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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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Issue 38



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS ONTARIO
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE 2020



Lorne Cutler
P.Eng.



Vicki Hilborn
P.Eng.

OVER 80 ENGINEERS AND EIGHT MPPS PARTICIPATE IN PEO'S 2020 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE

The PEO 2020 Government Relations Conference Committee co-hosts **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng., (left) and **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., (right) kicked off the day with their opening remarks on November 6. Over 80 engineers including 13 PEO Councillors, as well as eight MPPs and one MP participated .

For more on this story, see pages 4 to 8.

Through the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO governs over 93,000 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 November 20, 2020.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. PEO MEETS WITH NEW OTTAWA MPP
2. ATTORNEY GENERAL CRITICS SPEAK AT PEO CONFERENCE
3. MINISTER APPLAUDS THE EXEMPLARY REPUTATION OF THE PEO GLP

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

As reported on page 1, PEO hosted their online 2020 Government Relations Conference last Friday. The day included remarks from three party leaders and two Attorney General Critics. There were also moderated panels, MPP interviews and a keynote address from Canada's first female engineer ever elected to the House of Commons **Marilyn Gladu**, P.Eng. (see pages 1 and 4 to 8). This Conference was an opportunity for PEO GLP Chairs to receive necessary training to help them build relationships with MPPs and host meetings, as well as an important way to raise PEO's profile with government.

PEO officials met with an Ottawa MPP **Stephen Blais** (Orléans) on November 9 (see page 3). As elections and by-elections continue to happen, it is crucial that PEO establish relationships with newly elected MPPs, so that they can continue to stay top of mind.

QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES ONTARIO'S BUDGET



Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax) (photo left) announced Ontario's Budget on November 5 in the Legislature.

With him in the photo is Ontario's Health Minister and Deputy Premier **Christine Elliot**, MPP (Aurora-Newmarket).

PHOTO CREDIT: The Logic

Finance Minister **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax) announced Ontario's budget in the Legislature on November 5. The Budget presents a three pronged approach of 'Protect, Support, Recover' in response to the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the province.

The Government has committed to a long-term infrastructure plan, investments in new skills training programs and opportunities business property tax relief in the form of reducing electricity bills and more.

To watch the official Budget announcement, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWfGg4Nesdl>

PEO MEETS WITH NEW OTTAWA MPP



Stephen Blais, MPP (Orléans)



PEO CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**,
P.Eng.



Former PEO Councillor and Acting
Division Manager, Licensing and
Manager of Enforcement **Cliff Knox**,
P.Eng.

PEO held a meeting with **Stephen Blais**, MPP (Orléans) on November 9.

Participating from PEO were CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng., Manager, Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., former Councillor and Acting Division Manager, Licensing and Manager of Enforcement **Cliff Knox**, P.Eng. and Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**.

Also participating was MPP Blais' assistant **Jordan Faris**.

MPP Blais was elected in a by-election in February 2020.

He is the Liberal Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing, Transportation and Infrastructure, Government and Consumer Services and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

His riding of Orléans was represented in the past by **Phil McNeely**, P.Eng., a long-time PEO licence holder.

MPP Blais requested the meeting to learn more about PEO's work in protecting the public interest.

He is a former Ottawa City Councillor.

It is important for PEO to build relationships with newly elected officials, who may not be familiar with the work of PEO and its mandate.

It's an opportunity to stay top of mind and ensure all members of the Legislature are informed about the work of professional engineers and the ways in which they are regulated.

THREE ONTARIO PARTY LEADERS SALUTE PEO'S WORK AS A REGULATOR



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



Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca**



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

PEO hosted their 2020 Government Relations Conference on November 6.

NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre) shared her thoughts via video in the morning session.

She said, "As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten the lives and livelihood of Ontarians, we need your expertise, your voice and your strong example. So thank you for the important work you do in the public interest."

Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca** presented thoughts during the afternoon session.

He said, "Your efforts to build working relationships with MPPs from all parties is so important."

Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph) also delivered remarks during the afternoon session.

He said, "Your work is invaluable. Not only in regulating the profession and protecting the public interest, but also in informing decision makers like me about how your profession is evolving and what changes we need to make so that you can better serve the people of Ontario."

Also sharing remarks were:

- **Jean Boudreau**, President, Engineers Canada
- **Alexa Bautista**, President, Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario

The entire version of all these videos made by elected officials and stakeholders will be made available in the coming weeks.

They will be posted on the PEO website under the Government Liaison Program section.

ATTORNEY GENERAL CRITICS SPEAK AT PEO CONFERENCE



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



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

Other elected officials speaking at the Conference included:

- NDP Attorney General Critic **Gurratan Singh**, MPP (Brampton East)
- Liberal Attorney General Critic **Lucille Collard**, MPP (Ottawa-Vanier)

"I have met with many of you folks at your Regional Academies and your Lobby (Queen's Park) Days. And I learned so much about the amazing service your organization and profession does for Ontario," said MPP Singh. "Let this be a beginning of a really important, long-standing relationship, that I cherish."

He was the guest speaker at the PEO East and West Central Regional Academy and Congress in Toronto in October 2019. As well, MPP Singh met with a PEO delegation last November at Queen's Park that included then President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng., Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Chair and PEO Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., GLC Vice Chair and PEO Councillor **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng. and Manager, Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng.

"I did take an interest and met with representatives of your regulatory body," said MPP Collard. "Those meetings were very informative for me, as I learned about the important work done by PEO."

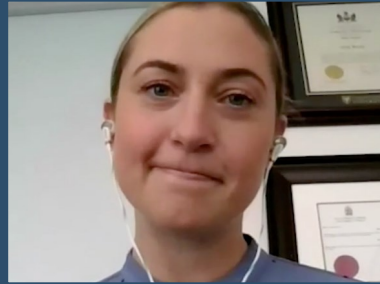
MPP Collard is a lawyer. She has an interest in building a relationship with PEO's Ottawa Chapter.

Staying connected with Attorney General Critics is extremely crucial for PEO, as the Ministry of the Attorney General has oversight for the *Professional Engineers Act*.

MINISTER APPLAUDS THE EXEMPLARY REPUTATION OF THE PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM



Hon. Steve Clark, MPP (Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes), Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing



Government Liaison Committee EIT representative and Conference Committee Co-Chair **Alexandra Weryha**, EIT

A series of interviews were held with members of the Legislature and PEO GLP representatives prior to the Conference.

The first was with **Hon. Steve Clark**, MPP (Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes), Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Conference Committee Co-Chair **Alexandra Weryha**, EIT, who is the EIT representative on the Government Liaison Committee.

Minister Clark said, “MPPs are the direct conduit that the local community has with government. I’ve always talked about the fact that PEO has an exemplary reputation as an organization that connects with government at a grassroots level.”

Another interview was held with **Will Bouma**, MPP (Brantford-Brant), Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier and Conference Committee Co-Chair **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., who is the PEO Brantford Chapter Chair.

MPP Bouma said, “Engineers are such a fundamental part of our society. Your work is connected with every piece of our life and I marvel at that. I appreciate what you bring to the table and I appreciate our relationships.”

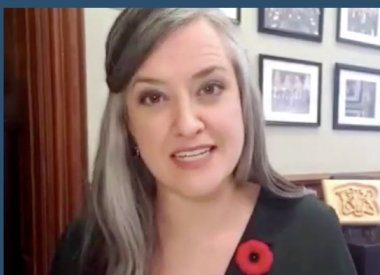
The final interview was held with **Jennifer French**, MPP (Oshawa), NDP Transportation, Highways and Infrastructure Critic and PEO Lake Ontario GLP Chair **Pankaj Panchal**, P.Eng.

MPP French said, “PEO has always been interested in keeping me in the loop, which is great. Never hesitate to send us stuff to stay informed.”

All of the interviews will be made available on the PEO website in the Government Liaison Program section.



Will Bouma, MPP (Brantford-Brant), Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier (left) and Conference Co-Chair and Chair of the PEO Brantford Chapter **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng. (right).



Jennifer French, MPP (Oshawa), NDP Transportation, Highways and Infrastructure Critic



PEO Lake Ontario Chapter GLP Chair **Pankaj Panchal**, P.Eng.

MP GLADU DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT CONFERENCE

Marilyn Gladu, P.Eng., MP (Sarnia-Lambton) was the keynote speaker at the PEO Government Relations Conference.

MP Gladu said, “Reach out to MPPs, but be aware that they may not know about PEO. Always prepare a concise message and leave a meeting with a recap summary document. The benefits of having strong relationships is it’s easier to access elected officials that way.”

Following her address, a Q&A was held with MP Gladu and PEO Vice-President (Elected) **Darla Campbell**, P.Eng. and Conference attendees.

MP Gladu was also the guest speaker at the PEO 2016 Student Government Relations Conference.

Earlier in the day, a panel was held on the topic of self-regulation. The moderator was PEO President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng.

The panelists were **Ann English**, P.Eng., CEO/Registrar, Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, **Shenda Tanchak**, LL.B., B.Ed., former CEO of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario and **Dan Abrahams**, LL.B., PEO General Counsel and former Senior Counsel at the Law Society of Ontario.

Topics discussed included the advantages and disadvantages of self-regulation, B.C. governments new framework for regulation and the public’s understanding of the profession.



Marilyn Gladu, P.Eng., MP (Sarnia-Lambton) (left) and PEO Vice President (Elected) **Darla Campbell**, P.Eng. (right).



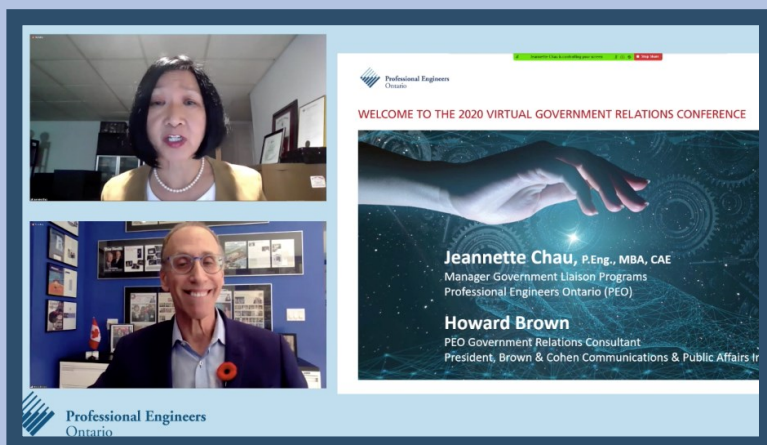
PEO President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., (top row, left) moderated a panel on self regulation. Panelists included CEO/Registrar, Association of Professional Engineers of BC **Ann English**, P.Eng., (top row, right), former CEO of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario **Shenda Tanchak**, LL.B., B.Ed. (bottom row, left) and General Counsel for PEO **Dan Abrahams**, LL.B. (bottom row, right).

Ms. English also took part in a one on one interview with PEO Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., Chair of the Government Liaison Committee.

The two spoke about strategies used in B.C. to form relationships with government (e.g. individual caucus receptions), project working groups, and tailoring messaging for each Party.

Mr. Turnbull later provided a wrap up for the day after remarks by PEO CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng.

PEO CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE HOST BREAK OUT SESSIONS



PEO's Manager, Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng. (top) and Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** (bottom) during their presentation on Foundational Reports.

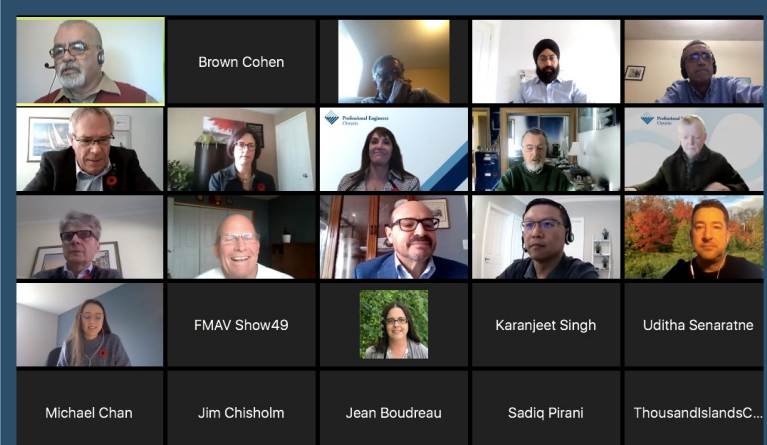
PEO Manager, Government Liaison Programs **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng. and Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** provided attendees with an overview of why government relations is important to PEO during the morning session.

They also discussed four key PEO regulatory items that have impacted PEO.

They examined PEO's impact on the Ontario Building Code, the Industrial Exception, the Elliot Lake Inquiry and the Cayton External Regulatory Review.

Five members of the PEO Government Relations Conference planning committee hosted three breakout sessions for participants.

- GLP 101— presented by Ms. Chau. This was primarily for new GLP reps, who are learning the foundations of the Government Liaison Program.
- GLP 201 –presented by PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Vice-Chair and Councillor **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng. and Mr. Brown. This session was a more advanced discussion on best practices for liaising with Ministers and MPP, including writing tips.
- GLP 301-presented by GLC Chair and PEO Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., Conference Co-Chair and PEO Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng. and GLC Engineers Canada representative **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng. It provided participants with an opportunity to ask questions related to the Government Liaison Program, as well as comment on its strengths and weaknesses.



PEO's 301 break out session was hosted by Government Liaison Committee Chair (GLC) and PEO Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., (second row, left) Conference co-host and PEO Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng. (third row, centre) and GLC Engineers Canada representative **Changiz Sadr**, P.Eng. (top row, left).

Over 25 PEO GLP representatives and others participated including PEO's President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., (second row, centre), Vice-President (Elected) **Darla Campbell**, P.Eng., (second row, second from the left) CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng., (third row, left), Councillor **Michael Chan**, P.Eng., (bottom row, left) and former PEO president **George Comrie**, P.Eng., Mayor of the Municipality of Whitestone (not photographed).

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to PEO Scarborough Chapter GLP representative **Samuel Jacob**, P.Eng. for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

Question: *What day did PEO meet with the Ontario Legislative Interns?*

Answer: October 9

This week's question: *Which local MPP did the PEO Oakville Chapter meet with on October 30?*

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, November 16.

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



Samuel Jacob, P.Eng. is the winner of last week's GLP Trivia Contest.

ONLINE MPP EVENTS

Every Saturday-Coffee with your MPP hosted by **Faisal Hassan**, MPP (York-South Weston), NDP Critic for Youth Engagement from 3 to 4 PM. To join visit: <https://www.facebook.com/FaisalHassanNDP/>

Thursday, November 19—Empire Club presents **Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria**, MPP (Brampton South), Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape from noon to 1 PM. To register visit: <https://www.livemeeting.ca/profile/empire-club-of-canada/>

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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