



GLP WEEKLY TIMES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 | VOLUME 15, ISSUE 32



Four engineers were elected as Members of Parliament across Canada, including **Marilyn Gladu**, P.Eng., (above) in the riding of Sarnia-Lambton for a third term in this week's federal election.

PHOTO CREDIT: Maclean's

FOUR ENGINEERS ELECTED AS TRUDEAU WINS MINORITY GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** won a minority government in this week's federal election.

Four engineers were elected across Canada, including two in Ontario: **Omar Alghabra**, P.Eng., MP (Liberal-Mississauga Centre) and **Marilyn Gladu**, P.Eng., MP (CPC-Sarnia-Lambton).

For more on this story, see page 6.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- New Government Liaison Committee member shares his thoughts on the GLP...2-3
- PEO releases new GLP Info Note on Notarius Digital Seal...4

NEW PEO GLC MEMBER SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM



The GLP Weekly Times interviewed **Asif Khan**, P.Eng., (left) PEO Windsor-Essex GLP Chair and new Government Liaison Committee (GLC) member. Here he is at an event with **Lisa Gretzky**, MPP (Windsor West) (right) in 2019.

This week the GLP Weekly Times interviewed **Asif Khan**, P.Eng., new Government Liaison Committee (GLC) member and PEO Windsor-Essex GLP Chair.

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

My first experience with the political process was when I started my career as an electricity/utility design and construction engineer. Members of Parliament met with me to request and add electrification schemes and they would follow up for their construction within their constituencies.

Working directly with members of public office for the first eight years of my professional career gave me a great insight into the process.

Since the GLP was launched in 2005, it was excellent timing as I joined PEO Windsor-Essex Chapter as a volunteer in 2006 and the Chapter's GLP Committee in 2007. Because of my strong belief in PEO's role as the regulator in the public interest, I remained very active with the GLP for the last 14 years, attending GLP congresses and academies, Queen's Park Days, or working with the GLC on reviews and improvement of the program. I built a very strong relationship with MPPs by attending their events, hosting Take Your MPP to Work Days, and inviting MPPs to PEO events.

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

Having worked for the government, I knew how important it is for public policies related to the engineering profession to be discussed with PEO before they are implemented. Engineering work is increasingly influenced by laws and regulations but in general, engineering involvement in public policy development is sadly lacking.

I strongly believe that PEO is a stakeholder in government and public policy. In my opinion, it is not even an option but an obligation for us to maintain relationships with MPPs and provide our professional expertise which will not only enhance the process but bring credibility to the profession as well.

The GLP was the best program launched by PEO to fulfill a very important need. With my strong belief and passion in giving back to my community by helping politicians with the input on public policies in terms of expertise and technology, I could not wait to get involved and strengthen the GLP. Industrial exception is a great example where if we had GLP involved to the fullest, we could have achieved our goal.

Continued on page 3

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

The biggest challenge, in my opinion, is for PEO to build credibility. The Government needs to view PEO as a critical resource to make the public safe.

I think there are three components that need alignment:

- Education of MPPs (categories of public policies and the stages of public policy development with emphasis on regulatory, self-regulatory policies), codes and standards development using professional engineers vs volunteers
- Developing and providing a roadmap including targets for PEO Council so that it becomes part of PEO's overall goals
- Build credibility, sell ideas, and influence public policy

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

Building stronger relationships with each of the MPPs is a huge opportunity. It is important for us to educate, train and well equip our Chapter GLP representatives with the right information and tools.

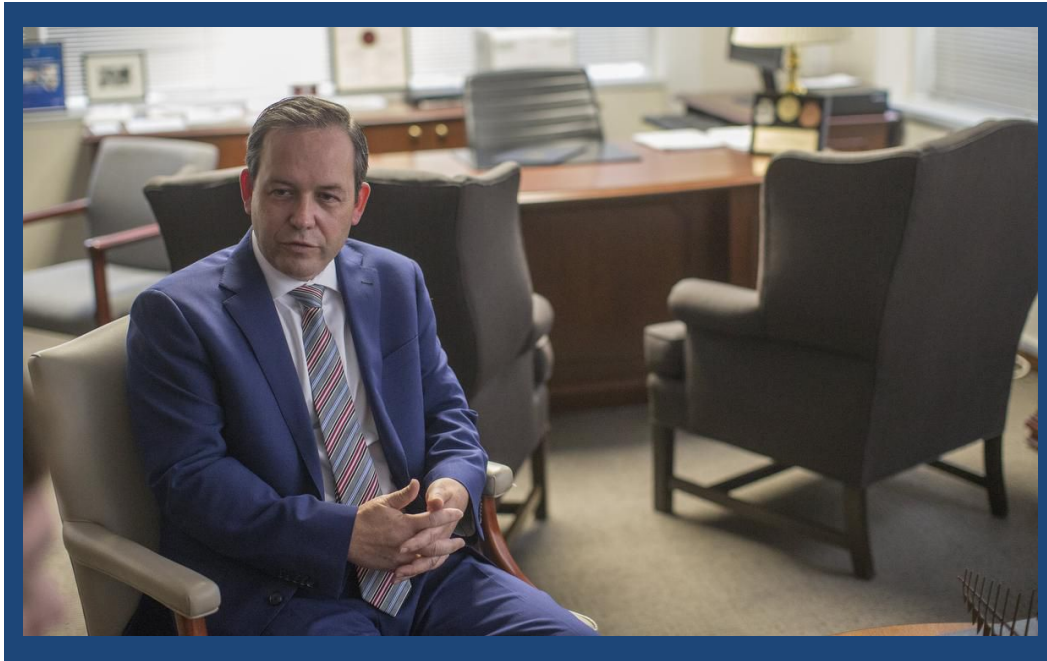
We can explore options of utilizing Lieutenant Governor-in-Council Appointees with some tangible targets in building relationships and achieving GLP goals.

We can develop a package on:

- Identifying critical issues (public policy impacting the engineering profession)
- Building consensus on the issues
- Developing communication plans
- Coordinating with allied groups and supporters

The opportunity is to bring the GLP to Council's top agenda items. It can be used as the most important vehicle in ensuring our participation in public policy development and implementation.

PEO RELEASES NEW GLP INFO NOTE ON NOTARIUS DIGITAL SEAL



PEO has released a new GLP Info Note on the use of Notarius Digital Seal. In the photo is Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte) whose Ministry is responsible for the PEO file. PHOTO CREDIT: The Toronto Star

PEO has released a new GLP Info Note regarding using the service of Notarius to provide its licence holders with a digital signature. It was a topic of discussion at the September 15 meeting of the Government Liaison Committee (GLC).

Here is an excerpt from the paper:

A digital signature is data attached to a PDF/A file that proves the person sending the file is who they claim to be and that the file has not been altered since it was digitally signed.

In the past, PEO licence holders occasionally ran into issues with having their seal used for fraudulent activities. In October 2020, a PEO licence holder had their signature being used to confirm the safety of sites they had never worked on. Documents that PEO licence holders produce must have signatures that comply with the Use of Professional Engineer's Seal.

The digital signature:

- Guarantees the identity of the document, which includes proof of the signer's identity.
- Ensures integrity of the document and that it will not and cannot be altered since its completion.
- Establishes authenticity of the document.

The use of the digital seal will help in the regulatory role of PEO, which is to ensure that engineering is done in the interest of the public.

For a link to the full GLP Info Note, click [here](#).

MEET YOUR MPP

This week, the *GLP Weekly Times* features **Todd Smith**, MPP (Bay of Quinte), Minister of Energy and **Peter Tabuns**, MPP (Toronto—Danforth), NDP Energy Critic.

HON. TODD SMITH, MPP



Hon. Todd Smith, MPP (Bay of Quinte), Minister of Energy

Todd Smith, MPP (Bay of Quinte) was first elected to the Ontario Legislature as a Progressive Conservative in 2011. He currently serves as the Minister of Energy.

He previously served as Government House Leader, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, and Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.

Prior to holding public office, he worked in radio news broadcasting and has been a volunteer hockey coach.

Although Minister Scott was an early and vocal opponent to the repeal of the industrial exception in the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO recognized that it is important to maintain relationships with all MPPs despite their opposition to some PEO initiatives that are believed to protect the public interest.

PETER TABUNS, MPP

Peter Tabuns, MPP (Toronto-Danforth) was first elected to the Ontario Legislature as a member of the New Democratic Party in 2006.

He is currently the Official Opposition's spokesperson on Energy and Climate issues.

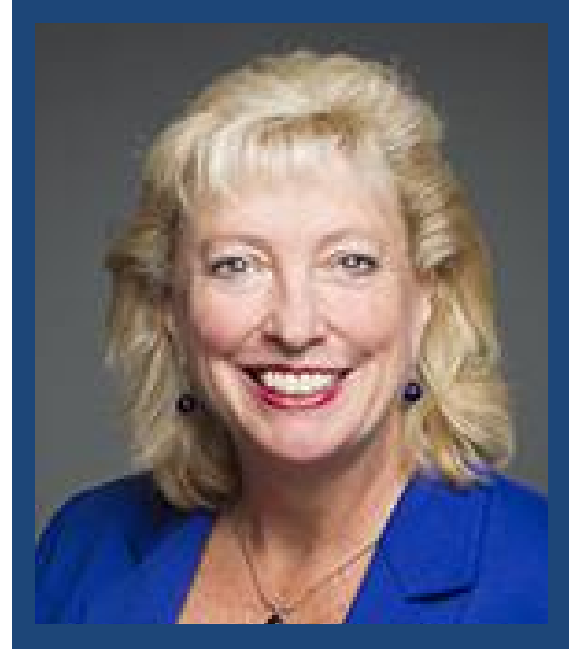
Before joining provincial politics MPP Tabuns was a City Councillor in Toronto and then an Executive Director at Greenpeace Canada.

He has been a longtime supporter of PEO, often participating in events with PEO East Toronto Chapter.



Peter Tabuns, MPP (Toronto-Danforth), NDP Energy Critic

ENGINEERS ELECTED AS TRUDEAU WINS MINORITY GOVERNMENT



Two professional engineers were elected as Members of Parliament for Ontario ridings in this week's federal election including **Omar Alhabra**, P.Eng., MP (Liberal-Mississauga Centre) (left), and **Marilyn Gladu**, P.Eng., MP (CPC-Sarnia-Lambton) (right).

PEO would like to congratulate the four engineers elected to Parliament in the September 2021 federal election.

Elected in Ontario were **Omar Alhabra**, P.Eng., MP (Mississauga Centre), Liberal Party of Canada, Minister of Transport and **Marilyn Gladu**, P.Eng., MP (Sarnia-Lambton), Conservative Party of Canada, both for a third term.

The other two engineers elected to Parliament are:

- **Sukh Dhaliwal**, MP (Surrey-Newton), British Columbia, Liberal Party of Canada
- **Marc Garneau**, MP (Notre-Dame-de Grâce-Westmount), Quebec, Liberal Party of Canada

A total of 18 professional engineers ran across Canada as candidates.

The engineers ran for six parties—five for the Liberals, four for the NDP, four for the People's Party of Canada, three for the Conservatives, and two for the Greens.

A complete list of the federal engineer candidates that ran can be found [here](#).

The election saw the return of a Liberal minority government with 158 seats led by Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau**.

The Conservatives under party leader **Erin O'Toole** won 119 seats, the BQ under **Yves-Francois Blanchet** won 34 seats, the NDP under **Jagmeet Singh** won 25 seats and the Green Party under **Annamie Paul** won 2 seats.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

Roger Jones, P.Eng., PEO Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter member was the winner of last week's question for the GLP Trivia Contest.

Question: What Minister has been invited to speak at the PEO Student Conference on September 25?

Answer: **Jill Dunlop**, MPP (Simcoe North), Minister of Colleges and Universities.

This week's question: Which MPP participated in PEO Oakville Chapter's Take Your MPP to Work Day on September 8?

Join the Contest: Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly Times* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to **Emily Binkley** at emily@brown-cohen.com by Monday, September 27.

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



PEO Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter's **Roger Jones**, P.Eng. is the winner of last issue's GLP Trivia Contest.

UPCOMING MPP EVENTS

September 28, 6:30 to 7:30 PM - An Evening with Liberal Party Leader Steven Del Duca. Tickets are \$1000. Please note that PEO cannot cover the cost of this event. To register, click [here](#).

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/>

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 October 1, 2021.

If you have any comments, additions or questions about The GLP Weekly Times please do not hesitate to call or email: Howard Brown, President, Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs Inc. 321 Brooke Avenue | Toronto, ON M5M 2L4 | Direct line: 416-783-1140 | Cell: 416-844-1180 howard@brown-cohen.com | www.brown-cohen.com