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PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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PEO MISSISSAUGA CHAIR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

GLP Weekly interviewed PEO Mississauga Chapter Chair **Karanjeet Singh**, P.Eng., (right). Here he is above at a 2019 event with Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Policy **Deepak Anand**, MPP (Mississauga-Malton) and then Mississauga Chapter Licence Presentation Committee Chair **Renan Orquiza**, P.Eng., (left). For more on this story, see page 6.

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 25, 2021.

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. SENATOR EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING LICENSING
2. ONTARIO LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS FOR THE SUMMER

PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

GLP Weekly interviews PEO Mississauga Chapter Chair **Karanjeet Singh**, P.Eng., (see page 6) who shares his views on the value of the Government Liaison Program (GLP).

The Ontario Legislature has adjourned for summer (see page 4). It's important for Chapters to continue to host events with MPPs to maintain relationships.

PEO AWARDS NEWS

PEO TO HOST VIRTUAL ORDER OF HONOUR GALA LIVE ON JUNE 19



The PEO Order of Honour awards ceremony for 2020 and 2021 will be held online on June 19.
The photo above is the 2017 PEO Order of Honour Gala in Thunder Bay.

The PEO Order of Honour virtual awards ceremony for 2020 and 2021 will be held on June 19 at 8 PM.

To view the event live, click [here](#).

The ceremony will recognize PEO volunteers, including engineers and others, who have made valuable contributions to the profession.

Honourees include current PEO Councillor **Scott Schelske**, P.Eng., former President **Bob Dony**, P.Eng. and former Councillors **Paul Ballantyne**, P.Eng., and **Roydon Fraser**, P.Eng.

The presentation will also recognize recent S.E. Wolfe Thesis, V.G. Smith, President's and G. Gordon M. Sterling Engineering Intern awards recipients.

In the past, Ministers and MPPs have regularly attended PEO Award Ceremonies in person.

SECTOR NEWS

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ANNOUNCE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT



Stephen Crawford, MPP (Oakville), Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure and **Catherine McKenna**, MP (Ottawa Centre), Federal Minister of Communities and Infrastructure announced a new investment in municipal infrastructure on June 9 on behalf of Infrastructure Minister **Laurie Scott**, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock). Here is Minister Scott above (left) with PEO West Toronto Chapter GLP Chair **Janet Han**, P.Eng., (right) at a Toronto Region Board of Trade event in 2019.

The governments of Ontario and Canada have announced an investment of over \$115 million in municipal infrastructure to protect the health and well-being of residents of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas. The announcement was made on June 9.

Engineers are involved in infrastructure improvement in the public interest.

Details of the announcement were made by **Catherine McKenna**, MP (Ottawa Centre), Federal Minister of Communities and Infrastructure and **Stephen Crawford**, MPP (Oakville), Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure. The announcement was made on behalf of Infrastructure Minister **Laurie Scott**, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock).

Both Minister Scott and MPP Crawford are familiar with the work of PEO as a regulator having participated in PEO events such as the annual Queen's Park reception, Take your MPP to Work Days, Chapter Licensing Ceremonies and other activities.

For a link to the announcement, click [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS FOR THE SUMMER



The parliamentary summer recess is a good opportunity for PEO Chapters to organize events like the Take Your MPP to Work Day with **Will Bouma**, MPP (Brantford-Brant), Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier organized by PEO Brantford Chapter GLP Chair **Matt Gagliardi**, P.Eng., on March 13, 2020.

The Ontario Legislature has adjourned for the summer after a busy spring session.

The Legislature was called back last week on the weekend to debate new legislation which will enact the notwithstanding clause to overrule a court finding on election financing rules.

It is expected to reconvene on September 13.

Click [here](#) to review the entire 2021 Parliamentary Calendar.

Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) will be in their constituencies during the week and are more available for meetings.

This is an opportunity during the current summer recess from the Legislature to organize activities for MPPs including:

- Participating in Chapter Licence Presentation Ceremonies and Annual Meetings.
- PEO Chapters have organized many Take Your MPP to Work Days over the last eight years, most recently being the PEO Brantford Chapter with **Will Bouma**, MPP (Brantford-Brant), Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier.
- Attending MPP events in person as the province comes out of lockdown.

SENATOR EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING LICENSING

Engineers Canada has continued its series recognizing licence holders who hold public office nationally.

They recently featured Senator **Rosa Galvez**, P.Eng., who is a Peruvian-Canadian Senator from Quebec that took the oath of office in December 2016. She received her Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the National University of Engineering in Lima, Peru in 1985.

After immigrating to Canada, she earned both her Master of Science, Environmental Engineering Technology and Doctor of Philosophy in Geoenvironmental Engineering from McGill University.

Her spectacular journey in seeking public office, despite having experienced an illustrious career in environmental engineering, demonstrates the utility of an engineering background in the public sphere.

Senator Galvez stressed the importance of having the proper knowledge of policies and issues before entering a domain such as politics.

She said: “Often in politics, I find politicians promise many things they cannot deliver because they don’t know the size or extent of a problem or they can’t make the distinction between a cause and an effect...”

Furthermore, she highlighted the need for gender equality in the STEM field along with so many other important industries.

When asked if she would encourage engineering graduates to earn their P.Eng., Senator Galvez said: “By becoming a licenced engineer, you have to remain updated on the codes and state-of-the-art practice of engineering. This aspect was crucial for me.”

“When you are a professor that trains and educates engineers, I believe we need to show them examples from practice and remain knowledgeable on the progress of the profession in real life.”

There are currently six engineers in the House of Commons and only one in the Ontario Legislature: Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing **Jim McDonnell**, MPP (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry).

For a link to the full story, click [here](#).



Senator **Rosa Galvez**, P.Eng., recently spoke to Engineers Canada about the importance of professional engineering licensing.

GLP WEEKLY INTERVIEW

PEO MISSISSAUGA CHAPTER CHAIR SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON PEO'S GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM



PEO Mississauga Chapter Chair **Karanjeet Singh**, P.Eng. (right), former Chapter Chair **Pappur Shankar**, P.Eng. (second to right), pictured at a Mississauga Board of Trade event in 2019 with MPPs **Kaleed Rasheed** (Mississauga East—Cooksville) (left), **Rudy Cuzzetto** (Mississauga—Lakeshore) (centre-left), **Sheref Sabawy** (Mississauga—Erin Mills) (centre-right), and former Mississauga Mayor, **Hazel McCallion** (centre). Also in the photo is **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng. (second to left), PEO Manager of Government Liaison Programs.

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

The GLP was my introduction to the political process when I was volunteering as the PEO Mississauga Chapter GLP Vice Chair in 2016.

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

I have always had an interest in politics and helping the community. The GLP was an opportunity to host events like the very successful Take Your MPP to Work Day that we did with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority in 2016 jointly with PEO Oakville Chapter. It included then MPPs from Oakville and Mississauga including: Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn**, MPP (Oakville), Associate Finance Minister **Indira Naidoo-Harris**, MPP (Halton), and **Amrit Mangat**, MPP (Mississauga-Brampton South).

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

As an aerospace engineer, it is difficult to draw the line between advocacy and regulation. I understand that PEO sets the standard, but at what point does advocating for the standard in the public interest and safety become PEO's responsibility? I was pleased to see in the last *Professional Engineers Act* changes that PEO has the ability to investigate and not just respond to complaints, which is a significant advance to regulation.

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

The GLP can help to increase awareness of the role of PEO as the regulator to MPPs through events such as Take your MPP to Work Day and so much more. We also need to ensure that GLP reps are properly trained so our PEO regulatory message is consistent. Having a regulation on minimum electrical charging station standards could also one day be something PEO looks at.

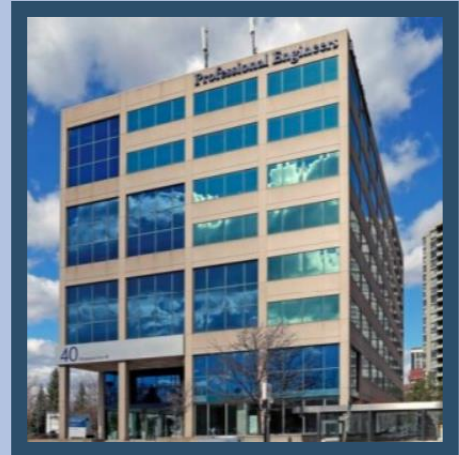
GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

This week's question: Which MPP sent a letter of congratulations to PEO York Chapter's Engineering Project of the Year Award Winners?

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 **Emily Binkley** at emily@brown-cohen.com by Monday, June 21.

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/>

Monday, June 21 – An evening with Premier Doug Ford, MPP (Etobicoke North), Ministers **Merrilee Fullerton** (Kanata-Carleton), Minister of Long-Term Care and **Lisa MacLeod** (Nepean), Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries and MPPs **Jeremy Roberts** (Ottawa-West Nepean) and **Goldie Ghamari** (Carleton) from 6 to 7 PM. Tickets are \$250. Please note that PEO cannot cover the cost of this event. To register, visit: <https://ontariopc.ca/events/3669-21-lm/>

Monday, June 28 – An evening with Monte McNaughton, MPP (Lambton-Kent-Middlesex), Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$500. Please note that PEO cannot cover the cost of this event. To register, visit: <https://ontariopc.ca/events/an-evening-with-monte-mcnaughton/>

Tuesday, June 29 - An evening with Ontario Liberal Party Leader Steven Del Duca, at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$1000. Please note that PEO cannot cover the cost of this event. To register, visit: <https://ontarioliberal.ca/events/june29/>

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