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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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PEO WEST CENTRAL REGION COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

Over the last few years, GLP Weekly has regularly featured interviews with PEO Councillors and other prominent individuals within the engineering regulation community. This week, we return to that feature with two interviews. One with PEO West Central Region Councillor **Jim Chisholm**, P.Eng., (left) and the other one with PEO licence holder **Scott Grant**, P.Eng., who recently retired from the Ministry of the Environment, Parks and Conservation. Also in the photo above at an event from 2015 is then Minister of the Environment and Climate Change **Glen Murray**, MPP (Toronto Centre) (second left), Ministry of the Environment engineer **Nihar Bhatt**, P.Eng., (second right) and now MP **Rob Oliphant** (Don Valley West) (right).

For more on these stories, see pages 3, 6, and 7.

Through the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO governs over 90,000 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. The next issue will be published on June 11, 2021.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. PEO COUNCIL MAKES APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES
2. THREE MINISTERS HOLD RECEPTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

This issue of the GLP Weekly interviews two prominent PEO licence holders who share their views on the value of the Government Liaison Program (GLP). One, newly elected PEO West Central Region Councillor **Jim Chisholm**, P.Eng., and the other is **Scott Grant**, P.Eng., recently retired long-time Ministry of the Environment, Parks and Conservation engineer. Both point out what they think the GLP strengths are and ways to build on its success.

QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

NEW ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE HEAD APPOINTED



Former Deputy Minister and head of Trillium Health Partners **Michelle DiEmanuele** has been appointed Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council.

A new head of the Ontario Public Service has been appointed by Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North).

Former Deputy Minister **Michelle DiEmanuele's** has been appointed as Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council. She was most recently the President and CEO of Trillium Health Partners in Mississauga.

The appointment was made on May 26 and Ms. DiEmanuele will take up the mantle on June 20, 2021.

PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**, who has known Ms. DiEmanuele for many years, said "She's a great appointment. She knows how to get things done. She's very familiar with all levels of government and I think that she could be a great asset to PEO."

Premier Ford stated "I could not be more thrilled to have someone of Michelle's talent, passion and experience take the top job of Ontario's public service."

PEO WEST CENTRAL REGION COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

This week we return to interviews with PEO Councillors and other prominent individuals within the engineering regulation community.

PEO West Central Region Councillor **Jim Chisholm**, P.Eng., is a long-time PEO volunteer. He served as the GLP Chair for West Toronto Chapter, a director of the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) and Professional Engineers Government of Ontario (PEGO).

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

I was a representative on the City of Toronto's Sustainability Roundtable, chaired by Jack Layton. I led a delegation to Queen's Park on various environmental topics in the 1990s.

I also got involved on a community level in traffic safety issues when my son Alex was in Kindergarten and I was concerned about him crossing intersections. I was actually able to get the speed reduced on Keele Street back in the old Metro Toronto days.

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

PEO is an important body and has an important responsibility. It is my view that PEO should be more active in dealing with regulations that protect the public interest. In particular, I'm thinking of the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and the *Building Code Act*. To me, there's probably nothing more fundamental than dealing with a public interest issue that is based in regulation and legislation.

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

The most fundamental one is to develop an agenda to work with MPPs on issues that make a meaningful difference. PEO has not always been oriented towards dealing with public safety issues that are embedded in legislation and regulation until sometimes later in the process.

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

To identify key regulatory and legislative issues that can make a positive difference in protecting the public interest. One of the best examples I can think of, would be to promote source protection of raw drinking water by promoting a regulation for sewage treatment plants and a companion regulation for Sewer-Use.



PEO West Central Region Councillor,
Jim Chisholm, P.Eng.

PEO COUNCIL NEWS

PEO COUNCIL MAKES APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

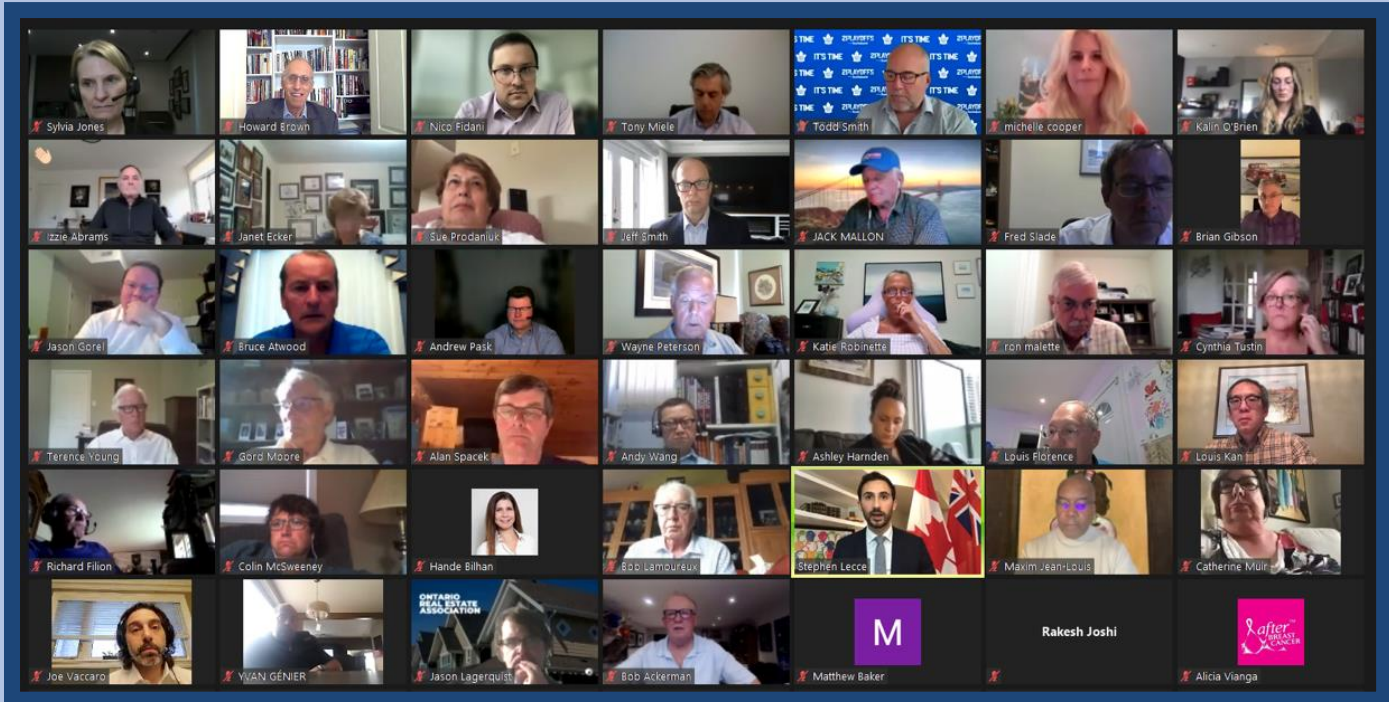
PEO Council met on May 20 to make the following appointments:

Position	Appointed
Council Meeting Chair	President Christian Bellini , P.Eng.
Appointed Vice-President	Vice President (appointed) Chantal Chiddle , P.Eng.
Appointed Chair of Regional Councillors Committee	Councillor Lisa MacCumber , P.Eng.
Committee	Appointed
Executive	President Christian Bellini , P.Eng. (Chair) President Elect Nick Colucci , P.Eng. Past President Marisa Sterling , P.Eng. Vice President (elected) Marilyn Spink , P.Eng. Vice President (appointed) Chantal Chiddle , P.Eng. Councillor Pat Quinn , P.Eng. Councillor Scott Schelske , P.Eng. (LGA)
Audit and Finance	Councillor Lorne Cutler P.Eng. (Chair) Councillor Robert Brunet , P.Eng. Vice President (elected) Marilyn Spink , P.Eng. Councillor Sherlock Sung Councillor Randy Walker , P.Eng.
Governance and Nominating	Councillor Arjan Arenja , P.Eng. (Chair) President Christian Bellini , P.Eng. Councillor Michael Chan , P.Eng. Councillor Peter Cushman , P.Eng. Councillor Lorne Cutler , P.Eng. Councillor Susan MacFarlane , P.Eng. Councillor Luc Roberge , P.Eng. Councillor Ramesh Subramanian , P.Eng.
Human Resources and Compensation	Councillor Pat Quinn , P.Eng. (Chair) President Elect Nick Colucci , P.Eng. Councillor Andy Dryland , C.E.T. Councillor Susan MacFarlane , P.Eng. Councillor Luc Roberge , P.Eng. Councillor Scott Schelske , P.Eng.
Regulatory Policy and Legislation	Councillor Lisa MacCumber , P.Eng. (Chair) Councillor Peter Broad , P.Eng. Councillor Todd Bruyere , P.Eng. Councillor Christopher Chahine , P.Eng. Vice President (appointed) Chantal Chiddle , P.Eng. Councillor Jim Chisholm , P.Eng. Councillor Leila Notash , P.Eng. Past President Marisa Sterling , P.Eng.
OSPE-PEO Joint Relations	President Christian Bellini , P.Eng. President Elect Nick Colucci , P.Eng. Councillor Arjan Arenja , P.Eng. Councillor Luc Roberge , P.Eng.

Congratulations to the Councillors on their new committee appointments!

EVENTS WITH MPPS

THREE MINISTERS HOLD RECEPTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS



Solicitor General **Sylvia Jones**, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon) (top row, left) participated in a reception with stakeholders and others on May 19. Also participating were **Todd Smith**, MPP (Bay of Quinte), Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, (top row, third from the right), Education Minister **Stephen Lecce**, MPP (King-Vaughan) (fifth row, third from the right), current and former MPPs, and PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** (top row, second from the left)

Three ministers were guest speakers at a reception on May 19 including:

- **Sylvia Jones**, Solicitor General, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon)
- **Todd Smith**, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, MPP (Bay of Quinte)
- **Stephen Lecce**, Minister of Education, MPP (King-Vaughan)

There was a discussion on issues facing the government including the pandemic, the economy, timing of the reopening, post-secondary education and childcare. The participants asked about 10 questions to the three Ministers including what they thought that the government's greatest accomplishments are.

Also in attendance were **Lisa Thompson**, MPP (Huron-Bruce), Minister of Government and Consumer Services as well as MPPs **Jim McDonnell** (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Chief Government Whip **Lorne Coe** (Whitby), MPP McDonnell is the only professional engineer in the legislature.

Also participating were former Ministers and MPPs **Janet Ecker**, **Phil Gillies**, **Terrence Young**, **Peter Van Loan** as well as PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**. Mr. Brown has worked closely with MPPs Jones, Smith, Thompson and McDonnell on many PEO regulatory issues.

These events are good opportunities for individual PEO licence holders to get to know and develop relationships with MPPs.

LONG-TIME ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY ENGINEER SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LIASION PROGRAM



Scott Grant, P.Eng., (right) and **Cathy Grant**, P.Eng., (left) were both recently retired after over thirty years with the Ministry of the Environment. They are pictured with Liberal Finance Critic **Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood) in 2019.

Ontario has a long history of being a leader in environmental regulation in the public interest. In the 1950s, then Premier **Leslie Frost** launched the Ontario Water Resources Commission (OWRC).

According to Ontario archives, Frost was advised at a meeting in Ottawa by then U.S. President, **Dwight Eisenhower**, “.... Pure water is one of your greatest assets. But when you’ve got a lot of it, you don’t think about it.”

GLP Weekly spoke with long time PEO licence holder **Scott Grant**, P.Eng. to ask him a few questions about how PEO can do better as a co-regulator with the provincial government. Mr. Grant was the 2017-2018 president of the Professional Engineers Government of Ontario (PEGO). He was an engineer specialist for air pollution and risk management with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks from 1988 – 2021.

1. What can PEO do as a co-regulator with the Ontario government to better understand the various Ministry’s objectives?

Story continued on page 7

GLP INTERVIEW

Continued from page 6

Mr. Grant: I think it is important to remember the origins of the Ministry of the Environment. While it was only set up in 1972 by then newly-elected Premier, **William Davis**, it actually dates back to the 1950s. A recipient of PEO'S 'Engineering Medal', **Dr. Albert Edward Berry**, P.Eng., was instrumental in the creation of the OWRC. Engineers have long been an important asset to the provincial government. PEO should continue doing what it's doing by regulating the practice of the profession in the public interest.

2. PEO licenses almost 90,000 professional engineers in Ontario, of which 150 work in the Ministry of the Environment. How does the key objective of the Ministry align with PEO's goal of protecting the public interest?

Mr. Grant: According to its website, the Ministry of the Environment has a mandate to create healthier communities and economic prosperity through protecting Ontario's air, land and water. This issue is focused on the protection of water, which is one of the objectives that the Ministry and OWRC aims to accomplish. In a similar way, PEO has a mandate to 'regulate and advance engineering practice in Ontario to protect the public interest.' As stated throughout many PEO documents, including the front page of the Government Liaison Program Weekly, 'Professional Engineering safeguards life, health, property, economic interests, the public welfare and the environment.'

3. What role does the GLP have in informing MPPs of PEO's mandate?

Mr. Grant: I believe what PEO has done in setting up its GLP with Chapter representatives in each riding, will be very helpful in ensuring that all MPPs understand the important role that PEO plays in regulating the engineering profession in the public interest. GLP has an important role in ensuring PEO remains a robust regulator, by keeping MPPs informed.

As mentioned, professional engineers were key in setting up the OWRC, which then led to the creation of the original Ministry of the Environment in 1972. Today, 150 PEO licence holders work in this Ministry doing activities like overseeing environmental site assessments, enforcing water standards etc.

PEO published a 17 page ['Environmental Site Assessment, Remediation and Management Guideline'](#) in July 2020. PEO continues to serve the public and also work toward being a co-regulator with all Ministries in the Ontario Government. The GLP and the connections each Chapter has with every MPP in the province, is crucial to keeping MPPs informed about their work and mandate.

Engineering Dimensions in their [current issue](#) has two other excellent stories that look at environmental issues:

- *Keeping Ontario's Drinking Water Safe* by **Marika Bigongiari**
- *Protecting Ontario's Wetlands: An Engineering Perspective* by **Adam Sidsworth**.

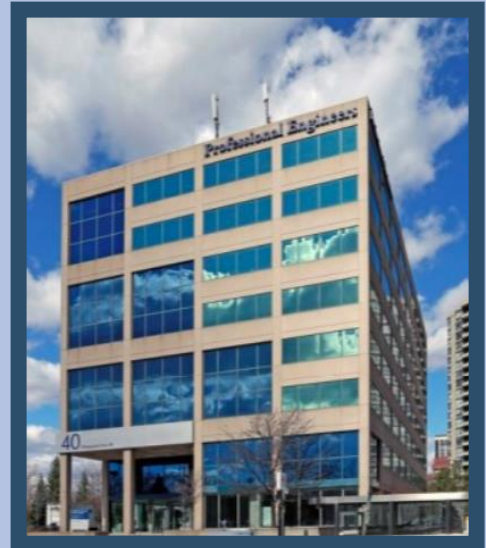
GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

This week's question: Which MPP participated in PEO's Annual General Meeting on May 15?

There was no winner of last week's question, so GLP Weekly has chosen a new question.

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, June 7.

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



UPCOMING ONLINE MPP EVENTS

Every Friday—Virtual Coffee Hour with Teresa Armstrong, MPP (London-Fanshawe), NDP Children and Youth Critic from 3 to 4 PM. To register, visit: <https://www.teresaarmstrong.com/coffeehour>

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

Thursday, June 10 – Community Conversation: Scarborough-Rouge Park & the Pandemic with Leader of the Official Opposition **Andrea Horwath** MPP (Hamilton-Centre) and **Doly Begum**, MPP (Scarborough Southwest). To register, visit: <https://www.ontariondp.ca/community-conversation-scarborough-rouge-park-the-pandemic>

Sunday, June 13 – Building a Stronger Economy Together Townhall with Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph) at 1 PM. To register, visit: <https://gpo.ca/reimagining-ontario/#register>

If you have any comments, additions or questions about *The GLP Weekly* please do not hesitate to call or email:
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