



August 14,
2020

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

Volume 14,
Issue 27



PEO OTTAWA CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN VIRTUAL EVENT WITH NDP MPPS

PEO Ottawa Chapter GLP Chair **Ishwar Bhatia**, P.Eng. (right) attended a virtual town hall hosted by **Joel Harden**, MPP (NDP—Ottawa Centre), Critic for Accessibility and Persons with Disabilities, Pensions, Seniors' Affairs (left) on August 11. Here they are at an event on August 16, 2019 at The Good Companions Seniors Centre in Ottawa. Mr. Bhatia is a former PEO Councillor. Also participating from the PEO Ottawa Chapter were former Chair and GLP member **Pierre Legault**, P.Eng., and Board Member **Rihab Abu-Khater**, EIT. For more on this story, see page 3.

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 August 21, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. PARTY LEADERS AND MPP HOST ONLINE EVENTS
2. CO-CHAIRS APPOINTED FOR PEO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE
3. PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS INSIGHTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF 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 pages 1 and 3), and PEO license holders should take every opportunity to participate and build relationships. This week, PEO Councillor **Wayne Kershaw**, P.Eng., shares his insights on the GLP.

QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS ECONOMIC UPDATE

Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax) (right) delivered a quarterly fiscal update on August 12.

Here he is with then PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., (left) at a TVO Gala in October 2019.

Minister Phillips announced additional COVID-19 relief funding, which is a \$13 Billion increase since the government's last update in March.



The Ontario Government has announced that the Legislature will be reconvening on September 14th after its summer recess.

MPPs will still be on a rotational schedule and will be abiding by social distancing protocols while in the House.

Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax), will provide a quarterly fiscal update on August 12.

It was his first economic update, since his Budget in March.

Minister Phillips announced a projected budget deficit of \$38.5 Billion.

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) announced on August 10 that Windsor- Essex will be joining the rest of the province in entering stage 3 of Ontario's plan to reopen. They officially entered Stage 3 on Wednesday,

Windsor-Essex was one of the regions hit hardest by COVID, and many local businesses were patiently waiting to re-open.

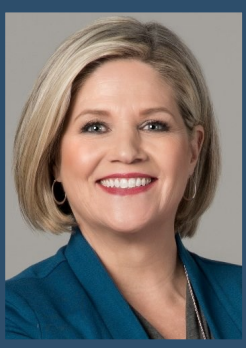
ONLINE MPP EVENTS

PARTY LEADERS AND MPP HOST ONLINE EVENTS

Several MPPs hosted online events throughout the last two weeks. PEO Ottawa Chapter GLP Chair and former PEO Councillor **Ishwar Bhatia**, P.Eng., participated in an online MPP town hall on August 11.

As noted on Page 1 of this week's GLP Weekly, the event was hosted by **Joel Harden**, MPP (Ottawa Centre), NDP Critic for Seniors, Accessibility and Persons with Disabilities and special guest **Marit Stiles**, MPP (Davenport), NDP Education Critic. Also participating from the PEO Ottawa Chapter were former Chair and GLP member **Pierre Legault**, P.Eng., and Board Member **Rihab Abu-Khater**, EIT.

As well, two party leaders and the Liberal Attorney General Critic hosted virtual events.



NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP
(Hamilton Centre)

(HAMILTON) - NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre) hosted a virtual event in Hamilton on August 6. Joining her were **Monique Taylor**, MPP (NDP-Hamilton Mountain), Deputy Opposition Whip and Critic Children and Youth Services and **Paul Miller**, MPP (NDP-Hamilton East-Stoney Creek), Critic for Tourism, Sport and Pensions. The topic of discussion was reduced class sizes for the upcoming school year.

MPP Horwath has a long time relationship with PEO and was guest speaker at the PEO Government Relations Conference in 2016 and at several PEO Queen's Park receptions.



Liberal Leader
Steven Del Duca

(MISSISSAUGA) - Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca** hosted a virtual roundtable with the Mississauga Board of Trade on August 6. He was elected leader of the party at a convention in March 2020 in Mississauga.

During his time as MPP, Del Duca was a strong supporter of PEO.



Lucille Collard, MPP
(Liberal Ottawa-Vanier).

(OTTAWA) - **Lucille Collard**, MPP (Ottawa-Vanier), hosted an online town hall on August 8th.

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

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.

CO-CHAIRS APPOINTED FOR PEO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE

PEO Brantford Chapter Chair **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., and **Alexandra Weryha**, EIT have been appointed as Co-Chairs of the 2020 PEO Government Relations Conference.

Ms. Hilborn and Ms. Weryha are both members of the PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC). Ms. Hilborn is the representative for the Advisory Committee on Volunteers and Ms. Weryha is the representative for the Engineering Interns.

The conference will be held on Friday, November 6.

In light of the pandemic, the conference will be virtual and 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. Other committee members include:

- Regional Councillor and GLC Chair **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng.
- PEO Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng.
- **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., former PEO Councillor and Engineers Canada representative
- **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., Manager, Government Liaison Programs
- **Howard Brown**, PEO Government Relations Consultant



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



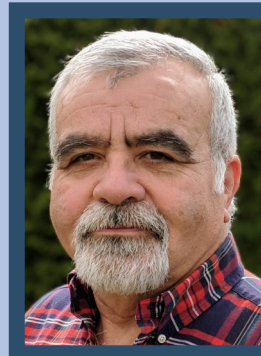
Alexandra Weryha,
EIT, GLC EIT
representative



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



Lorne Cutler, P.Eng.,
PEO Councillor



Changiz Sadr, P.Eng.,
Engineers Canada
representative



Jeannette Chau,
P.Eng., Manager of
PEO Government
Liaison Programs

PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS INSIGHTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP

This week's interview is with PEO Councillor **Wayne Kershaw**, P.Eng. The interview was done on August 11th.

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

I've been involved with PEO's Government Liaison Program (GLP) since its inception. Originally, much of the activity was done through the Chapters and centrally. I thought there was an opportunity to do something regionally.

In 2011, in an attempt to coordinate Chapter training, I suggested we host a day-long, regional GLP Academy and Congress for the Southwest region, where I was based. Our meeting was held in Hamilton, and we had Chapter representatives from across the Western region.

Our guest speaker was Ontario's former Finance Minister **Greg Sorbara**, who drove through a snowstorm to spend two hours with us. This became the model for GLP Academies, which have been held across the province ever since.

As a Regional Councillor, I work to support the GLP as much as possible, at the Chapter level, at Council and at the Regional Councillors Committee. In addition to working as a poll clerk during different provincial elections, I have maintained contact with various MPPs in different parties. I am also considering seeking a nomination to run in the next provincial election.

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

There was a need at my local Chapter for a GLP coordinator, and as a fairly new volunteer at the time, it seemed like a good way to contribute.

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

I feel there are two main challenges facing the GLP:

I have been saying for a while that we need to improve the perceived value of the Engineer licence. Doing so, not only makes it easier for PEO to meet its mandate, it will also give more weight to our conversations with the government.

PEO has seen a continuing decrease in participation from our membership, making the pool of volunteers smaller and undermining our ability to engage the public. PEO has worked hard to engage OSPE's Political Action Network, and more work needs to be done to coordinate efforts. I am hopeful OSPE will return to the PEO Government Liaison Committee so that we can work together on our messaging.

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

Direct contact with the provincial government gives Engineers the opportunity to become a sounding board for MPPs on matters of public safety. Being a point of contact for MPP staff for research into potential policy changes can make it possible for Engineers to have direct input. When the pandemic protocols allow us, I look forward to returning to the days where we have more face to face discussions with MPPs.



PEO Councillor **Wayne Kershaw**,

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to former PEO Councillor and Engineers Canada Director, **Changiz Sadr** P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

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

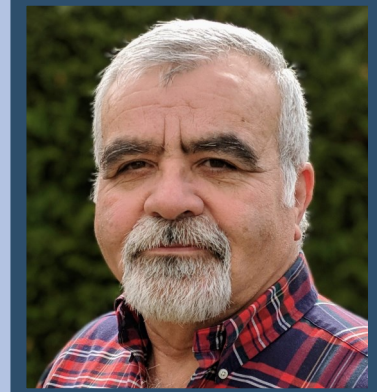
Answer: Omid Sadeghi, P.Eng.

This week's question:

Which Hamilton MPP hosted an online town hall about the economic impact of COVID-19 on July 23?

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, August 17th.

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



Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., is the winner of the last GLP Trivia contest.

UPCOMING EVENT WITH MPPs

The **2020 Conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario** is happening virtually on **Monday August 17—Wednesday August 19**. Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North), Opposition Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre), Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca** and Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph) will all be participating, as well as most of the Cabinet and other MPPs. There will also be panels with Ministers, that will allow Municipal Leaders to raise concerns. There are currently [six PEO licence holders](#) who hold municipal office.

To register, visit: <http://www.amo.on.ca/2020AMOCConference/2020Registration>

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