



GLP WEEKLY TIMES

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PEO MISSISSAUGA CHAPTER GLP REPS PARTICIPATE IN TOWNHALL WITH MPP

Deepak Anand, MPP (Mississauga-Malton) hosted a virtual Townhall on September 28.

Participating in the event were PEO Mississauga Chapter GLP reps **Bhavin Shukla**, P.Eng. and **Jawad Haroon**, P.Eng.

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LEGISLATURE RECONVENES WITH SPEECH FROM THE THRONE



Lieutenant Governor **Elizabeth Dowdeswell** delivering the Speech from the Throne at Queen's Park on October 4. PHOTO CREDIT: TVO

Lieutenant Governor **Elizabeth Dowdeswell** delivered Premier **Doug Ford's**, MPP (Etobicoke North) throne speech on October 4. It marked the reconvening of the Legislature and introduced the government's agenda ahead of the June 2022 election.

The speech largely focused on Covid-19 recovery but Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell also mentioned, "Your government remains steadfast in its commitment to an economic and fiscal recovery that is fueled by economic growth, not painful tax hikes or spending cuts...To do so, your government will build Ontario. Build roads and highways. Build and expand transit to communities across the province..."

Other highlights from the past week included that PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** participated in an event with Premier Ford on September 29.

They discussed the role that PEO plays in regulating the practice of engineering in the public interest.

Additionally, **Lindsey Park**, MPP (Durham) was removed from her position as Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General on October 1 for misrepresenting her vaccine status.

MPP Park is allowed to remain in caucus as an MPP. Her replacement is yet to be announced.

MPP Park was a guest speaker at the 2019 PEO Queen's Park reception.

The Ministry of the Attorney General is responsible for the PEO file.

In other news, **Bill Walker**, MPP (Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound) has been appointed Deputy Speaker of the Legislature. MPP Walker has previously participated in many PEO events.

MEET YOUR MPP

This week, the *GLP Weekly Times* features **Peter Bethlenfalvy**, MPP (Pickering—Uxbridge), Minister of Finance and **Mitzie Hunter** (Scarborough—Guildwood), Liberal Critic for Finance.



PEO Lake Ontario Chapter Vice Chair **Manraj Pannu**, P.Eng. (right) with **Peter Bethlenfalvy**, MPP (Pickering—Uxbridge) (left), then President of the Treasury Board and now Minister of Finance in 2019.

HON. PETER BETHLENFALVY, MPP

Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP (Pickering—Uxbridge), Minister of Finance was elected to the Legislature in 2018. He served as the President of the Treasury Board from 2018 to 2021.

Prior to being elected, he served in many senior financial roles including as the Chief Investment Officer at CST Consultants Inc, Senior Vice-President of financial regulations at Manulife Financial, Co-president of DBRS Ltd., and as President and Chief Operating Officer of TD Securities in New York.

MPP Bethlenfalvy has previously participated in PEO Lake Ontario Chapter events.

MITZIE HUNTER, MPP

Mitzie Hunter, MPP (Scarborough—Guildwood), Liberal Critic for Finance was elected to the Legislature in 2013. She previously served as the Minister of Education from 2016 to 2018 and in 2018 as the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

Prior to being elected, she was CEO of the Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance, Chief Administrative Office of Toronto Community Housing, and Vice President at Goodwill Industries of Toronto. She has participated in many PEO Scarborough Chapter Events.



Mitzie Hunter
(Scarborough—Guildwood)

NEW PEO GLC MEMBER SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LIASION PROGRAM



The GLP Weekly Times interviewed **Tracy Garner**, P.Eng. (left), new PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) member on September 27. Here she is with former Premier **Kathleen Wynne**, MPP (Don Valley West) (right) in 2018.

This week, the GLP Weekly Times interviewed **Tracy Garner**, P.Eng., new PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) member. She is the GLP Rep for Don Valley West within the East Toronto Chapter.

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

As a teenager, I started getting involved in the community. The first political campaign that I volunteered for was the federal campaign of '93 with **John Bosley**, MP (Don Valley West) when I had just turned eighteen. I was very eager to express myself as a voter and get involved. There was a campaign office on the way home from my high school, and I had a light course, so I was stopping there most days. That was a very eye-opening and enriching experience for me.

The party that I'm involved with now is actually the third party that I've been involved with over the course of 20 or 30 years. When I went off to university, it wasn't top of mind to be involved in party politics. However, I was very involved in engineering student government (at Queen's University) where I was part of the executive.

I'm a grassroots kind of person. So when I continued to be involved in politics, I didn't mind doing the sort of hands-on kind of work of like phoning or knocking on doors, because I get energized by people. I enjoy meeting the volunteers (and voters) and getting to know them. It's really touching when people open up and tell you about their concerns.

Another aspect is that from 2012 to 2015, I actually did a Master's in Public Administration program, also at Queen's, part-time while working in the public sector at the IESO (the Independent Electricity System Operator). Doing the policy degree made me reconnect with some provincial issues that I realized were very important to me. I got reinvolved in the party through the 2018 election and then with the riding associations.

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

I was impressed with the idea of having a one-to-one relationship between the representative and all the MPPs. It resonated with my affinity for grassroots work. This is where the relationships are made. I think it will be a valuable initiative over time.

The more PEO can reach out to MPPs with their message, then the more likely when if there's an issue that is arising, support from MPPs is the more likely. They might have had multiple engagements with PEO reps and when their support is needed, they'll have that history.

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

Well, I think the setup and the rollout of the program has been excellent and very well organized. I think there will be a certain amount of maintenance work required to keep up managing a large network of volunteers.

I think in terms of volunteers, the biggest challenge would be to keep them motivated and engaged as the intermediary between the PEO and their MPP. To help them go out and deliver the messages to the MPP and to come up with different ways that we haven't thought of yet to increase the interaction with MPPs, whether it's ideas for Take your MPP to Work Days or other Chapter events that the MPP can be invited to. I think having that network of people is going to be a great resource.

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

The (GLP) reps are a great resource for PEO. They seem to be enthusiastic and diverse, and they're willing to get involved. They have new ideas and they are in touch with the practice of engineering through their careers in many cases. One thing I think about these alignments between engineering and policies, throughout my career, is that it's all about problem-solving, right?

That, for me, was part of why I became an engineer. Policy work is about problem-solving in different spheres. I think these are people that have those kinds of strengths and can be leveraged to help advance PEO's interests. It's a great opportunity for me to have found a way to get more informed about PEO and more involved and contribute to the profession that has given a lot to me.

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Deepak Anand, MPP (Mississauga-Malton) hosted a virtual Townhall on September 28.

MPP Anand was elected to the Legislature in 2018.

He is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

Participating in the Townhall were PEO Mississauga Chapter GLP reps **Bhavin Shukla**, P.Eng. and **Jawad Haroon**, P.Eng., who are both constituents living in MPP Anand's riding.

During the meeting, MPP Anand provided some information about vaccination and shared updates about his recent activities.

He has regularly participated in Mississauga Chapter events including Meet and Greets and PEO Annual Queen's Park Days.

It is important for PEO Chapters to participate in MPP events to maintain relationships.

Follow up notes thanking MPP Anand were sent by the GLP Reps.

UPCOMING EVENT: ATTORNEY GENERAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR RYERSON DEMOCRACY FORUM



Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte) (centre) will be the keynote speaker for a Ryerson University Democracy Forum on October 18. Here he is with 2019 to 2020 PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng. (left), and CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng. (right) at Queen's Park in 2019.

Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte) will be speaking on 'Judging Justice in Ontario' for a Ryerson University Democracy Forum on October 18.

The event will be co-hosted by Toronto Star columnist **Martin Regg Cohn**, who was a guest speaker at PEO's Government Relations conference in 2018.

Minister Downey was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in 2018. He was then appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance before being elevated to the Cabinet as Attorney General in 2019.

Earlier in his career, he was elected and served for six years on Orillia City Council. Before entering politics, Minister Downey was also very active in the Ontario Bar Association in a variety of posts including as Secretary and Treasurer. He also served as the Communications Chair of the Canadian Bar Association.

Mr. Downey regularly participates in PEO events.

Earlier this year, he provided introductory remarks at PEO's Annual General Meeting on May 15. A request is going out to Mr. Downey to meet with PEO this fall.

For more information or to register for the Ryerson University Democracy Forum, click [here](#).

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

PEO Hamilton-Burlington Chapter GLP Chair **Mike Bell**, P.Eng. was the winner of last week's question for the GLP Trivia Contest.

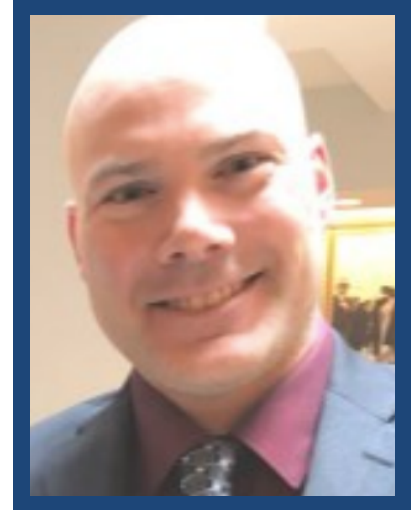
Question: Who was the new GLC Member interviewed in the September 24 issue of the GLP Weekly Times?

Answer: Asif Khan, P.Eng.

This week's question: Which MPP participated in a community event with PEO Councillors on August 31?

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, October 4.

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



Mike Bell, P.Eng. is the winner of last issue's trivia contest.

OTHER UPCOMING 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/>

October 14, 12 to 1 PM - Fall 2021 P3 Market Update with **Kinga Surma**, MPP (Etobicoke Centre), Minister of Infrastructure. To register, click [here](#).

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 October 22, 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