottawa Chapter.

Mr. Bhatia has also requested a meeting with MPP Roberts.



Natalia Kusendova, MPP (Mississauga Centre)

(MISSISSAUGA)- PEO Mississauga Chapter GLP Chair **Feras Alsheet**, P.Eng., participated in an online town hall with **Natalia Kusendova** MPP (Mississauga Centre) on May 5.

Also participating was **Michael Tibollo**, MPP (Vaughan-Woodbridge), Associate Minister of Mental Health & Addictions.

Following the event, Mr. Alsheet sent notes to MPP Kusendova and Minister Tibollo informing them about his role in the PEO Mississauga Chapter, and thanking them for hosting online events to keep constituents engaged.

Many ministers and MPPs have been asking MPP Kusendova to join their town halls, as she is a nurse by profession, and has been working on the front lines during COVID –19.

Click [here](#) to read the GLP Weekly story covering her role in helping Ontario during this pandemic.



Michael Tibollo, MPP (Vaughan-Woodbridge), Associate Minister of Mental Health & Addictions.

ONLINE EVENTS WITH MPPs

MINISTER, NDP LEADER AND MPP HOLD ONLINE EVENTS



Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax)

The Empire Club of Canada hosted an event with Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax) on May 8.

Minister Phillips had a one and a half hour long discussion with those who tuned in, about Ontario's plan to re-open the economy in a post COVID-19 world.

Also participating in the virtual event was PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**.

Minister Phillips has spoken with PEO representatives in the past, and most recently he met with President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., at a TVO Gala in October 2019.

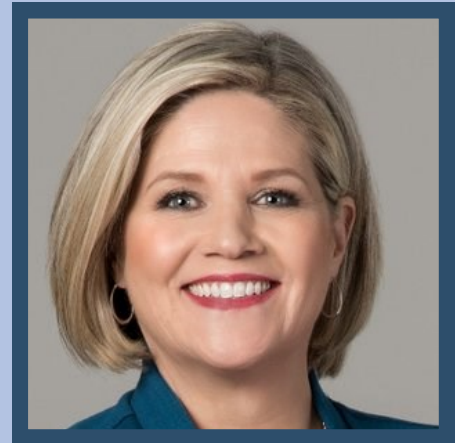
(HAMILTON) - NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre) hosted two online town halls on May 4 and May 10.

MPP Horwath has always supported the work of PEO.

She was the guest speaker at the PEO Government Relations Conference in 2016 and at several PEO Queen's Park receptions.

Also participating in the May 4 virtual event was PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**.

The town hall on May 10 was on the topic of Mother's Day, and the impact of COVID-19 on women across the province.



NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre)

(THUNDER BAY) - **Judith Monteith-Farrell**, MPP (Thunder Bay-Atikokan), NDP Critic for Natural Resources, Forestry and Conservation and Parks hosted an online town hall on May 6. PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** had the chance to meet MPP Monteith-Farrell, when she came to Queen's Park after her election in 2018.



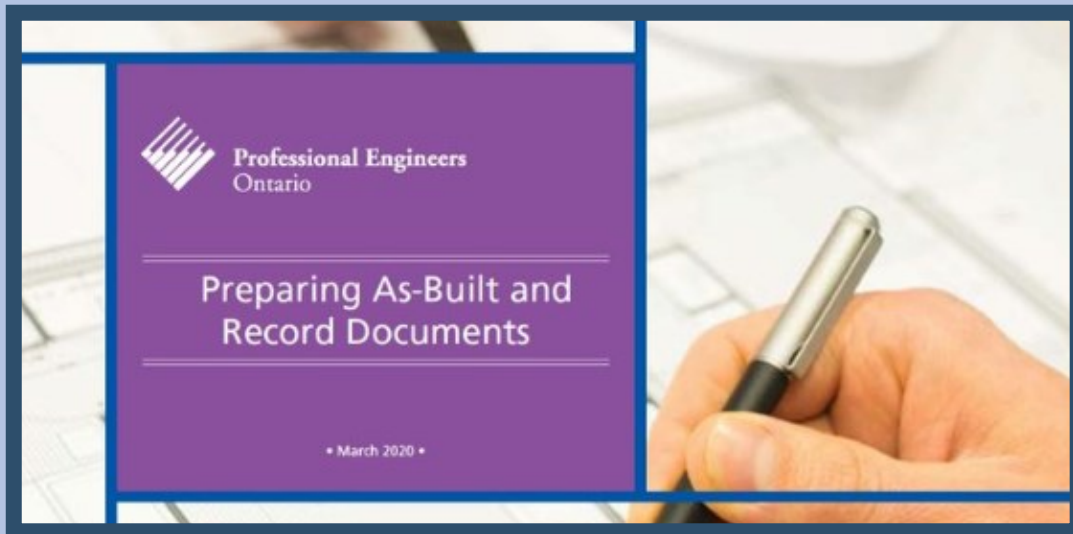
Judith Monteith-Farrell, MPP (Thunder Bay-Atikokan), NDP Critic for Natural Resources, Forestry and Conservation and Parks

PEO licence holders are encouraged to continue participating on online town halls that are happening in their Chapter and/or riding.

If licence holders do come across one and are interested in participating, please register, and send a report to be featured in the GLP Weekly.

These virtual events are great opportunities to build relationships with local MPPs.

PEO RELEASES 'PREPARING AS-BUILT AND RECORDS DOCUMENT GUIDELINE'



PEO released a 'Preparing As-Built and Record Documents' guideline in March 2020.

PHOTO CREDIT: @PEO_HQ

PEO released a 'Preparing As-Built and Record Documents Guideline' in March 2020.

This guideline serves as a tool for practitioners, should they be called upon by a client or regulatory authority to provide record drawing or documents.

The document offers:

- inspection considerations
- key definitions
- guideline summary
- step by step flow chart outlining how to prepare record documents
- FAQs

The guideline's contributors were:

- **Fanny Wong**, P.Eng., PEO Professional Standards Committee (PSC) Chair
- **James Lower**, P.Eng.
- **Praneeta Moti**, P.Eng.
- **Peter Rüsxh**, P.Eng.

To read the entire document, click [here](#).

NEW PEO COUNCILLOR PROVIDES HIS TAKE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP

Below is an interview with PEO Councillor **Rob Brunet**, P.Eng., from May 13. He was appointed as a Lieutenant Governor Appointed Councillor (LGA) by the Ontario government in 2020.

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

I have been a volunteer in provincial politics for the past 10 years, and gained experience taking on leadership roles in local committees that are involved in the political process.

I also started a not-for-profit corporation, Rural Fibre Initiative, whose goal is to facilitate broadband Internet access to rural residents through an innovative funding model.

I have worked with all levels of government to submit funding proposals in furtherance of that goal.

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

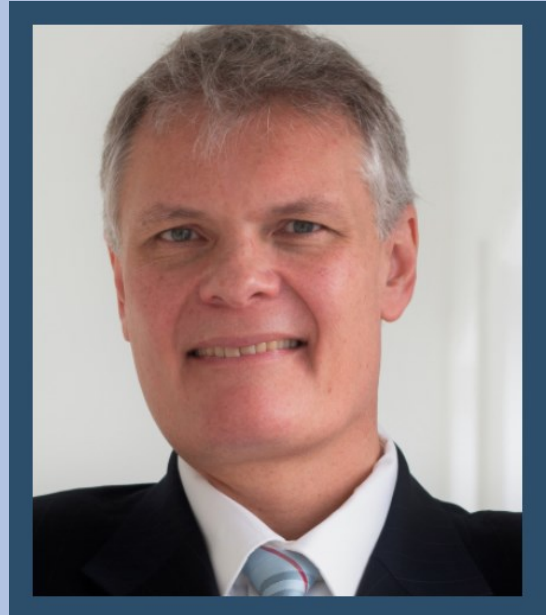
I believe that it is important for PEO to maintain strong relations with the provincial government, in order for there to be relationships that can be relied upon when an issue of particular importance to the public interest requires lobbying of government for regulatory change.

In addition, PEO is a regulatory agency established through provincial legislation; as such, it is important for PEO to maintain relations with the provincial government, to ensure that it continues to fulfill the role entrusted to it by the Legislature.

PEO needs to be responsive to the changing needs of the public, as interpreted by our elected officials.

PEO needs to remain informed of changes to legislation, as well as able to promote changes that it feels are needed as it continues on its journey to modernize regulation of the engineering profession.

Based on my previous experience with provincial government, pre-existing provincial government relationships, and aptitude for political situations, I felt it was my duty to become involved in PEO's liaison activities.



PEO Councillor **Rob Brunet**, P.Eng.

*story continued on page 7

NEW PEO COUNCILLOR PROVIDES HIS TAKE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP



PEO Councillor **Rob Brunet**, P.Eng., (left) and Ernie Hardeman, MPP (Oxford), Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. This photo was taken at an event in Niagara Falls on Feb 21, 2020.

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

Particularly during these times of COVID-19, it is difficult for the GLP to remain engaged with government priorities and effectively conduct its liaison activities.

Government officials at every level are fully engaged in health-related priorities, as they should be, and don't have time to participate in the types of events that would be more commonly held during normal times.

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

Since the pandemic could continue for quite some time, the GLP needs to adapt its approach to liaison with government to focus on how a well-regulated engineering profession can be of benefit to the public, when health-related processes and systems are being designed.

For example, the design of the quarantine facilities, adapting building structures and public places to social distancing, and technology for contact tracing that respects personal privacy, all involve the performance of engineering work. This work must be held to a high standard in order to maximize the potential for the province to overcome COVID-19, and minimize further harm to the public.

Making public officials aware of the need for engineers to be involved in crisis is a current opportunity for the GLP to raise awareness of the **importance of a well-regulated** engineering profession to public health in the province. Hopefully, these measures will be effective and we will return to a state of normalcy soon, so that the need for crisis management will abate, allowing the GLP to return to its conventional liaison activities.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to former PEO GLP Chair for Thousand Islands, **Ray Linseman**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

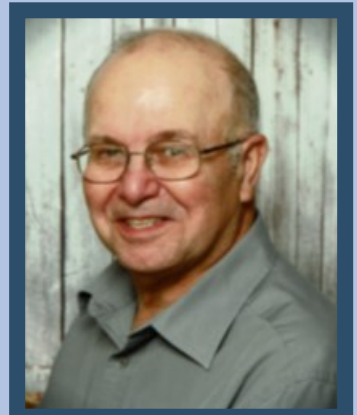
Question: How many MPPs participated in the Mississauga online town hall, which was featured on the front page of last week's issue?

Answer: Six

This week's 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).

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, May 18.

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



Ray Linseman, P.Eng., is the winner of last week's 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:
Howard Brown, President, Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs Inc.
321 Brooke Avenue | Toronto, ON M5M 2L4 | Direct line: 416-783-1140 | Cell: 416-844-1180