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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM
GLP WEEKLY

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**GREEN PARTY LEADER TO BRING GREETINGS AT THE
2020 PEO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE**

Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph) (left) has agreed to bring greetings at the PEO Government Relations Conference on Friday, November 6. Here he is with PEO Grand River Chapter GLP representative **Oscar Nespoli**, P.Eng., (right) and **Ted Arnott**, MPP (Wellington—Halton Hills), Speaker of the Legislature (centre) on February 9.

For more on this story, see page 4.

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 October 2, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. ONTARIO LIMITS SIZE OF GATHERINGS AMID RISE IN COVID CASES
2. PEO HAMILTON-BURLINGTON CHAPTER GLP CHAIR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

PEO's Government Relations Conference Committee is continuing to invite elected officials to speak ahead of the Conference on Friday, November 6. 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 professional engineers. This week, Hamilton-Burlington Chapter GLP Chair **Mike Bell**, P.Eng., was interviewed on his thoughts on the value of the Government Liaison Program.

SECTOR NEWS

CONSULTING ENGINEERS ONTARIO CHANGE THEIR NAME



Then Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO) held their Annual General Meeting on September 14.

A resolution was passed and adopted by membership to change the name of CEO to the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of Ontario (ACEC-Ontario).

The name was changed in order to more closely align with their national level organization (ACEC-Canada), as well as their other provincial counterparts across the country. This was in an effort to showcase "unity, strength and consistency with stakeholders.

PEO was informed by CEO's Chair and ACEC-Ontario's Past Chair **Christine Hill**, P.Eng. Ms. Hill has been the CEO representative on the PEO Government Liaison Committee for the last two years. To read the announcement in Canadian Consulting Engineer, click [here](#).



ACEC-Ontario Past Chair and PEO Government Liaison Committee member **Christine Hill**, P.Eng.

ONTARIO LIMITS SIZE OF GATHERINGS AMID RISE IN COVID CASES



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke Centre) (centre) made an announcement regarding the province's decision to reduce the size of gatherings in Ontario, effective September 19. Joining him for the announcement were Deputy Premier and Minister of Health **Christine Elliott**, MPP (Newmarket-Aurora) (right) and the Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health **Barbara Yaffe** (left).

PHOTO CREDIT: CBC News

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) announced that the province would be reducing the size of gatherings, due to the consistent increase in COVID-19 cases over the last few weeks.

Joining him for the announcement were Deputy Premier and Minister of Health **Christine Elliott**, MPP (Newmarket-Aurora) and Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health **Barbara Yaffe**.

Ontarians were initially allowed to gather in groups of 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors.

As per the new restrictions, effective September 19, these numbers have changed to 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors.

The announcement comes after Ontario saw multiple days of cases jumping from the high 200s to the low 400s.

The Premier made it clear that those who are caught violating these rules will face a minimum fine of \$10,000.

PEO GLP representatives that are looking to attend local events with MPPs should be aware of this information.

GREEN PARTY LEADER TO BRING GREETINGS AT THE 2020 PEO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE



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.

Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph) has confirmed he will bring greetings at the Conference.

As reported in last week's GLP Weekly, the following elected officials will be sending in greetings for the Conference:

- Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North)
- NDP Attorney General Critic **Gurratan Singh** (Brampton East)
- Liberal Attorney General Critic **Lucille Collard**, MPP (Ottawa-Vanier)

Participating in the Conference as speakers are:

- **Marilyn Gladu**, P.Eng., MP (Sarnia-Lambton), who was recently appointed as Critic for the President of the Queen's Privy Council and Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
- **Ann English**, P.Eng., CEO/Registrar, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC

The Conference Committee Co-Chairs are Brantford Chapter Chair **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng and Government Liaison Committee (GLC) EIT representative **Alex Weryha**, EIT.

Other members of the Committee include 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**.

The Committee is in communications with Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte), NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre) and Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca**, to confirm if they will also be sending greetings.

PEO HAMILTON-BURLINGTON CHAPTER GLP CHAIR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP



PEO Hamilton-Burlington Chapter GLP Chair **Mike Bell**, P.Eng. (right) was interviewed by the GLP Weekly on September 21. Here he is with one of the Chapter's local MPPs **Jane McKenna** (Burlington), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour (right) on January 11 at her New Year's Levee.

*story continued on page 6

This week's interview is with PEO Hamilton-Burlington Chapter GLP Chair **Mike Bell**, P.Eng.

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

My first experience in working with the provincial government occurred while I was an EIT trying to fulfill the experience requirement for a P.Eng. licence. I met with Dr. Marie Bountrogiani, then MPP for Hamilton Mountain, as a member of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) Political Action Network (PAN) Initiative.

Now as the PEO Hamilton-Burlington Chapter GLP Chair, I enjoy developing the relationship between the GLP and the provincial Government through local events attended by members of our Chapter. I am always looking for additional support from licence holders and EITs locally.

I also ran for Municipal office as a Councillor for the City of Hamilton (Ward 12, Ancaster) in 2018. I feel that it's important to engage citizens and have meaningful conversations about public issues.

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

When I attended my first PEO Chapter meeting, there were members talking about events and programs that I didn't even know existed. Near the end of the meeting, I learned there was a vacant position—the GLP Committee Chair.

I decided to volunteer for the role, and with the assistance of a few other members, we managed to meet with all the MPPs within our Chapter boundaries over the next couple of years.

PEO HAMILTON-BURLINGTON CHAPTER GLP CHAIR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP

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

Most recently, COVID-19 has presented a big challenge for the GLP. Many Chapter social events such as Licence ceremonies and 'Take Your MPP to Work Day' have been postponed or cancelled. These events historically have been used to host and educate MPPs.

There are opportunities to participate in numerous online townhalls through different meeting platforms. However, an environment suitable for making a good connection with one on one conversations is very difficult to replicate.

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

I believe PEO and the GLP should choose to concentrate on issues core to our profession, such as self-regulation and the utilization of our unique knowledge and expertise in developing public policy.



PEO Hamilton-Burlington GLP Chair **Mike Bell**, P.Eng., with **Donna Skelly**, MPP (Flamborough—Glanbrook), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade at an event on February 27.

Chapters can inform MPPs on the differences between various engineering organizations in Ontario (such as PEO, OSPE, ACEC-Ontario etc.). MPPs should also be informed by all GLP Chairs that the Ministry of the Attorney General is responsible for the *Professional Engineers Act* and its regulations.

The biggest opportunity for the GLP and the weekly readership is right now. Be a part of the change and process, and try your hardest to participate.

This could mean attending Chapter AGMs, voting in PEO Elections or volunteering with your Chapter, riding association or on a local campaign.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to former East Central Regional Councillor **Noubar Takessian**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

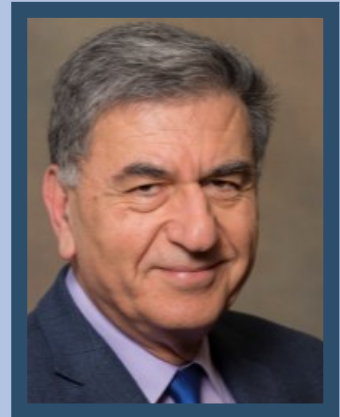
What is the name of the PEO Scarborough Chapter Chair who attended an event with MPP Mitas on August 30?

Answer: Victor Lan, P.Eng.

This week's question: What is the name of the hospital that was featured in Engineering Dimensions, but also the host of the September 2019 'Take your MPP to Work Day' with MPP Jane McKenna?

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 28.

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



Noubar Takessian P.Eng., is the winner of last week's GLP Trivia contest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 26-Education Townhall with Joel Harden, MPP (Ottawa Centre), NDP Accessibility and Seniors Critic from 1 to 3 PM.

To register, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/385749355740907/>

Thursday, October 1- Ontario's NDP Black Caucus: Why it Matters with **Laura Mae Lindo**, MPP (Kitchener Centre), Anti-Racism and Citizenship and Immigration Services Critic, **Jill Andrew**, MPP (Toronto-St.Paul's), Women's Issues and Culture Critic and **Faisal Hassan**, MPP (York South-Weston), Youth Engagement Critic at 4 PM. It is being hosted by the Ryerson University Democracy Forum. To sign up, visit: <https://bit.ly/3mhLOGK>

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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