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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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PEO SCARBOROUGH CHAPTER CHAIR ATTENDS EVENT WITH LOCAL MPP

PEO Scarborough Chapter Chair **Victor Lan**, P.Eng., (left) attended an event with local MPP **Christina Mitas** (Scarborough Centre) (right) at McGregor Park Community Centre on August 30. 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. There will be no issue on September 11 due to the shortened holiday week. The next issue will be published on September 18, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. ATTORNEY GENERAL INVITED TO SHARE THOUGHTS AT THE PEO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE
2. PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS INSIGHT ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

PEO Scarborough Chapter Chair **Victor Lan**, P.Eng., attended a local MPP event and showed us the importance of maintaining relationships with MPPs in your Chapter. This is a great time to connect with MPPs and ask them to participate in virtual or in-person PEO events. The Government Liaison Committee continues to plan for the upcoming GR Conference and has already begun outreach to Party Leaders, the Attorney General and MPPs. This week, PEO Councillor **Randy Walker**, P.Eng., was interviewed by GLP Weekly on his thoughts regarding the value of the Government Liaison Program.

COVID-19 NEWS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR PROVINCES TO SAFELY RE-OPEN SCHOOLS



Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** (photo on the left, back) announced the Federal Government's financial support to help provinces safely re-open schools during COVID-19. Here he is with **Premier Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) (photo on the left, front) on August 21 in Brockville.

PHOTO CREDITS: Narcity.com

(OTTAWA) - Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** announced his government was providing the provinces with \$2 Billion in funding to help them safely reopen schools during COVID-19.

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) said, "The Prime Minister, when he spoke to me, the first thing that came out of his mouth was 'Doug, I understand this isn't my jurisdiction, but I just want to help,' And we're grateful for that, and I just want to thank our Prime Minister."

Premier Ford is being invited to the PEO 2020 Government Relations Conference on November 6.

PEO SCARBOROUGH CHAPTER CHAIR ATTENDS EVENT WITH LOCAL MPP



PEO Scarborough Chapter Chair **Victor Lan**, P.Eng., (left) met with local MPP **Christina Mitas** (Scarborough Centre) at her event on August 30. Here he is with (left to right) the Chapter's Vice-Chair **Peng Zhang**, P.Eng., Secretary **Rajendra Gaudi**, P.Eng., Treasurer **Javeed Ahmed Khan**, P.Eng., Past Chair **Murad Hussain**, P.Eng. and Executive members **Samuel Jacob**, P.Eng., **René Siguenza**, P.Eng., **Santosh Gupta**, P.Eng. and **Shinta Gragossian**, EIT in February 2020.

PEO Scarborough Chapter Chair **Victor Lan**, P.Eng., attended an event hosted by **Christina Mitas**, MPP (Scarborough Centre) at McGregor Park Community Centre on August 30.

Mr. Lan had the chance to speak to MPP Mitas about PEO's role as the regulator for professional engineering in the province.

He also invited MPP Mitas to participate in a virtual seminar that the Chapter is hoping to host to bring Chapter members up to date on what is happening at Queen's Park.

MPP Mitas agreed to participate in the seminar this fall, subject to her availability.

MPP Mitas is one of six MPPs that the Scarborough Chapter works with. The others are:

- **Aris Babikian** (Scarborough-Agincourt)
- **Doly Begum** (Scarborough-Southwest)
- **Raymond Cho** (Scarborough North), Minister of Seniors and Accessibility
- **Mitzie Hunter** (Scarborough-Guildwood)
- **Vijay Thanigassalm** (Scarborough-Rouge Park), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation

ATTORNEY GENERAL INVITED TO SHARE THOUGHTS AT THE PEO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE



Attorney General **Doug Downey**,
MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro)



Gurratan Singh, MPP (Brampton East),
NDP Attorney General Critic



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

The PEO Government Relations Conference Committee continues to plan for the upcoming 2020 PEO Government Relations Conference. It will be held virtually on Friday, November 6 from 10 AM to noon and 1 PM to 3 PM.

The Committee is inviting Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte), NDP Attorney General Critic **Gurratan Singh**, MPP (Brampton East) and Liberal Attorney General Critic **Lucille Collard**, MPP (Ottawa-Vanier) to share greetings. Minister Downey last met with PEO on October 29, 2019. MPP Singh met with PEO on November 20, 2019.

Training sessions will be held for Chapter GLP representatives, of which one will be invited for each of the 124 ridings in Ontario.

Discussions will be held on PEO's role as a co-regulator with the government and ways to connect with MPPs during the pandemic.

Conference Committee members include:

- Co-Chair **Vicki Hillborn**, P.Eng., Brantford Chapter Chair
- Co-Chair **Alex Weryha**, EIT, Government Liaison Committee (GLC) EIT representative
- **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., Regional Councillor and GLC Chair
- **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng., PEO Councillor
- **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

PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS INSIGHT ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP

This week's interview is with PEO Eastern Region Councillor **Randy Walker, P.Eng.**



Eastern Region Councillor **Randy Walker, P.Eng.**

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

My dealings with the political process are at the municipal and provincial levels. Whether I'm trying to get a project some provincial funding for my company, reviewing regulations with government departments or asking MPPs to attend local PEO events.

I believe that it takes open dialogue and channels of communication to accomplish anything of value with government.

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

My interest in joining the Government Liaison Program was to expand my Chapter's (Quinte) and my engagement.

This would be done through meeting more MPPs from other areas. The MPPs in my Chapter's now know me by name. Of course this doesn't always translate to larger regions.

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

The biggest challenge I have always seen is PEO wielding enough influence to be able to make changes with other groups. The challenge is getting PEO to have a louder voice.

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

The biggest opportunity I see is using the close relationship PEO has with the Attorney General to expand influence to all MPPs. We need to make use of our existing relationships to spread a message to the rest of the Ontario government that PEO is a professional group that can be trusted.

I would also like to see PEO or a subset (e.g. Engineers Canada or OSPE) be asked to attend government committee meetings, so that engineers can be part of the conversation and can influence change from the beginning. This is a huge commitment for the entire engineering community to step up to the plate.

PEO regulates engineers and governments make regulations. Engineers need to be involved in every step of the process, so that both groups have the power to accomplish their respective regulatory tasks.

With the addition of COVID-19, the normal channels of communication are different. We need to create new methods of having dialogue stay alive and well.

I would like to see more licence holders, even those not heavily involved with the GLP, get to know their local MPPs-so that we can all have a voice.

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:

Which special guest joined the PEO Government Liaison Committee for their monthly meeting on August 19?

Answer: PEO President Marisa Sterling, P.Eng.

This week's question:

Who is the long-time Lake of the Woods Chapter Executive that was appointed to PEO Council?

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, September 7.

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



Nanda Lwin P.Eng., is the winner of last week's GLP Trivia contest.

UPCOMING EVENT

Tuesday, September 22 to Thursday, September 24– Ontario Environment Industry Association presents the Environment and Cleantech Business + Policy Forum with guest speakers including Environment, Conservation and Parks Minister **Jeff Yurek**, MPP (Elgin-Middlesex-London). To register visit pheedloop.com/bpf2020/site/register

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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