



June 26,
2020

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

Volume 14,
Issue 22



TORONTO, PEEL AND WINDSOR ENTER STAGE 2

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) announced that Toronto, Peel and Windsor would be moving to Stage 2 in the Ontario government's three phase plan to reopen businesses during COVID-19. They joined the rest of the province in entering Stage 2. Leamington and Kingsville, located in the region of Windsor-Essex, are the only municipalities in Ontario that will remain in Stage 1. For more information on whether or not your place of work as a PEO licence holder has been impacted, 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 July 3 due to the shortened holiday week. The next issue will be published on July 10, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. MINISTER, GREEN PARTY LEADER AND AN NDP MPP HOST ONLINE EVENTS
2. PEO PRESIDENT SHARES HER INSIGHT ON BIGGEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GLP

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

The PEO Government Liaison Program works to establish local connections with MPPs. Elected officials continue to host online events (see page 3), and PEO licence holders should take every opportunity to participate and build relationships. PEO President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., FEC, shared her insight on what the biggest opportunities are for the GLP.

PEO NEWS

PEO HOSTS 535TH COUNCIL MEETING VIRTUALLY

PEO hosted their 535 Council meeting virtually on June 19. This was the first PEO Council meeting chaired by PEO's President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., FEC (photo below).



Topics on the agenda included:

- Follow up from AGM member submissions
- Changes to the 2020 Committees and Task Force membership roster
- Rules for the 2021 PEO Council Election
- Professional Standards Committee update on Co-ordinated Licenced Professional Joint Subcommittee



PEO Headquarters in Toronto.

The Council meeting also covered the steps PEO is taking to adapt to a remote environment, including processing P.Eng. applications, issuing new licenses and seals, taking the National Professional Practice Examination, handling complaints investigations, publishing *Engineering Dimensions*, conducting committee and Chapter meetings, and more.

ONLINE EVENTS WITH MPPs

MINISTER, GREEN PARTY LEADER AND AN NDP MPP HOST ONLINE EVENTS

Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure, the Green Party Leader and an NDP MPP hosted online events last week.



Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock), Minister of Infrastructure

Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure **Laurie Scott**, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock) held an online event on June 18. Joining her for the call was Infrastructure Ontario, President and CEO, **Ehren Cory** and Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships, President and CEO, **Mark Romoff**.

Minister Scott is familiar with the work of PEO as a regulator.

She had a chance to meet a number of PEO representatives, since she was first elected in 2003. She most recently spoke with PEO West Toronto Chapter GLP Chair **Janet Han**, P.Eng., at an Infrastructure Innovation event in October of 2019.



Mike Schreiner, MPP (Guelph), Green Party Leader.

Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph) hosted an online town hall on June 20.

MPP Schreiner met with PEO Grand River Chapter GLP representative **Oscar Nespoli**, P.Eng. at a local event in February 2020.



Suze Morrison, MPP (Toronto Centre), NDP Critic for Tenant Rights, Urban Indigenous Issues, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Suze Morrison, MPP (Toronto Centre), NDP Critic for Tenant Rights, Urban Indigenous Issues and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls hosted an online event on June 16.

MPP Morrison had a chance to meet PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** at an event in September 2018.

PEO licence holders are encouraged to register for online events, listen in, and send a follow up note to the MPP letting them know you participated and information about the work of PEO.

PEO PRESIDENT SHARES HER INSIGHT ON BIGGEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GLP

Below is a June 23 interview with PEO President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., FEC. She was sworn in at the PEO AGM on May 30.

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

My first experience with the political process was in the eight grade when I served as a Page in the Legislature. I was nominated by my MPP, who was the then Minister of Education.

In my work life with PEO, where I served as both Chapter Coordinator and as an Enforcement Manager, I worked with the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, on streamlining processes and improving work safety in manufacturing facilities.

In 2009, I created a partnership between PEO and the Ontario Legislature Intern Program. In 2011, I stepped up to be a more engaged citizen, won a nomination, and ran as a candidate in the provincial election that year.



PEO President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., FEC

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

My father, who was a former President of PEO, was a big supporter of the regulator creating a stronger relationship with government. I have always appreciated the value of the Government Liaison Program (GLP), since it was created in 2005.

I well remember when the Ontario government of the day was trying to make changes to the *Ontario Building Code*, that overrode the *Professional Engineers Act*.

Prior to the creation of the GLP, when I was a young engineer, I understand there was not a lot of dialogue between the MPPs and PEO.

I think the government now sees PEO as a co-regulator, versus just being a stakeholder.

I think this is a really good success story, and that this relationship needs to continue to be supported and improved upon, which will in turn benefit the public interest.

*story continued on page 5

PEO PRESIDENT SHARES HER INSIGHT ON BIGGEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GLP



PEO President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., FEC (right), PEO CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng., (left) and **Lindsay Keats**, P.Eng., (centre, left), spoke with **Vic Fedeli**, MPP (Nipissing), Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (centre, right) at the PEO 50th Anniversary Engineering Symposium on January 31 in North Bay.

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

I think it would be ensuring the consistency and simplicity of the message. There is much regional activity with MPPs in the Chapters, and we want to align it with the goals of Council.

A relevant message can be: The public needs more protection around how digital technology impacts them. This can range from cyber security threats, automation, AI, to climate change.

I believe it is within PEO's scope to positively impact the government with ways to keep the public protected in the midst of rapid technological changes.

Other challenges would be to help the government see that PEO is a resource to help them to keep the public safe. PEO's mandate is public protection and well being.

Its mandate is not to protect engineers. We have to be more clear about what PEO can be for the government.

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

PEO needs to better understand what the agenda and priorities of the government are. Being aware of this will help us provide proactive solutions through co-regulation with the government.

Another great opportunity is maintaining local relationships with MPPs of all parties through the Chapter GLP representatives. This will build continued trust with government.

We need to reinforce that PEO has a shared interest with the government. PEO can be reached out to and relied upon to bring solutions in the public interest.

These local relationships can in fact help uncover emerging issues around public protection and well being, and will also help PEO continue to be a better regulator.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to PEO London Chapters, **Roger Jones**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

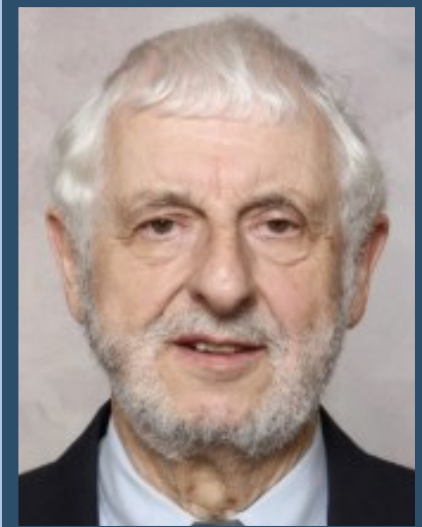
Question: Who is the newly appointed Liberal Attorney General Critic?

Answer: Lucille Collard

This week's question: Who is the newly-appointed PEO Government Liaison Committee EIT representative?

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 by Monday, June 29.

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



Roger Jones, P.Eng., is the winner of last week's GLP Trivia contest.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENT

Friday, June 26 - Scarborough-Guildwood Virtual Townhall hosted by **Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Liberal -Scarborough-Guildwood) at 7 PM. MPP Hunter will be joined by her federal counterpart Hon.

John McKay, MP municipal counterpart, City Councillor **Paul Ainslie**. To watch the livestream visit: <http://rebrand.ly/JUNE26>

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH MPPs DURING COVID-19

At this time, the PEO GLP Weekly will not be sharing any upcoming in-person 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. MPPs are still receiving and sending emails, taking calls, conducting meetings remotely, and happy to connect.



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
howard@brown-cohen.com | www.brown-cohen.com