



July 31,  
2020

# PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

Volume 14,  
Issue 26



## PEO TO HOST VIRTUAL GR CONFERENCE

PEO will hold its 2020 Government Relations conference on November 6th. Here is a photo from the 2018 conference with (second from left) **Jim McDonell**, MPP (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, then Ottawa-Vanier MPP, **Nathalie DesRosiers** (centre left), **Bhutila Karpoche** (centre right), MPP (Parkdale-High Park), and Deputy Green Party Leader **Bonnie North** (second from right). With them were 2018 conference chairs **Jerome James**, P.Eng. (left), and **Arjan Arenja** P.Eng. (right).

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 August 7th issue due to the shortened holiday week. The next issue will be published on August 14, 2020.

## TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. NDP LEADER AND BRAMPTON MPPS MEET WITH LOCAL BOARD OF TRADE
2. MINISTERS MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN SAULT STE. MARIE, NIAGARA AND OTTAWA
3. OPPOSITION MPPS HOLD VIRTUAL MEETINGS
4. PEO EIT REP BRINGS NATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

## 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 4 and 5), and PEO license holders should take every opportunity to participate and build relationships. This week, **Alexandra Weryha**, EIT, the new EIT representative of the Government Liaison Committee, shares her views on ways PEO could better serve the public interest.

## QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

### PREMIER ANNOUNCES YORK UNIVERSITY EXPANSION

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) with York University President, **Rhonda Lenton** at the announcement on July 24th on the province's plan to fund York University's expansion to Markham.

Also in the photo are (left to right) York Region Chair **Wayne Emmerson**, Markham Mayor, **Frank Scarpetti**, Colleges and Universities Minister, **Ross Romano**, MPP (Sault Ste. Marie), and Billy Pang, MPP, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North), has announced that the province will fund the Markham Centre Campus of York University. The announcement was made on July 24th.

The new campus will attract thousands of students living in York region who will now have increased access to a high quality research intensive local learning experience. Also participating in the event were a number of municipal and provincial representatives.

This week, the Premier announced that both Toronto and Peel will move to stage 3 of the province's reopening plan. He also kicked off the next leg of his tour with a series of stops in Durham region.

PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** was the guest speaker on July 23rd at the Government Relations class of York University Professor **Hershell Ezrin**. Mr. Ezrin was guest speaker at the PEO Government Relations conference in 2018.

# NDP LEADER AND BRAMPTON MPPS MEET WITH LOCAL BOARD OF TRADE



NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre), met with the Brampton Board of Trade and local businesses during a tour of the area on July 24th. She was accompanied by three of her MPPs and five local business leaders including (far left to right); **Kevin Yarde**, (Brampton North), her Deputy Leader **Sara Singh**, (Brampton Centre), and Attorney General Critic, **Gurratan Singh** (Brampton South).

(BRAMPTON) - NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre), and her Brampton MPPs were in Brampton on July 24th to meet with hard hit businesses and the local Board of Trade.

“My meeting with the Brampton Board of Trade today made it clear there is so much opportunity in Brampton and across Ontario. If the gov’t steps up and takes a leadership role we can come out of #COVID19 stronger than ever.” she said on Twitter.

She was accompanied by;

- **Sara Singh**, (Brampton Centre), NDP Deputy Leader and Housing Critic
- **Gurratan Singh**, (Brampton South), NDP Attorney General Critic
- **Kevin Yarde**, (Brampton North), NDP Community Safety and Correctional Services Critic

PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** participated in a Brampton Board of Trade event on February 28 with all five Brampton MPPs including **Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria**, (Brampton South), Associate Minister of Small Business and **Amarjot Sandhu**, (Brampton West), Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

...Continued on page 4

# MINISTERS MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN SAULT STE. MARIE, NIAGARA, AND OTTAWA



**Ross Romano,**  
Minister of Colleges  
and Universities

Three ministers made announcements on July 28th.

(SAULT STE. MARIE) - **Ross Romano**, Minister of Colleges and Universities announced funding for transit infrastructure with federal and municipal representatives in Sault Ste. Marie.

Minister Romano is a regular participant in PEO Algoma chapter events, he was first elected in June 1st, 2017.

A lawyer by profession, he previously was a Sault Ste. Marie City Councillor.

(NIAGARA FALLS) - **Lisa MacLeod**, MPP (Nepean), Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries announced the return of the weekend GO train service between Toronto and Niagara Falls starting August 1st. The announcement was made at the local VIA station in Downtown Niagara Falls.

She was joined by **Sam Oosterhoff**, MPP (Niagara West), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, and Niagara Falls Mayor **Jim Diodati**.

Mayor Diodati welcomed PEO with Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates to the PEO annual meeting in Niagara Falls in 2014.



**Lisa MacLeod,**  
Minister of Heritage,  
Sport, Tourism and  
Culture Industries



**Caroline Mulroney**  
Minister of  
Transportation and  
Francophone Affairs

(OTTAWA) - Transportation and Francophone affairs Minister **Caroline Mulroney**, MPP (York-Simcoe), made an announcement on funding for the newly named Ottawa East Ontario Health Team at Montfort Hospital.

Minister Mulroney met with PEO shortly after her election to the Legislature in August 2018. At the time she was the newly appointed Attorney General of the Province.

Minister Mulroney sought the leadership of the PC party in 2018, finishing behind both current Premier Ford and Deputy Premier **Christine Elliott**.

# OPPOSITION MPPs HOLD VIRTUAL MEETINGS



**Sandy Shaw**, MPP (Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas), NDP Critic on Finance

(HAMILTON) - **Sandy Shaw**, MPP (Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas), the NDP Critic on Finance held a virtual McMaster student Town Hall on July 23 concerning the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on students. Joining her was Vice President (Education) and Corporate Officer at McMaster Student Union, **Fawziyah Isah**.

MPP Shaw had a chance to discuss the PEO Government Liaison Program with PEO Government Relations Consultant Howard Brown at a Queen's Park reception prior to the pandemic. She expressed an interest in attending PEO Hamilton-Burlington chapter events.

**Faisal Hassan**, MPP (York South-Weston), the NDP Critic on Youth Engagement, held a virtual townhall conversation/meeting on July 30th regarding housing and tenant rights.

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



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

Liberal Finance Critic **Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood), hosted a virtual town hall on July 27th.

The event was held for the Scarborough-Guildwood municipality in order to answer constituents' questions about Scarborough's economic recovery following Covid-19.

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

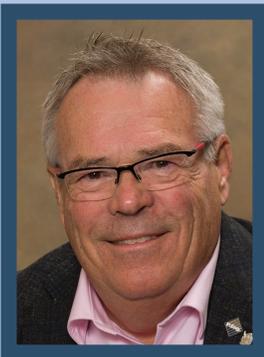
Joining MPP Hunter for her July 27th event was her federal and municipal counterparts, Hon. **John McKay**, MP, and Toronto City Councillor **Paul Ainslie**. MPP Hunter will be re-nominated by her Party this Sunday August 1, on the seventh anniversary of her first election to the Legislature. See the link [here](#) for webinar registration.

# PEO ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE FOR NOVEMBER

The PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) has selected Friday, November 6th, for its 2020 biannual Government Relations conference. In light of the pandemic, the conference will be virtual and will include training sessions for chapter GLP representatives. Sessions will be held on PEO’s role as a co-regulator with the government and ways to connect with MPPs during the pandemic. The conference will invite a number of MPPs from all parties to share with PEO representatives their recommendations about how PEO can better work with all MPPs.

The conference committee, which is meeting weekly, will be recommending speakers, formats, panels, and topics. The committee includes:

- Regional Councillor and GLC Chair **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng.
- PEO Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng.
- **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., Advisory Committee on Volunteers Representative
- **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., former PEO Councillor and Engineers Canada Representative
- **Alexandra Weryha**, EIT, GLC EIT Representative
- **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., Manager, Government Liaison Program
- **Howard Brown**, PEO Government Relations Consultant



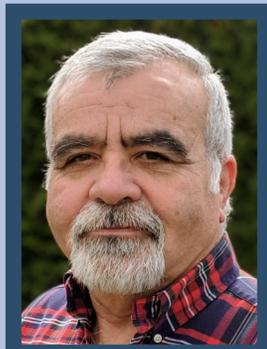
**Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., Government Liaison Committee Chair and Regional Councillor



**Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng., PEO Councillor



**Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., Advisory Committee on Volunteers representative



**Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., Engineers Canada Representative



**Alexandra Weryha**, EIT, GLC EIT Representative



**Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., Manager of PEO Government Liaison Program

# PEO EIT REP BRINGS NATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE



Dean **Bill Rosehart** presents **Alexandra Weryha**, EIT, the new PEO representative of the Government Liaison Program, with a Teaching Assistant award at Schulich School of Engineering in Calgary.

This week's interview is with **Alexandra Weryha**, EIT, who is the new EIT Representative for the PEO Government Liaison Program. The interview was done on July 26.

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

The majority of my experience dealing with the political process has been within student government. I obtained my first elected position in student council and continued to serve on a variety of governing bodies throughout my education.

A desire to serve others and the communities I am involved in has been a common thread throughout my career. I was elected representative for the mechanical engineering graduate students' association. I was also involved in several initiatives pertaining to the development of curriculum to teach engineers frameworks for understanding the environmental and societal implications of their work.

...Continued on page 7

# PEO EIT REP BRINGS NATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Through this initiative I attended the Engineering Change Lab, where I observed the importance of developing relationships across organizational and disciplinary silos.

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

The engagement process around policy development and regulation has always intrigued me. Through my own involvement in this process, I have come to cherish hearing perspectives that contradict my own. I believe that the best solutions reflect and balance the broadest set of needs to society's grand challenges.

As an EIT working towards my license, I am always looking for opportunities to get involved and learn.



**Alexandra Weryha**, EIT, (right) received the Quebec Lieutenant-Governor's bronze medal in 2015 from The Honourable **Pierre Duchesne** for community service.

I also look forward to supporting meaningful engagement between GLP members and their MPPs, particularly during the upcoming PEO virtual Government Relations Conference on November 6th.

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

Given that the GLP exists as a geographically distributed organization, engaging its stakeholders during the physical distancing restrictions of COVID will continue to present challenges. The GLP will likely have to adapt some of its previous engagement methods, such as its annual conference, to ensure that its stakeholders can be effectively engaged in the new normal.

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

Society and its needs continually evolve; as technologies are engineered and implemented to meet these needs, the governing body of engineers must also be engaged in this continued dialogue between industry, academia, regulators, and society. I am excited to see the GLP hone its curriculum and develop support systems and tools that will ensure its stakeholders are communicating clearly with MPPs around regulatory questions. I also think there is a great deal of opportunity to streamline the flow of information and communication from the geographically dispersed Chapters back to PEO Council. Our goal is to become a valuable source of actionable information supporting PEO's mandate to regulate the practice in the public interest.

## GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

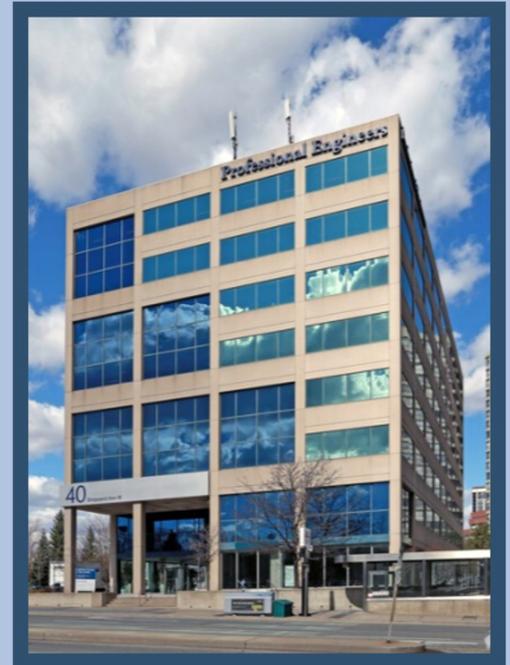
### This week's question:

**Who was the PEO East Toronto Chapter GLP Chair who participated in an online event with two NDP MPPs on July 9th?**

We are repeating the trivia contest question from the July 24th issue as no one correctly answered it.

**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 Tuesday, August 4th.

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



## UPCOMING MPP EVENT

**Wednesday, August 5** - Transportation Minister **Caroline Mulroney** and Metrolinx CEO **Phil Verster** will provide an Ontario transit update at a virtual luncheon hosted by the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships.

Visit: [https://www.pppcouncil.ca/web/Events/Event\\_Details.aspx?EventKey=ONTRANSPO&WebsiteKey=712ad751-6689-4d4a-aa17-e9f993740a89](https://www.pppcouncil.ca/web/Events/Event_Details.aspx?EventKey=ONTRANSPO&WebsiteKey=712ad751-6689-4d4a-aa17-e9f993740a89)

## 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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