



July 17,
2020

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

Volume 14,
Issue 24



ONTARIO MOVING TO STAGE 3 IN REOPENING PLAN FOR PARTS OF THE PROVINCE

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) announced on July 13 that parts of the province would move to stage 3 for reopening. With him in this photo are the Ontario Medical Officer of Health Dr. **David Williams** and Deputy Premier and Health Minister **Christine Elliott**, MPP (Newmarket-Aurora.) For more information on this story, see Page 2.

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 July 24, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. NDP MPPs HOLD ONLINE MEETING
2. PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE HOLDS ITS MONTHLY MEETING
3. FORMER PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES INSIGHT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

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. Former PEO Councillor **Ishwar Bhatia** P.Eng., shared his insight on what the biggest opportunities are for the GLP.

QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

SOME PARTS OF THE PROVINCE MOVE TO REOPEN AS PEO CONTINUES TO WORK REMOTELY

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) has announced that part of the Province will move to stage 3 in the reopening plan as of today, July 17, 2020.

All businesses can reopen today in some parts of Ontario except, for the Greater Toronto-Hamilton area and a few other regions. (See list to the right)

"We will keep working until every part of this province gets to Stage 3," the premier said on July 13.



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) announced on July 13 that some parts of the province would move to stage 3 for reopening as of today, July 17.

"My friends, this is great news. We are moving forward as a province but we can't stop, we won't stop until we get every worker in Ontario back to work and back on their feet."

Remaining in stage 2 will be the following regions:

- Durham
- Haldimand-Norfolk
- Halton
- Hamilton
- Lambton
- Niagara
- Peel
- Toronto
- Windsor-Essex
- York

The PEO head office remains closed but staff are working remotely to the extent possible in light of operational and other restrictions resulting from the current emergency.

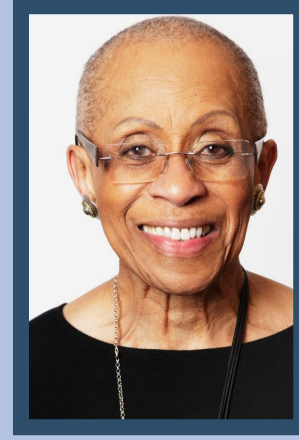
NDP MPPS HOLD ONLINE MEETING



Chris Glover, MPP
(Spadina-Fort York).



Laura Mae Lindo, MPP
(Kitchener Centre)



Zanana Akande,
Former MPP and
Cabinet Minister

Chris Glover, MPP (Spadina-Fort York) hosted a digital anti-racism Town Hall meeting on July 9. MPP **Glover** is the NDP critic for Colleges and Universities.

His special guest for the meeting was Kitchener Centre MPP **Laura Mae Lindo** who is the NDP Critic for Anti-Racism, and Citizenship & Immigration. PEO East Toronto Chapter GLP Chair **Omid Sadeghi**, P.Eng also attended.

The town hall panel also featured:

- Former MPP and Cabinet Minister, **Zanana Akande**
- **Sean Conway**, Curve Lake First Nation Councillor and Indigenous Peoples' Committee Co- Chair
- **Amin Ali**, Former Toronto District School Board Student Trustee
- **Danielle Morrison**, Member of Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing



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

The panel discussed mobilizing support to a call of action for systemic change in societal institutions.

MPP Glover was the special guest speaker on February 5 at PEO's East Toronto Chapter Annual General Meeting.

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING



The PEO Government Liaison Committee held its monthly meeting online on July 15. In this photo are members from the January meeting of the committee at PEO headquarters. They are committee Chair and Regional Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng. (centre left), Vice-chair **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng. (centre right), **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng. (left), **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng. (second from left), Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng. (second from right), and **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng. (right).

The PEO Government Liaison Committee held its monthly meeting virtually on July 15. The meeting was chaired by PEO Regional Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., who has chaired the committee since 2017.

On the agenda were reports from committees as well as from Engineers Canada, Consulting Engineers of Ontario and the Engineering Students Societies' Council of Ontario.

Discussions were held on ways to ensure better training for GLP representatives and ways to focus more directly on regulatory activities.

The meeting discussed plans for a 2020 virtual PEO Government Relations Conference which is expected to be held in early November, tentatively for November 6.

Also attending the meeting were:

- PEO Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng.
- Engineers Canada Representative **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng.
- **Christine Hill**, P.Eng., Chair, Consulting Engineers of Ontario
- **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng., active in a Riding Association
- **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., Advisory Committee on Volunteers Representative
- **Alexandra Weryha**, EIT, EIT Representative
- **Shawn Yanni**, Student Representative
- **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., PEO Manager, Government Liaison Programs
- **Howard Brown**, PEO Government Relations Consultant, Brown & Cohen

FORMER PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES INSIGHT ON VALUE OF THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM



Former PEO Councillor and Ottawa GLP Chair **Ishwar Bhatia**, P.Eng. (right) met and spoke with **Joel Harden**, MPP (Ottawa Centre) at a community event in Ottawa on August 16, 2019.

Below is an interview with former PEO Councillor Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng. who is also the Ottawa Chapter GLP Chair from June 24.

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

During my many years of service with the City of Ottawa as a municipal engineer and since, I volunteered for many civic duties. For example, some of the roles I played were:

- Chair of the Civic Institute of Professional Personnel which required dealing with the City Human Resources department and elected councillors on arbitrations
- Meeting facilitator on the amalgamation of 11 municipalities into one city

It required dealing with the elected boards of smaller municipalities and their constituents. It also required exchanging municipal knowledge of services for better efficiencies in developing one city rather than the status quo.

- Invited local candidates to answer questions during a federal election campaign and conduct a media event for local MPPs to participate on issues of PEO governance
- Chair of a five-person board to arbitrate elections and finance issues for the Ottawa Chapter of the India-Canada association where I also chaired an international language school committee
- Served on a Condo board to develop policies and by-laws on issues of common interest

On my regular job with the City of Ottawa, most of my controversial engineering projects required 'Open Public Houses' in community halls to answer difficult questions on neighbourhood improvements.

During that time, I worked closely with the elected officials to arrive at a sound decision.

Experience allowed me to focus, listen, respect, connect the dots, maintain confidentiality and successfully execute the plans based on the input from the public.

... Continued on page 6

FORMER PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES INSIGHT ON VALUE OF THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

This political involvement helped me to become a trustworthy leader and I used these skills further to inspire my colleagues to work together to reach a common goal.

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

I first took an interest in government liaison activities when I was appointed by the government as a PEO Councillor and later as an elected Eastern Ontario Regional Councilor. Knowing that PEO is governed by the Professional Engineers Act, I quickly realized that changes to our Act must be approved by MPPs on the recommendations of the Attorney General.

That meant educating ourselves on how to deal with 124 MPPs who needed to better understand how engineering issues affect public safety. The Ottawa area alone has eight MPPs and eastern Ontario has another 11 MPPs.

I am trying to develop better rapport with the local MPPs including the two new ones who were just elected in February to fill vacancies.

We need those relationships because we want to make sure that PEO is consulted prior to any policy changes affecting engineering regulation.

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

I served for several years as a member of PEO's Government Liaison Committee, which provides oversight for GLP in the 36 PEO chapters.

PEO's biggest challenge is to inform MPPs in a convincing way about the role of the PEO as a self-regulator enhancing public safety and not an advocacy role.

PEO has unique knowledge and expertise that we have gained since forming in 1922. It makes sense that the government would consult PEO prior to considering any new policy directions that may impact the regulation of the practice of professional engineering.

For that reason, PEO needs to have a local presence, knowledge of the legislative framework and policies as well as training in communicating a consistent message to MPPs.

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

PEO Chapters should continue to appoint and train GLP representatives on how to better interact with local MPPs. All GLP representatives should be well informed on engineering and non-engineering matters so that they can thoroughly comprehend issues relevant to the MPPs.

GLP reps should research the emerging activities of MPPs through their websites and social media channels, and get to know their staff. That way they can have the understanding and relationships when required to get action on engineering regulation issues.

Since the pandemic started, it has been challenging to arrange meaningful activities with MPPs.

However, we are doing our best to keep ourselves abreast of the news and hopefully engage MPPs in our chapter events soon.



Former PEO Councillor and
Ottawa GLP Chair **Ishwar
Bhatia, P.Eng.**

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

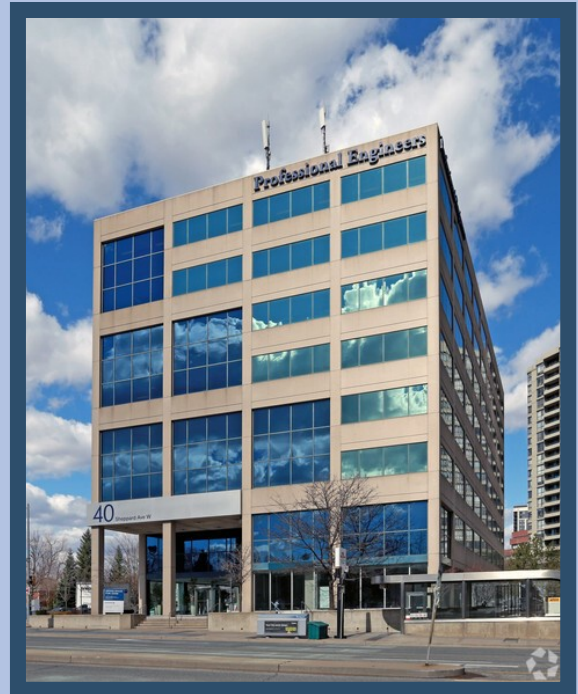
This week's question:

What are the names of the three MPPs that hosted online events, as covered in the June 26 GLP Weekly?

We are repeating the trivia contest question from the July 10 issue as the correct answers were given by respondents who previously won in the last four weeks.

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, July 20.

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



UPCOMING MPP EVENT

Thursday, July 23 - Virtual Townhall with **Sandy Shaw**, MPP (Hamilton West), NDP Critic for Finance and Treasury Board, concerning the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on students. Participants can speak directly to representatives who will address concerns to the provincial government.

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2731405873769045/>

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:
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