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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR ATTENDS VIRTUAL EVENT WITH MINISTER

PEO Councillor and Government Liaison Committee Vice-Chair **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng., (left) attended a virtual event with **Bill Walker**, MPP (Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound), Associate Minister of Energy (centre right) on October 5. In the photo above they are with PEO Georgian Bay Chapter's Chair **Vivender Adunuri**, P.Eng., (right) and then GLP Chair **Glenn Sutton**, P.Eng., (centre left) at a meeting at Minister Walker's constituency office in August 2018.

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/glpl-weekly-newsletter>

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday of the week prior to publication. There will be no issue on October 16 due to the shortened holiday week. The next issue will be published on October 23, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. ALL FOUR PARTY LEADERS TO SHARE THOUGHTS AT THE PEO 2020 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE
2. PEO CHATHAM-KENT CHAPTER GLP CHAIR DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

PEO's Government Relations Conference Committee is continuing to invite elected officials to participate in its November 6 event (see page 3). By including Party Leaders, Ministers and MPPs in the Conference, PEO is raising its profile and the government is becoming more aware of the work of PEO in the public interest. So far, six MPPs and one MP have agreed to participate, including Premier **Doug Ford**.

GLP Weekly encourages PEO licence holders to participate in virtual events with Ministers and MPPs, as PEO's Government Liaison Committee Vice-Chair **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng., did this week (see pages 1 and 5). Participating in virtual events is a good opportunity to stay connected with MPPs so that PEO licence holders can better understand MPPs priorities in the COVID-19 environment.

PEO Chatham-Kent Chapter GLP Chair **Haris Ahmadzi**, P.Eng., was interviewed by GLP Weekly, during which he shared his thoughts on the importance of the program (see page 4).

SECTOR NEWS

PEO REFERENCED IN CBC STORY ON INSPECTION DOCUMENTATION

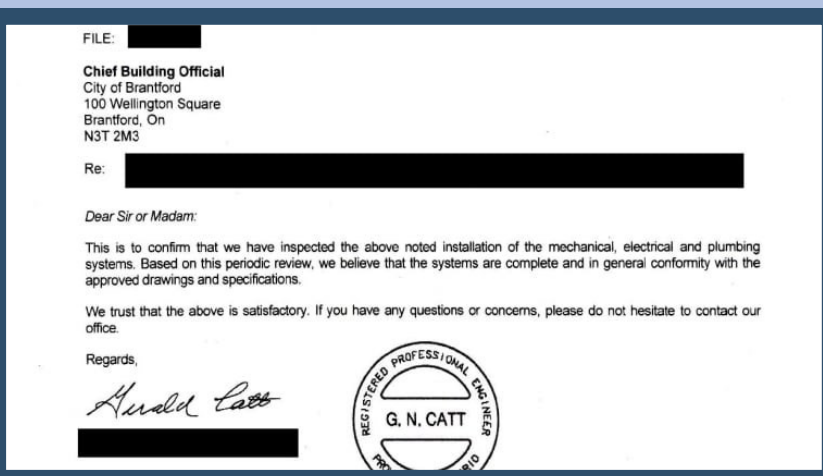
(BRANTFORD) - CBC News has shared an article related to forged inspection documents.

Gerald Catt, P.Eng., from Vanessa, ON, had discovered his professional seal and signature were used to confirm the safety of sites he has never worked on.

An investigation highlighted that these documents were also used for 12 construction projects across Ontario.

The article referenced the Elliot Lake mall collapse as example of a tragedy that occurred because of a forgery similar to this one.

Since the investigation went public, Mr. Catt has received numerous requests to conduct retroactive inspections to ensure the safety of these sites. To read the CBC article, click [here](#).



One of the forged documents under investigation.

PHOTO CREDIT: CBC News

ALL FOUR PARTY LEADERS TO SHARE THOUGHTS AT THE 2020 PEO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP
(Etobicoke Centre)



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



Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca**



Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph)

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 3 PM.

All four Party Leaders will now be sharing their thoughts at the Conference. Both NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre) and Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca** confirmed this week that they will be participating.

As reported in last week's GLP Weekly, the following elected officials will be sharing thoughts as well:

- Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North)
- Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph)
- Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte)
- NDP Attorney General Critic **Gurratan Singh** (Brampton East)
- Liberal Attorney General Critic **Lucille Collard**, MPP (Ottawa-Vanier)

Also speaking at the Conference will be:

- **Marilyn Gladu**, P.Eng., MP (Sarnia-Lambton), Opposition Critic for the President of the Queen's Privy Council and Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. She is also the only female P.Eng., who has ever been elected to the House of Commons.
- **Ann English**, P.Eng., CEO/Registrar, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC

An interview with **Will Bouma**, MPP (Brantford-Brant), Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier and Conference Co-Chair **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., will also be featured at the Conference.

Other Conference Committee members are EIT representative **Alex Weryha**, EIT (Co-Chair of the Conference), Regional Councillor and GLC Chair, **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., PEO Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng., Former PEO Councillor and Engineers Canada representative **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng., Manager, Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng. and PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**.

PEO CHATHAM-KENT CHAPTER GLP CHAIR DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GLP



PEO Chatham – Kent Chapter GLP Chair **Haris Ahmadzai**, P.Eng., (left) with Deputy Speaker **Rick Nicholls**, MPP (Chatham-Kent-Leamington) (right) at the PEO Western Region GLP Academy and Congress in Chatham on May 11, 2019. Also in the photo is PEO Manager, Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng.

This week's interview is with PEO Chatham-Kent Chapter GLP Chair **Haris Ahmadzai**, P.Eng.

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

My personal experience dealing with the political process is very positive. I believe we have some great leaders around us, that regularly demonstrate genuine care for our communities.

I have witnessed these great leaders listen, communicate and engage in certain matters such as the Industrial Exception in the *Professional Engineers Act* and other relevant topics to PEO.

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

I became interested in the Government Liaison Program (GLP) because I wanted to represent our Chapter and engage with our local MPP. I started by attending a PEO Queen's Park day and was inspired by other Chapter's relationships with their MPPs.

PEO Government Liaison Programs Manager **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., invited me to attend a 'Take Your MPP to Work Day' with Deputy Speaker **Rick Nicholls**, MPP (Chatham-Kent-Leamington), where I learned and observed how to hold conversations and build relationships with government.

Since then, I have managed multiple 'Take your MPP to Work Day' events and even hosted the PEO Western Region GLP Academy and Congress in May 2019 with MPP Nicholls as the guest speaker.

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

The two biggest challenges are time and budget. I feel we don't get to spend enough time with other Chapter representatives. The structure should be similar to an Academy and Congress, where multiple meetings are arranged throughout the year, and there is opportunity for open dialogue. I think budget may be the primary reason for our inability to carry out the idea above.

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

The biggest opportunity is marketing and promotion. I feel the GLP can get more engagement from PEO members, if we work harder at this.

EVENTS WITH MPPS

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR ATTENDS VIRTUAL EVENT WITH MINISTER



PEO Councillor and Government Liaison Committee Vice-Chair **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng.



Bill Walker, MPP (Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound), Associate Minister of Energy.

PEO Government Liaison Committee Vice-Chair and Councillor **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng., attended a virtual event with **Bill Walker**, MPP (Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound), Associate Minister of Energy on October 5.

The event was the Ontario Energy Association's Energy Awards.

Minister Walker said:

"To all the winners, to your teams and to your families-thank you so much! Well deserved. I am so honoured and proud to be a part of the energy sector."

Minister Walker has a long time relationship with PEO.

He previously attended a meeting with PEO Georgian Bay Chapter representatives in 2018.

Mr. Arenja said during an interview with GLP Weekly in May 2020 "All MPPs need to know what PEO is doing on a day-to-day, month-to-month basis with respect to licensing, regulation development, investigations, and its discipline to ensure the public interest is the prime consideration of all its activities. It all starts with building relationships, and this requires both parties to benefit."

It was valuable to have Mr. Arenja attend this event.

His participation, as well as every time a PEO licence holder attends a virtual event with their local MPP, provides an opportunity to raise the profile of PEO as a regulator.

It allows MPPs to see the efforts that are being made to stay connected during the pandemic.

Following these virtual events, it is helpful to send a follow up note to the MPP, introducing yourself, PEO and the Chapter you are affiliated with, as well as letting them know you tuned in to listen.

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:

What did Consulting Engineers of Ontario change their name to?

Answer: Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of Ontario (ACEC-Ontario).

This week's question: Who is the new CEO of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT)?

Join the Contest: Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., at ichau@peo.on.ca by Monday, October 12.

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



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

VIRTUAL MPP EVENTS

Friday October 16—Canadian Club presents 'Environmental Protection in the Time of COVID-19 and Rebuilding the Ontario Economy' with Jeff Yurek, MPP (Elgin-Middlesex– London), Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks from 12 to 1 PM. The event is free.

To register, visit: <https://www.livemeeting.ca/profile/canadian-club-of-toronto/>

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH MPPs DURING COVID-19

At this time, 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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