



July 24,
2020

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

Volume 14,
Issue 25



PREMIER KICKS OFF SUMMER TOUR WITH VISITS TO BUSINESSES IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) visits the Frito Lay plant in Cambridge as part of a province wide tour that he launched last week. With him are **Belinda Karahalios**, MPP (Cambridge) and Cambridge Mayor **Kathryn McGarry**. For more 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 31, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. MINISTER, MPPs HOLD ONLINE MEETINGS
2. ENGINEERING DIMENSIONS PUBLISHES NEW GLP JOURNAL COLUMN
3. PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES INSIGHT ON VALUE OF 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 pages 3 and 4), and PEO license holders should take every opportunity to participate and build relationships. PEO Councillor **Arthur Sinclair** P.Eng., shares his insight on what the biggest opportunities are for the GLP on pages 6 and 7.

QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

PREMIER ANNOUNCES SEVEN MORE MUNICIPALITIES TO MOVE TO STAGE 3



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) visited Sun-Brite canning facility in Leamington on July 16.

(CAMBRIDGE) - Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) announced on July 20 that seven new municipalities will now move to Stage 3 in the province's reopening plan. They are Durham, Halton, Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton, Lambton, Niagara, and York. Three municipalities that will remain subject to Stage 2 are Toronto, Peel, and Windsor-Essex.

Last week, the Premier also kicked off a two-month tour that will cover 38 ridings specifically to speak to those who he said "stepped up over the past few months..." during the pandemic. His early stops included municipalities such as Windsor, Leamington, Chatham and Cambridge.

He was joined by Ministers and MPPs throughout the week who included **Vic Fedeli**, MPP (Nipissing), Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and Deputy Speaker **Rick Nicholls**, MPP (Chatham-Kent-Leamington). Both Minister Fedeli and Deputy Speaker Nicholls were guest speakers last year at the PEO GLP Academies and Congresses in North Bay and Chatham.

On July 17, the Premier also participated in a telephone townhall in Cambridge with three local PC MPPs including **Amy Fee**, MPP (Kitchener South-Hespeler), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services; **Mike Harris**, MPP (Kitchener-Conestoga), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, and **Belinda Karahalios**, MPP (Cambridge), Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General. Cambridge Mayor and former Ontario Minister **Kathryn McGarry**, joined the Premier for a visit to the local Frito Lays plant.

PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** also participated in the town hall meeting with the Premier and the local MPPs.

On July 22nd, MPP **Karahalios** was ejected from the PC Caucus for voting against a COVID-19 bill which expanded the government's emergency authority powers. The bill passed 60 - 28.

MINISTER, MPPs HOLD ONLINE MEETINGS



Hon. **Lisa MacLeod**, MPP (Nepean), Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

(OTTAWA) - **Lisa MacLeod**, MPP (Nepean), Ontario's Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries held a telephone town hall on July 13 to discuss the government's response to COVID-19.

The Minister also announced plans for the next steps on the redesign of [Ontario Place](#).

Minister MacLeod has had many interactions over the years with PEO Ottawa Chapter. She was first elected in a by-election in 2006.

Faisal Hassan, MPP (York South-Weston), the NDP Critic on Youth Engagement, held a virtual townhall meeting on July 9th on childcare with local community members.

MPP Hassan represents the home riding of PEO CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon** P.Eng.

MPP Hassan was first elected in the 2018 provincial election and attended the PEO 2018 Queen's Park reception.



Faisal Hassan, MPP (York South-Weston), NDP Critic on Youth Engagement



Lucille Collard, MPP (Ottawa-Vanier), Liberal Attorney General Critic

(OTTAWA) - **Lucille Collard**, MPP (Ottawa-Vanier), hosted an online town hall on June 29.

As reported in the June 12th PEO GLP Weekly, MPP Collard is the newly appointed Liberal Attorney General Critic.

She is also the Party's Critic for Women's Issues, the Solicitor General, and for the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Joining MPP Collard for her June 29th event were her federal and municipal counterparts, Hon. **Mona Fortier**, MP, Minister of Middle Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance and Ottawa City Councillor **Rawlson King** (Ward 13, Rideau—Rockcliffe).

...Continued on page 4

OPPOSITION MPPs HOLD ONLINE MEETINGS



Jessica Bell, MPP
(University—Rosedale), NDP
Transit Critic

Jessica Bell, MPP (University-Rosedale), the NDP Critic for Transit, hosted an online event on June 29th.

Joining her were NDP Education Critic **Marit Stiles**, MPP (Davenport), Educator **Nigel Barrife** of the Toronto District School Board, **Rachel Huot** of the Ontario Parent Action Network and Dr. **Michelle Science** of Sick Kids Hospital.

PEO West Toronto Chapter GLP Chair **Janet Han**, P.Eng., met MPPs Bell and Stiles, as well as other NDP MPPs at an event on June 14, 2019.



Marit Stiles, MPP
(Davenport),
NDP Education Critic



Mitzie Hunter, MPP
(Scarborough-Guildwood),
Liberal Finance Critic

Liberal Finance Critic **Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood), hosted an online event on June 26th.

MPP Hunter is a member of the Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs as well as her Party's Critic for the Treasury Board, Energy, Democratic Renewal and Electoral Reform.

Joining her for her June 26th event were her federal and municipal counterparts, Hon. **John McKay**, MP, and Toronto City Councillor **Paul Ainslie**. Also participating was Scarborough Health Network President and CEO, **Liz Buller**.

In 2013, Ms. Hunter participated in a PEO Scarborough Chapter All Candidates meeting prior to her election on August 1st that year.

ENGINEERING DIMENSIONS PUBLISHES NEW GLP JOURNAL COLUMN

The new July-August issue of Engineering Dimensions is out. See [link](#). There are a number of interesting articles over the 56 page issue that may be of interest to GLP Weekly readers. Specifically, there is a new GLP Journal column called *What the Government Liaison Program Wants MPPs To Know About PEO's Complaints Process*. It was written by PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**.

The article states in part, "Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the medical profession has been in the spotlight. Over the years, the legal, teaching and accounting professions have also been subjected to public scrutiny that has called for increase public accountability. Engineers also face scrutiny, as was the case in both the Elliot Lake and Radiohead inquiries. But over the years, PEO has worked hard to defend its jurisdiction."

GLP JOURNAL

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WANTS MPPs TO KNOW ABOUT PEO's COMPLAINTS PROCESS

By Howard Brown

PEO's Government Liaison Committee, which was created in 2011, has worked hard to train Government Liaison Program (GLP) representatives across the province on the importance of ensuring MPPs understand PEO's regulatory mandate. PEO's complaints process is a key part of that regulation. But why should Ontario's 124 MPPs care about regulated professional processes such as the complaints process?

Across Canada, it has been shown that it is better for the government to work with professions on the regulation of their own sectors. In many American states and other jurisdictions around the world, the regulation of professions is carried out by a government department. But in conversations we have had with senior members of the Ontario government and the premier's office, we understand that there is an advantage in having professions regulate themselves—there's no cost to the government, it is more efficient, better for the public and the regulator works directly with its professionals.

MPPs in Ontario should know PEO annually receives a small number of complaints against its engineers compared to other regulated professional bodies. Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the medical profession has been in the spotlight. Over the years, the legal, teaching and accounting professions have also been subjected to public scrutiny that has called for increased public accountability. Engineers also face scrutiny, as was the case in both the Elliot Lake and Radiohead inquiries. But over the years, PEO has worked hard to defend its jurisdiction.

WHAT OTHER PROFESSIONS ARE DOING

While PEO does not receive as many complaints against its members as other regulators, there is increasing pressure to vigorously improve public accountability for all professions. We examined the complaints process of several different professional regulators, including PEO, to see how we stack up. In 2017:

- PEO had 53 complaints raised against its almost 92,000 members, or 0.06 per cent (*Professional Engineers Ontario Annual Report*, 2018).
- The Ontario College of Teachers received over 720 complaints against its 233,700 members, or 0.3 per cent (*Ontario College of Teachers Annual Report*, 2018).

- The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario received over 4276 complaints against its 36,900 physicians, or 11.51 per cent (*The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario Annual Report*, 2018).
- The Law Society of Ontario received 4200 complaints against its over 53,700 lawyers and 9000 paralegals, or 7 per cent (*Law Society of Ontario Annual Report*, 2018).
- Ontario Association of Architects received 75 complaints against its roughly 4250 architects, or 1.76 per cent (*Ontario Association of Architects Annual Report*, 2018).
- College of Nurses Ontario saw its complaints go up by 50 per cent to nearly 2100 out of over 182,200 registered practitioner nurses and nurse practitioners, or 1.14 per cent (*College of Nurses of Ontario Annual Report*, 2018).

In an effort to improve its complaints process, PEO can also look at other professions and observe what they are doing. For example:

- In 2018, the Law Society of Ontario's Professional Regulation "continued to pursue its goal of more robust triaging and increased resolution of complaints earlier in the process" ([annualreport.iso.ca/pdf/AnnualReport2018-EN.pdf](#)).
- The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario issued more than 1000 cautions against practising doctors between 2007 and 2013. In 2016, the Ministry of Health commissioned a report recommending a more streamlined complaints process. Following this, the college improved its complaints procedure, including a new alternative dispute process (see [cpso.on.ca/PublicServices/Complaints](#)).
- The Ontario College of Teachers is a relatively new body, formed in 1997. Its complaints process has benefited from emulating other professions, as opposed to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which was formed in 1866 ([oct.ca/members/complaints-and-discipline/complaints-process](#)).
- The Ontario Association of Architects is both a regulator and an association.
- The College of Nurses of Ontario has had full use of the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board, along with an alternative dispute resolution, in place since 1995.

"We have to be vigilant in making sure the trust the government and the public has placed in PEO remains our priority," says Jeanette Chau, P.Eng., PEO manager of Government Liaison Programs. There is always more work to be done in ensuring PEO, and all regulators, remain vigilant in its complaints process. [e](#)

Howard Brown is the president of Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs Inc. and PEO's government relations consultant.

PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES INSIGHT ON VALUE OF THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM



PEO Councillor **Arthur Sinclair**, P.Eng., at a PC Women in Politics event in Toronto on December 5, 2018 with then - Attorney General **Caroline Mulroney**, MPP (York - Simcoe). Also in the photo is PEO East Toronto Chapter Chair **Larisse Nana**, P.Eng. At the time of the event, Mr. Sinclair was the Chapter Chair and Ms. Nana was Vice-Chair. Minister **Mulroney** is now Ontario's Transportation Minister and Minister of Francophone Affairs.

Below is an interview with PEO Councillor **Arthur Sinclair**, P.Eng., on July 17.

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

I've always been politically active in some way; running (and losing) for student council, participating in my local community association, and knocking on doors for my local MPP. Perhaps my biggest foray into politics was organizing an all candidates debate during the by-election in my riding of Toronto Centre. MP Bob Rae resigned from his federal parliament seat triggering the by-election. I knew there would be more focus on the riding compared to a general election. So I banded together a group of community associations and got to work. We attracted over 300 people to the by-election's only debate. We recruited now Toronto Mayor John Tory to moderate and that election was won by the now Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland.

...Continued on page 7

PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES INSIGHT ON VALUE OF THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

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

The great contemporary artist and activist Ai Weiwei famously said, Everything is Art, Everything is Politics.

I believe this statement to be very true, and I take a lot of solace in it. I think most every person's interactions, reactions, and decisions have both a political and creativity element.

Even a person who says "I don't get into politics" is making a political statement.



PEO Councillor **Arthur Sinclair**, P.Eng., (back row) at the 2019 Ontario Professional Engineers Awards Gala with **Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood) (third from left). Also in the photo are (left to right) PEO CEO / Registrar, **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng., PEO Councillors **Qadira Jackson Kouakou** and **Tomiwa Olukiyesi**, P.Eng., **Carmen Zuccon** and **Omoniyi Olukiyesi**.

Guided by this principle, my interest in politics, and by extension Government Liaison, is integral to my interest in society.

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

For people in the engineering community to be engaged, there needs to be an issue. Right now, in the world of COVID, there is not much of a pure engineering related issue to engage people.

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

As PEO moves forward with implementing the Council approved Action Plan and Governance Roadmap, PEO will likely request some changes to the *Professional Engineers Act*. These changes will not be without controversy. With controversy comes a debate, and debate is healthy.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

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

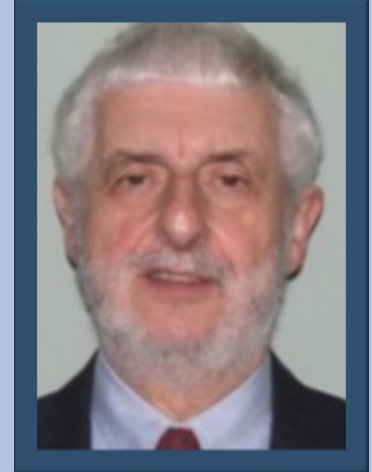
Question: What are the names of the three MPPs that hosted online events, as covered in the June 26 GLP Weekly?

Answer: Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock), Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner, MPP (Guelph), and NDP Critic Suze Morrison, MPP (Toronto Centre)

This week's question: Who was the PEO East Toronto Chapter GLP Chair who participated in an online event with two NDP MPPs on July 9th?

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, July 27.

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



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

UPCOMING MPP EVENT

Thursday, July 30 - Virtual Townhall with **Faisal Hassan**, MPP (York South—Weston), NDP Critic on Youth Engagement, for a conversation on Housing and Tenant's Rights. Participants can speak directly to representatives who will address concerns to the provincial government.

Visit: <https://twitter.com/FaisalHassanNDP/status/1285758940635189248>

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