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## PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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### PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES INSIGHT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

PEO Councillor **Qadira Jackson Kouakou**, (right), spoke with Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte) at a reception last October. Ms. Jackson Kouakou was interviewed by GLP Weekly.  
For more on this story, see page 5.

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 17, 2020.

## TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. PREMIER HOSTS ONLINE EVENT AS PROVINCE COMPLETES MOVE TO STAGE 2
2. THREE OPPOSITION MPPS HOST ONLINE EVENTS IN TORONTO AND OTTAWA
3. PEO ACCEPTING ONLINE P.ENG APPLICATIONS

## 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 Councillor **Qadira Jackson Kouakou** shared her insight on what the biggest opportunities are for the GLP.

## QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

### FORMER ONTARIO PREMIER NAMED CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS BY PM

(OTTAWA) -Ontario's 21st Premier **Bob Rae** was named Canada's new United Nations Ambassador by Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** on July 6.

Click [here](#) to read a Martin Regg Cohn Toronto Star opinion piece 'Why Bob Rae is the perfect choice for the UN.'

Mr. Rae served as the Premier from 1990 to 1995, representing the New Democratic Party.

He was elected 11 times to federal and provincial parliaments, eight as a New Democrat and three as a Liberal.

During his time as Premier, he took an active interest in professional regulation. His government introduced a number of substantial changes to the governing of the regulated professions.



Ontario's 21st Premier **Bob Rae** (centre) with then PEO Willowdale-Thornhill Chapter's Chair **Noubar Takessian**, P.Eng., (left) and then Vice-Chair **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., (right) at the PEO AGM in 2007. Currently, Mr. Sadr is an Engineers Canada Director and member of the PEO Government Liaison Committee.

After competing in the 2006 Federal Liberal Leadership Convention, he delivered the keynote address at the PEO Annual General Meeting lunch in 2007, where he said "If you're not defending the interests of professional engineers, if you're not defending the interests that you have as individuals, don't expect anyone else to do it for you."

Mr. Rae later served as both the Foreign Affairs Critic and the Interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, and as Special Envoy to Myanmar, in response to the Rohingya human rights crisis.

## ONLINE MPP EVENTS

### PREMIER HOSTS ONLINE EVENT AS PROVINCE COMPLETES MOVE TO STAGE 2



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) (centre) attended a summer event on August 21, 2019 hosted by **Robin Martin**, MPP (Eglinton—Lawrence), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health (centre right). Also in attendance were PEO West Toronto Chapter representatives **Hanane Zaidi**, P.Eng. (below left), **Jean-Paul Stephan**, P.Eng. (below centre) and Education Minister **Stephen Lecce**, MPP (King-Vaughan) (not pictured).

PHOTO CREDIT: @fordnation

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) made an announcement on July 7 to confirm that the entire province has officially entered Stage 2 of the Ontario Government's three Stage reopening plan.

The only region left in Stage 1 was Leamington, Kingsville, which falls in the riding of Windsor-Essex. As COVID-19 cases have declined, they are now cleared to begin the reopening process.

Premier Ford and Education Minister **Stephen Lecce** (King-Vaughan) hosted an online event on June 24.

Premier Ford and Minister Lecce also participated in a summer BBQ hosted by **Robin Martin**, MPP (Eglinton Lawrence), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health on August 21, 2019, which was also attended by PEO West Toronto Chapter representatives **Hanane Zaidi**, P.Eng., **Jean-Paul Stephan**, P.Eng and PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**.

## ONLINE MPP EVENTS

### THREE OPPOSITION MPPS HOST ONLINE EVENTS IN TORONTO AND OTTAWA

Over the last two weeks, three opposition MPPs hosted online events for their constituents in Toronto and Ottawa.



**Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Liberal-Scarborough-Guildwood).

Liberal Finance, Treasury Board, Energy, Democratic Renewal and Electoral Reform Critic **Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood) hosted an online event on June 26.

Joining her was her federal counterpart, Hon, **John MacKay**, MP and her municipal counterpart, Toronto City Councillor **Paul Ainslie**. Also participating was Scarborough Health Network President and CEO, **Liz Buller**.

MPP Hunter has a longtime relationship with PEO Scarborough Chapter, and regularly attends their events.

NDP Transportation Critic **Jessica Bell**, MPP (University-Rosedale), hosted an online event on June 29.

Joining her was NDP Education Critic **Marit Stiles**, MPP (Davenport), **Nigel Barriffe**, Educator, TSDB, **Rachel Huot**, Ontario Parent Action Network and **Dr. Michelle Science**, Sick Kids Hospital.

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



**Jessica Bell**, MPP (NDP-University-Rosedale).

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

As reported in the June 26 GLP Weekly, MPP Collard was recently appointed as the new Liberal Attorney General Critic.

Joining the event was her federal counterpart, Hon. **Mona Fortier**, MP, Minister of Middle Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance and **Rawlson King**, Ottawa City Councillor (Ward 13 Rideau-Rockcliffe).



**Lucille Collard**, MPP (Liberal-Ottawa-Vanier).

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

### PEO ACCEPTING ONLINE P.ENG APPLICATIONS



PEO Headquarters in Toronto.

PEO is now accepting P.Eng. applications via email.

Due to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, there will be no mail deliveries.

The form to apply for your P.Eng licence is now a fillable PDF form, and can be found [here](#).

Applications can be sent to [peng.apply@peo.on.ca](mailto:peng.apply@peo.on.ca).

Requirements for P.Eng. licensure include:

- must be at least 18 years old
- must be of good character
- meet all [academic requirements](#)
- pass the [National Professional Practice Exam](#)
- satisfy the [experience requirements](#)

For more information on how to apply, visit the PEO website [here](#).

# PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES INSIGHT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM



PEO Councillor **Qadira Jackson Kouakou**, (front row, fourth from the right) with the rest of the PEO 2019-2020 Council at the 2019 AGM in Toronto.

Below is an interview with **Qadira Jackson Kouakou**. She is a lawyer and a PEO Lieutenant Governor Appointed Councillor.

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

I have been a volunteer in provincial and federal politics for several years.

I also articulated with a prominent union, and have a long time interest in public issues.

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

When working at the union, I realized how important it is for organizations to stay connected and maintain relationships.

My past experiences brought to light the advantages of having long lasting relationships with elected officials. MPPs don't like when people only call on them when they need help.

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

I think one of the biggest challenges will be to stay connected during the pandemic.

In addition, it's a challenge to ensure that all PEO representatives are on the same page, by saying the right things— in line with PEO's mandate.

PEO provides great training to ensure all representatives know what is acceptable, however the challenge is to keep offering the training frequently enough and casted widely enough to make sure all members are informed.

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

Right now, the biggest news other than COVID-19 is eradicating racism. This may be a good opportunity for us to fight along with Canadians and MPPs alike with a common goal. We could be attending many of the virtual events on this subject matter, which is supported by public office holders.

## GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to Chair of the Willowdale-Thornhill Chapter, **Nanda Lwin**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

**Question: Who is the newly-appointed PEO Government Liaison Committee EIT representative?**

**Answer: Alex Weryha, EIT**

**This week's question: What are the names of the three MPPs that hosted online events, as covered in the June 26 GLP Weekly?**

**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 Monday, July 13.

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



**Nanda Lwin**, P.Eng., is the winner of the last GLP Trivia contest.

## UPCOMING EVENT

**Monday, July 13**-Tele-Townhall with **Lisa Macleod**, MPP (Nepean), Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. It is taking place at 3 PM. Registration closes on Sunday, July 12 at 9 PM. To register, visit: [www.eventbrite.ca/e/tele-townhall-with-minister-lisa-macleod-tickets-112983709316](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/tele-townhall-with-minister-lisa-macleod-tickets-112983709316)

## 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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