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Ontario
Government Liaison Program

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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

Volume 14,
Issue 28



PEO PRESIDENT SHARES GOALS WITH THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

The PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) held its monthly meeting online on August 19. Joining them was PEO President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng (above), who discussed her 10 year vision for PEO with the Committee. Also attending the meeting were PEO's GLC Chair **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng., Engineers Canada rep **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., Chapter rep **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng., Advisory Committee Volunteer rep **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., active riding association member **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng., EIT rep **Alex Weryha**, EIT, student rep **Shawn Yanni**, Manager, Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng. and Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**. 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/glpl-weekly-newsletter>

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday of the week prior to publication. The next issue will be published on August 28, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. MINISTER, PARTY LEADER AND MPPS HOLD EVENTS
2. PEO GLP REP SHARES HIS INSIGHTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

The PEO Government Liaison Committee held their monthly virtual meeting this week, and were joined by PEO President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng. This issue features events held by MPPs. PEO licence holders may want to monitor virtual events being held in their riding. Also in this issue, PEO Grand River Chapter GLP representative **Harmail Basi**, P.Eng., shares his insights on the value of the GLP.

QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER ANNOUNCES MULTI-SECTOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Environment, Conservation and Parks Minister **Jeff Yurek**, MPP (Elgin—Middlesex—London) announced a climate change impact assessment. Here he is (third from the left) with PEO London Chapter GLP Representative **Raul Moraes**, P.Eng., (second from left), former Chair **Stela Stevandic**, P.Eng., (centre) Chair **Kris Popiolek**, P.Eng., (third from right), and Vice-Chair **Manish Dalal**, P.Eng., (second from right), at a Dragon Gala in London on February 8, 2020. Also in the photo is **Terence Kernaghan**, MPP (London North Centre), NDP LGBTQ Critic (left) .

Environment, Conservation and Parks Minister **Jeff Yurek**, MPP (Elgin-Middlesex-London) announced Ontario's first ever climate change impact assessment on August 14. It is being led by the Climate Risk Institute. As part of the study they will be reviewing climate data, land use patterns and socio-economic projections.

The final results are scheduled to be released in 2022. For more information, click [here](#).

Minister Yurek has been a long time supporter of PEO. He was the guest speaker at the 2013 Western Region GLP Academy and Congress in London.

PEO PRESIDENT SHARES GOALS WITH THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE



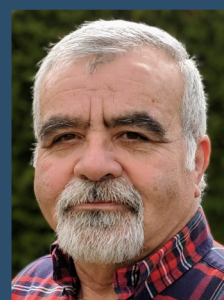
Marisa Sterling,
P.Eng., PEO
President



Warren Turnbull,
P.Eng., Government
Liaison Committee
Chair



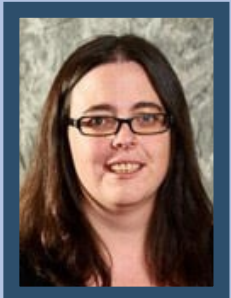
Lorne Cutler,
P.Eng., PEO
Councillor



Changiz Sadr,
P.Eng., Engineers
Canada
representative



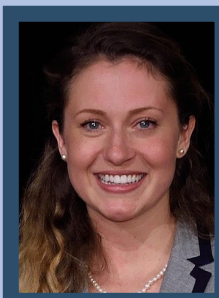
Gabe Tse, P.Eng.,
Active Chapter
representative



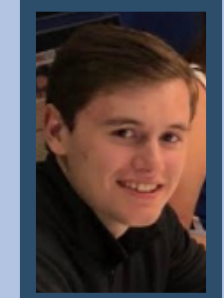
Vicki Hilborn,
P.Eng., Advisory
Committee on
Volunteers



Jeffrey Lee, P.Eng.,
Active member in
a riding
association



**Alexandra
Weryha, EIT, EIT
representative**



Shawn Yanni,
Student
representative



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

PEO President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., joined the Government Liaison Committee (GLC) for their virtual monthly meeting on August 19.

Participating in the meeting were PEO's GLC Chair **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng., Engineers Canada rep **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., Chapter rep **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng., Advisory Committee Volunteer rep **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., active riding association member **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng., EIT rep **Alex Weryha**, EIT, student rep **Shawn Yanni**, Manager, Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng. and Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**.

President Sterling spoke about her vision for PEO for the next 10 years, looking at regulation from both a micro and macro point of view.

The Committee was also updated on the 2020 PEO Government Relations Conference by Ms. Hilborn and Ms. Weryha.

MINISTER, PARTY LEADER AND MP'S HOLD EVENTS

Several MPPs held events last week.



Monte McNaughton, MPP
(Lambton-Kent-Middlesex),
Minister of Labour.



Jane McKenna, MPP
(Burlington), Parliamentary
Assistant to the Minister of
Labour, Training and Skills
Development

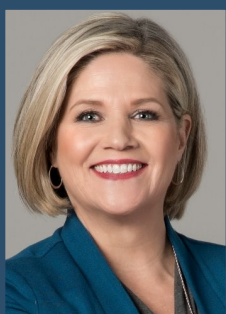


Donna Skelly, MPP
(Flamborough-Glanbrook)
Parliamentary Assistant to the
Minister of Economic
Development, Job Creation and
Trade

(HAMILTON) - Labour Minister **Monte McNaughton**, MPP (Lambton-Kent-Middlesex) held an event at McMaster University in Hamilton on August 11.

He was joined by **Jane McKenna**, MPP (Burlington), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development and **Donna Skelly**, MPP (Flamborough-Glanbrook), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. The Minister announced an "investment of \$1.3 million in two projects to help up to 236 job seekers train for careers and get practical on-the-job experience in the automotive and manufacturing sectors."

The PEO Hamilton-Burlington Chapter hosted a 'Take Your MPP to Work Day' with MPP McKenna in September 2019.



NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, MPP
(Hamilton Centre)



Ian Arthur, MPP
(Kingston and the
Islands), NDP
Environment Critic

(KINGSTON) - NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre) and **Ian Arthur**, MPP (Kingston and the Islands), NDP Environment Critic held an event in Kingston on August 11.

MPP Horwath has called on the government to ensure a safe re-opening of schools across Ontario.

MPP Arthur was a guest speaker at the PEO Eastern Region GLP Academy and Congress in Kingston in November 2019.

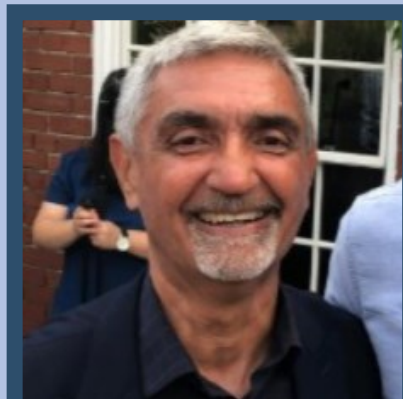
PEO GLP REP SHARES HIS INSIGHTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP

This week's interview is with PEO Grand River Chapter Government Liaison Program representative **Harmail Basi**, P.Eng.

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

My family has been involved in the political process for at least three generations and covers four continents, Australasia, Asia, Europe and the Americas! It was natural for me to want to get involved when I moved to Canada in 1991.

In 2004, I had the privilege of being appointed to the Board of Ontario Trillium Foundation, which invests over \$125 million annually in volunteer and not-for-profit organizations across Ontario. During my six years in this role, I had the opportunity to recommend investments of over \$5 million in over 100 not-for-profits. I also served as the Vice Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee for three years.



PEO Grand River Chapter GLP
representative **Harmail
Basi**, P.Eng.

Over the years, I have worked with a number of engineering organizations in the nuclear, environmental and infrastructure sectors. I am now a project manager engaged with helping the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) remain world class for generations to come.

As well, I have been involved with the PEO Grand River Chapter Government Liaison Program Committee for over 11 years. I have participated in PEO Queen's Park Days, Government Relations Conferences, Academies and Congresses and events with local MPPs in our chapter and across Ontario.

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

It was an opportunity to engage in the regulatory policy process of the engineering profession. It was a chance to ensure that professional engineers were front and centre of decisions made in the legislature, for the benefit and public safety of Ontarians.

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

PEO needs to continue to focus on its regulatory role. We are no different than the legal and medical professions, where the safety of the public remains our prime directive.

It is also important for PEO to continue to engage with MPPs, which has become even more difficult now with COVID.19. We need to continue to make the public aware of our regulatory role on specific topics, things that matter to the public at large.

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

I think there is a real opportunity to continue to build strong relationships with other regulated professions. As well, we should use this time to continue to engage with all 124 MPPs, and ensure we are on their radar when it comes to decision making.

Informing the public of our regulatory work is something the Grand River Chapter, under the leadership of **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng., has done for years.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to former PEO president **Thomas Chong**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

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

Answer: Sandy Shaw, MPP, NDP Finance and Treasury Board Critic

This week's question:

Who are the two PEO Government Liaison Committee members that have been named Co-Chairs of the PEO 2020 Government Relations Conference?

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 24th.

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



Thomas Chong, P.Eng., is the winner of the last GLP Trivia contest.

UPCOMING EVENT WITH MPPs

Saturday August 22 – Socially Distanced BBQ with Mitzie Hunter, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood) from 12 to 2 PM at 90 Mornelle Court (Basketball Court). Masks are mandatory. It's an event for the whole family, as kids between the ages of 2-14 will get a free treat and book. To register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ice-cream-for-books-tickets-116784606903>

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