



Professional Engineers
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NDP Deputy Leader **Doly Begum** MPP (Scarborough Southwest) met with **Lorraine Fraser**, P.Eng. (right), the new PEO GLP rep for her riding on September 2.

PEO SCARBOROUGH CHAPTER GLP REP MEETS WITH DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER

The new GLP rep for PEO Scarborough Chapter, **Lorraine Fraser**, P.Eng., had the opportunity to speak with her local MPP, **Doly Begum**, (Scarborough Southwest), Deputy Opposition Leader, at a formal meeting in MPP Begum's Scarborough constituency office on September 2.

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GLC REP SAYS PEO "MUST BE ENGAGED IN CONTINUED DIALOGUE" TO EVOLVE



Alexandra Weryha, P.Eng., (right) gave an interview to the PEO GLP Weekly Times in July 2021. Here she is in 2015 receiving the Quebec Lieutenant Governor's bronze medal from then-Lieutenant Governor **Pierre Duchesne**.

This week, we continue our series of interviews with PEO Councillors, GLP Representatives and other PEO opinion leaders. Today, we feature **Alexandra Weryha**, who is a representative for the PEO Government Liaison Committee. A modified version of this interview was initially published in the GLP Weekly Times on July 31, 2021.

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

The majority of my experience dealing with the political process has been within student government. I obtained my first elected position in student council and continued to serve on a variety of governing bodies throughout my education. A desire to serve others and the communities I am involved in has been a common thread throughout my career. I was elected the representative for the mechanical engineering graduate students' association. I was also involved in several initiatives pertaining to the development of curriculum to teach engineers frameworks for understanding the environmental and societal implications of their work.

Through this initiative I attended the Engineering Change Lab, where I observed the importance of developing relationships across organizational and disciplinary silos.

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

The engagement process around policy development and regulation has always intrigued me. Through my own involvement in this process, I have come to cherish hearing perspectives that contradict my own. I believe that the best solutions reflect and balance the broadest set of needs to society's grand challenges. I am always looking for opportunities to get involved and learn.

I have always supported meaningful engagement between GLP members and their MPPs.

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

Given that the GLP exists as a geographically distributed organization, engaging its stakeholders during the physical distancing restrictions of COVID was a challenge that I think we have overcome for the most part. I am pleased that the GLP is returning to its previous engagement methods, such as its in-person training, to ensure that it can be effectively engaged in the new normal.

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

Society continually evolve. As technologies are engineered and implemented to meet new needs, the governing body of engineers as the regulator must also be continually engaged with government, industry, academia, regulators and society at large.

I am excited to see the GLP hone its curriculum and develop support systems and tools that will ensure GLP representatives are communicating clearly with MPPs around regulatory questions regarding engineering. I also think there is a great deal of opportunity to streamline the flow of information and communication from the geographically dispersed Chapters back to PEO Council.

Our goal is to become a valuable source of actionable information supporting PEO's mandate to regulate the practice in the public interest. I am particularly pleased that the GLP is helping MPPs better understand PEO's goals such as the implementation of both the *Fair Access to the Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act* and mandatory Continuing Professional Development. I believe these are important initiatives that will have a great deal of impact in improving PEO's work as a regulator in the public interest.

FORMER PEO PRESIDENT SEEKING RE-ELECTION TO WATERLOO COUNCIL FOR FOURTH TERM

Former PEO President **Diane Freeman**, P.Eng. is seeking re-election to her position on Waterloo City Council.



As reported in the previous GLP Weekly Times, a number of PEO licensees, including past and current councillors, are running for office in the upcoming municipal elections.

In addition to those previously mentioned, former PEO President **Diane Freeman**, P.Eng., is running for re-election to Ward 4 on Waterloo City Council.

Ms. Freeman, who was PEO President from 2010-2011, has held the position as the city's Ward 4 councillor for four terms since 2006.

It is important for PEO and GLP representatives to stay informed on the events of the upcoming municipal election as many municipal councillors go on to serve in the provincial Legislature.

MEET YOUR MPPS

This week, the *PEO GLP Weekly Times* features two newly elected MPPs, **Patrice Barnes**, (Ajax) and **Ric Bresee**, MPP (Hastings-Lennox-Addington). PEO licence holders can get to know their representatives by visiting the Ontario Legislature website, which has a full list of MPPs [here](#).



Patrice Barnes,
MPP (Ajax)

PATRICE BARNES, MPP

Patrice Barnes was elected on June 2nd as a MPP for the Progressive Conservative Party. She serves as one of the two Parliamentary Assistants to the Minister of Education.

Prior to her election to the Legislature, she served as a Trustee on the Durham District School Board (DDSB), a Director of the Ontario Public School Board Association and on the Durham Regional Police Services Board.

She participated in the DDSB Youth Poverty Strategy, which helped create the Cypher Program, Empower Her Conference and the Getting Ready for Kindergarten Program. She also served on the advisory group that launched the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan and as a member of the Ontario Education Partnership Roundtable.

RIC BRESEE, MPP

Ric Bresee was also elected on June 2nd as an MPP for the Progressive Conservative Party. He is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

He served for 22 years on the Loyalist Township Municipal Council, first as a councillor, then deputy mayor and most recently he served as Mayor.

Prior to his election to the Legislature, MPP Bresee worked as an Adaptive Technologist and part-time instructor for St. Lawrence College, where he taught computer science, economics and Wind Policy in Canada.

MPP Bresee also graduated from St. Lawrence College as a Business Systems Analyst.



Ric Bresee, MPP
(Hastings-Lennox-
Addington)

PEO SCARBOROUGH CHAPTER GLP REP MEETS WITH DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER



PEO Scarborough Chapter's new GLP rep **Lorraine Fraser**, P.Eng., (right) had the chance to meet with her MPP, **Doly Begum**, (Scarborough Southwest), Deputy Opposition Leader (left) at her constituency office on September 2.

PEO chapters are now again meeting with opposition members. The new GLP rep for PEO Scarborough Chapter, **Lorraine Fraser**, P.Eng., had the opportunity to speak with her local MPP, **Doly Begum**, (Scarborough Southwest) at a formal meeting in the MPP constituency office on September 2nd for 30 minutes. MPP Begum serves as the Deputy Opposition Leader and critic for Immigration Services and International Credentials.

Ms. Fraser introduced herself to MPP Begum as the new rep for her riding and provided her with an update on PEO. They discussed PEO's mandate and the work of the local chapter, which MPP Begum was familiar with. Joining the meeting was PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**, who briefed both Ms. Fraser and MPP Begum on the PEO's work regarding the *Fair Access to Regulatory Professions and Compulsory Trades Act* (FARPACTA), and progress on implementing a mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) requirement for licence holders in January 2023. Ms. Fraser also invited the MPP to the Scarborough Chapter's License Certificate Ceremony.

MPP Begum has been supportive of PEO in the past and participated in the PEO Scarborough Chapter's National Engineering Month event in March 2021.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to PEO Scarborough Chapter's **Samuel Jacob**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

Question: PEO Kingston Chapter and Thousand Island Chapter representatives attended an event on August 20 hosted by which Minister?

Answer: **Steve Clark**, MPP (Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes), Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

This week's question: Which Minister did PEO West Toronto GLP Chair **Yehuda Adams**, P.Eng., meet at MPP **Robin Martin's** annual barbecue on August 28?

Join the Contest: Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly Times* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to Howard Brown at howard@brown-cohen.com by Tuesday, September 20th.

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



Samuel Jacob, P.Eng. is the winner of this week's Trivia Contest.

UPCOMING MPP EVENTS

Thursday, September 22nd, 7:30 - 9:15 AM - "Women Take Charge" Conversation with MPP Jess Dixon, (Kitchener South-Hespeler) Location: Langdon Hall Country House Hotel & Spa, 1 Langdon Dr. Cambridge, ON N3H 4R8. Cost: \$60. To register, [click here](#).

Wednesday, September 28, 7 PM - An Evening with Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford, MPP (Etobicoke North). Location: Brampton, TBA. Cost: \$1,000. To register, [click here](#).

Friday, September 30, 7:30- 9:30 AM - Mississauga Board of Trade Breakfast with local MPPs. Location: Residence Inn by Marriott, Mississauga Southwest, 2145 North Sheridan Way, Mississauga. Cost: Members \$55, Non-members \$75. To register, [click here](#).

Thursday, October 6, 6 PM - An Evening with MPPs - Energy Minister Todd Smith, MPP (Bay of Quinte), Natural Resources and Forestry Minister **Graydon Smith** (Parry Sound-Muskoka) and Mines Minister **George Pirie** (Timmins). Location: Toronto, TBA. Cost: \$1,000. 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/aboutpeo/glp-weekly-newsletter>

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday of the week prior to publication. Our next issue is September 23.

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