



# GLP WEEKLY TIMES

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The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) launched their federal election advocacy campaign stressing the importance of infrastructure on August 25. Here is ACEC President **John Gamble**, P.Eng. at an event in Parliament's Centre Block in 2018.

## ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING COMPANIES LAUNCHES ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada (ACEC) has launched their *Infrastructure: Property by Design* campaign to encourage federal parties to make infrastructure investments a priority in their election platforms.

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# TIMMINS ENGINEER FIRST FEMALE TO HEAD ONTARIO MINING ASSOCIATION



**Natasha Vaz**, P.Eng., will become the first female chair of the Ontario Mining Association (OMA)'s board of directors this month.  
PHOTO CREDIT: TIMMINS TODAY

TIMMINS - The Ontario Mining Association (OMA) has announced that **Natasha Vaz**, P.Eng., will become the Chair of its Board of Directors this month.

OMA was established in 1920 and its mission is "to improve the competitiveness of Ontario's mining industry while promoting safety and sustainability."

Ms. Vaz will be the first woman to hold the position in OMA's history.

She is a member of PEO's Porcupine / Kapuskasing Chapter. The Chapter has a good working relationship with **Gilles Bisson**, MPP (Timmins) who spoke at the 2015 GLP Northern Region Academy and Congress in Timmins.

Ms. Vaz currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer at Kirkland Lake Gold.

Outgoing chair **Mike McCann** said, "Her appointment as the first woman to lead the board marks an important milestone in OMA's history – one whose time has certainly come, as we celebrate the association's centenary and grasp emerging opportunities to reshape the industry."

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

# MINISTER INVITED TO SPEAK AT PEO STUDENT CONFERENCE



The annual PEO Student Conference will be held from September 24 to 26. **Joel Harden**, MPP (Ottawa Centre) (front row, centre) was the guest speaker in 2019. Also in the photo are conference delegates and speakers.

The 2021 PEO Student Conference will be held virtually over the weekend of September 24th.

The University of Toronto is hosting the Student Conference in collaboration with the Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario (ESSCO) and PEO.

It brings together over 80 motivated third and fourth-year engineering students from across Ontario for a weekend of professional development, career exploration, and insight into PEO. The theme of this year's conference is "Where Curiosity Meets Ambition".

Minister of Colleges and Universities **Jill Dunlop**, MPP (Simcoe North) has been invited to speak at the conference.

Previous MPPs that have spoken at the conference include **Joel Harden**, MPP (Ottawa Centre) in 2019 and **Jennifer French**, MPP (Oshawa) in 2018.

**Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., Manager, Government Liaison Programs is the keynote speaker at the conference. PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** will be speaking about the importance of professional relationships and communications.



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

For more information, click [here](#).

# FROM THE ARCHIVES: PEO PAST PRESIDENT SHARES HER INSIGHT ON BIGGEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GLP



The *GLP Weekly Times* interviewed PEO Past President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., (left) in 2020. Here she is delivering a speech at Queen's Park in celebration of the establishment of Nikola Tesla Day on July 10 with MPP **Tom Rakocovic**, MPP (Humber River-Black Creek) (right).

This week's *GLP Weekly Times* interview is from our archives with PEO Past President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng. It was first published on June 23, 2020.

She has over 20 years of experience working and volunteering in the engineering profession, in both the private and public sectors. *The GLP Weekly Times* interviewed Ms. Sterling in 2020 about her work with PEO and the Government Liason Program.

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

My first experience with the political process was in the eighth grade when I served as a Page in the Legislature. I was nominated by my MPP, who was the then Minister of Education.

In my work life with PEO, where I served as both Chapter Coordinator and as an Enforcement Manager, I worked with the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, on streamlining processes and improving work safety in manufacturing facilities.

In 2009, I created a partnership between PEO and the Ontario Legislature Intern Program. In 2011, I stepped up to be a more engaged citizen, won a nomination, and ran as a candidate in the provincial election that year.

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

My father, who was a former President of PEO, was a big supporter of the regulator creating a stronger relationship with government. I have always appreciated the value of the Government Liaison Program (GLP), since it was created in 2005. I well remember when the Ontario government of the day was trying to make changes to the Ontario Building Code, that overrode the Professional Engineers Act.

Prior to the creation of the GLP, when I was a young engineer, I understand there was not a lot of dialogue between the MPPs and PEO. I think the government now sees PEO as a co-regulator, versus just being a stakeholder. I think this is a really good success story, and that this relationship needs to continue to be supported and improved upon, which will in turn benefit the public interest.

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

I think it would be ensuring the consistency and simplicity of the message. There is much regional activity with MPPs in the Chapters, and we want to align it with the goals of Council. A relevant message can be: The public needs more protection around how digital technology impacts them. This can range from cyber security threats, automation, AI, to climate change. I believe it is within PEO's scope to positively impact the government with ways to keep the public protected in the midst of rapid technological changes.

Other challenges would be to help the government see that PEO is a resource to help them to keep the public safe. PEO's mandate is public protection and well-being. Its mandate is not to protect engineers. We have to be more clear about what PEO can be for the government.

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

PEO needs to better understand what the agenda and priorities of the government are. Being aware of this will help us provide proactive solutions through co-regulation with the government.

Another great opportunity is maintaining local relationships with MPPs of all parties through the Chapter GLP representatives. This will build continued trust with government.

We need to reinforce that PEO has a shared interest with the government. PEO can be reached out to and relied upon to bring solutions in the public interest. These local relationships can in fact help uncover emerging issues around public protection and well-being, and will also help PEO continue to be a better regulator.

## MEET YOUR MPP

This week, the *GLP Weekly Times* features **Kinga Surma**, MPP (Etobicoke Centre), Minister of Infrastructure and **Jennifer French**, MPP (Oshawa), NDP Infrastructure and Transportation and Highways Critic.



Minister of Infrastructure **Kinga Surma**, MPP (Etobicoke Centre) (left) with Premier **Doug Ford** (Etobicoke North). PHOTO CREDIT: TORONTO STAR

### HON. KINGA SURMA, MPP

**Kinga Surma**, MPP (Etobicoke Centre) was first elected to the Ontario Legislature as a Progressive Conservative in 2018. She was promoted to the position of Minister of Infrastructure in the June cabinet shuffle.

Prior to being elected, she worked at Toronto City Hall for a city Councillor and managed the campaign tour for the Ontario PC Party Leadership for **Christine Elliot**, MPP (Newmarket-Aurora) current Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

### JENNIFER FRENCH, MPP

**Jennifer French**, MPP (Oshawa) was first elected to the Ontario Legislature as a New Democrat in 2014. She was re-elected in June 2018 and is the Official Opposition Critic for Infrastructure and Transportation and Highways.

Prior to being elected as an MPP, she spent eight years working as an elementary school teacher in Oshawa.

MPP French has participated in a number of engineering events including the PEO GLP Conference in 2020.



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

# ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING COMPANIES LAUNCHES ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN



The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) launched their federal election advocacy campaign on August 25. Here is 2009 to 2010 PEO President **Catherine Karakatsanis**, P.Eng. (second from the right) and other ACEC representatives with Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau**, MP (Papineau) (third from the right). PHOTO CREDIT: ACEC

OTTAWA - The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada (ACEC) has launched their *Infrastructure: Property by Design* campaign to encourage federal parties to make infrastructure investments a priority in their election platforms.

ACEC is a not-for-profit organization that represents Canadian consulting engineering companies. As engineering is a regulated profession, every individual employed by ACEC members is required by law to act "with fidelity to the public interest."



Here is ACEC President **John Gamble**, P.Eng. (left), former PEO staffer, and other ACEC officials meeting with then Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** (centre) in 2012.

The organization stated that, "ACEC-Canada is prepared to work with the Federal Government and other stakeholders to build a well-governed National Infrastructure Assessment..."

The website features a section to write to local candidates, recommendations to achieve a "bold environmental and economic vision for Canada", and key facts about investing in infrastructure in Canada.

For a link to ACEC's election website, click [here](#).

# GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

**Thomas Chong**, P.Eng., 2015 to 2016 PEO President and former East Central Region Councillor was the winner of last week's question for the GLP Trivia Contest.

**Question:** What date is the Ontario Legislature set to reconvene on?

**Answer:** September 13.

**This week's question:** Who was the former PEO President that was interviewed in the August 27th issue of the *GLP Weekly Times*?

**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](mailto:emily@brown-cohen.com) by Monday, September 6. *You may only win once in a four-week span.*



**Thomas Chong**, P.Eng. was the winner of last week'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. There will be no issue next week due to the shortened holiday week. The next issue will be published on September 10, 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](mailto:howard@brown-cohen.com) | [www.brown-cohen.com](http://www.brown-cohen.com)