



GLP WEEKLY TIMES

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Andrew Dowie, P.Eng., MPP (Windsor-Tecumseh), (left) was one of several PEO licence holders who attended the Rural Ontario Municipalities Conference in Toronto this week. Also pictured above are **Lisa Thompson**, MPP (Huron-Bruce), Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, **Rob Flack**, MPP (Elgin—Middlesex—London), **Trevor Jones**, MPP (Chatham-Kent-Leamington), and **Shawn Watters**, Mayor of Centre Wellington.

PEO LICENCE HOLDERS AND MPPS PARTICIPATE IN RURAL ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE

Two-time PEO President and Whitestone Mayor **George Comrie**, P.Eng., and the newly elected Amaranth Township Mayor **Chris Gerrits**, P.Eng, were two PEO licence holders who participated in this week's Rural Ontario Municipalities Conference in Toronto. Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North), and Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte) and more than 50 MPPs also participated, including **Andrew Dowie**, P.Eng (MPP Windsor-Tecumseh).

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PEO LICENCE HOLDERS AND MPPS PARTICIPATE IN RURAL ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE



Former PEO President **George Comrie**, P.Eng., (left) speaks with **Teresa Armstrong**, MPP (London-Fanshawe), (right) at the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association Conference on January 23.

Two-time PEO President **George Comrie**, P.Eng., was one of a number of PEO licence holders who participated in this week's Rural Ontario Municipalities Conference at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. Mr. Comrie is also the Mayor of Whitestone and is the GLP Chair for the PEO Etobicoke Chapter.

Also participating in the conference was **Chris Gerrits**, P.Eng., the newly elected Mayor of the Township of Amaranth.

PEO licence holder **Indra Maharjan**, P.Eng., attended the conference and gave a 30-minute address. Mr. Maharjan is the Director, Innovation Technology and Alternate Delivery for the Ontario Clean Water Agency.

Other speakers included Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North), and Opposition Leaders **Marit Stiles**, MPP (NDP - Davenport), **John Fraser**, MPP (Liberal - Ottawa South) and **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Green - Guelph). A highlight of the conference was a question period for delegates with more than 20 members of the cabinet including Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie - Springwater - Oro - Medonte).

The *GLP Weekly Times* had a chance to speak with Mayors Comrie and Gerrits, as well as many Ministers and MPPs, about PEO's work.

NEWLY ELECTED MPP EXTENDS GREETINGS TO PEO UPPER CANADA CHAPTER AT ROMA CONFERENCE



Nolan Quinn, MPP (Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry) was a guest speaker at the PEO Upper Canada Chapter in November 2022. Also in the photo are **D.J. McDonald**, P.Eng. (centre) and PEO Upper Canada Chapter Chair **Steve Stang**, P.Eng. (right).

The PEO *GLP Weekly Times* was pleased to speak with **Nolan Quinn** MPP (Stormont - Dundas - South Glengarry) at the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association Conference this week in Toronto.

MPP Quinn said that he was supportive of PEO Upper Canada Chapter and he extended greetings to Chapter Chair **Steve Stang**, P.Eng.

The 2022 PEO *GLP Weekly Times* Year in Review misidentified individuals in the photo above.

The photo featured MPP Quinn with Mr. Stang as well as **D.J. Macdonald**, P.Eng. a previous PEO Order of Honour winner.

MPP Quinn is also the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.

MPP Quinn replaced the only previously serving professional engineer in the legislature, **Jim MacDonell**, P.Eng. Mr. MacDonell retired in 2022 after serving 11 years in the Legislature.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER ELECTED AS AMARANTH MAYOR IN DUFFERIN COUNTY

PEO *GLP Weekly Times* has learned that another PEO licence holder was elected in the fall Ontario municipal elections. We would like to congratulate **Chris Gerrits**, P.Eng., for winning the 2022 Mayoral election in Amaranth Township in Dufferin County.

Mayor Gerrits is a professional engineer and a senior project manager at Crozier Consulting Engineers. He is now the second PEO licence holder to serve as a mayor of an Ontario municipality. The other is **George Comrie**, P.Eng., who is Mayor of the Municipality of Whitestone.



Amaranth Mayor **Chris Gerrits**, P.Eng, was elected Mayor of his Township in October.

Other professional engineers elected municipally include former PEO President **Diane Freeman**, P.Eng., who is a Waterloo City Councillor, **Dawn Genge Kerr**, P.Eng., who is a newly elected Councillor in Georgina, **Ian MacDougall**, P.Eng., who was elected to a second term as Scugog Township Regional Councillor and **Steve Ireland**, P.Eng., who was re-elected to a third term as a ward councillor in Wolfard in Eastern Ontario.



George Comrie, P.Eng.



Diane Freeman, P.Eng.



Dawn Genge Kerr, P.Eng.



Steve Ireland, P.Eng.



Ian MacDougall, P.Eng.

KITCHENER MPP ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

KITCHENER - NDP MPP **Laura Mae Lindo** has announced that she will be resigning as the Kitchener Centre MPP to take a position in the University of Waterloo's philosophy department.



PEO *GLP Weekly Times* interviewed MPP Lindo for a story on diversity for *Engineering Dimensions* in April 2021.

In the interview, she said:

NDP MPP **Laura Mae Lindo** has announced her resignation on January 18.

"While the PEO GLP looks to continue to build strong relationships with MPPs, it's important those liaising with them best represent the demographic makeup of Ontario. This will ensure effective communication, continued respect from members of the legislature and the assurance that all voices are accounted for."

MPP Lindo was the Chair of the first NDP Black Caucus, the NDP Critic for anti-racism, and the former director of diversity and equity at Wilfred Laurier University.

MPP Lindo will remain in her seat until she begins her new role at the University of Waterloo in July.

The *GLP Weekly Times* wishes MPP Lindo well in her future endeavours.

GLP JOURNAL

MPP ENCOURAGES PEO TO CONTINUE PROMOTING DIVERSITY
By Howard Brown

Diversity is one of the defining strengths of Canada, and reflecting that in our government and professions is key to ensure a range of experiences, perspectives and skills. In 2018, Ontario made history with the highest number of women in its provincial legislature, with 49 women representatives (39.5 per cent). Additionally, there are now more than 20 members of provincial parliament (MPPs) who are visible minorities. We spoke with Laura Mae Lindo, PhD, MPP (Kitchener Centre), to get her thoughts on the importance of diversity in politics and the professions. As chair of the first-ever New Democrat Black caucus and opposition critic for anti-racism, and the former director of diversity and equity at Wilfred Laurier University, Lindo says having engineers with diverse backgrounds represent the profession has its benefits.

PEO Grand River Chapter GLP Chair Gabe Tse, P.Eng., FEC (left), with Laura Mae Lindo, PhD, MPP (Kitchener Centre), NDP critic for anti-racism, at a community event last year.

Engineering Dimensions (ED): Why do you think it is important for the legislature and professions like engineering to be diverse?

Lindo: We are a group that has been elected to support the needs of communities—and we know how diverse our communities are across the province. It stands to reason that we want the people to be reflected among those who are in positions of power. If I take that as the backdrop and think about a profession like engineering, look at all the work engineers have done to tackle issues of community safety. Well, if you're going to tackle these issues, you'd want to engage with people from roots that feel safe in the traditional ways that communities are set up.

ED: One of the issues MPPs have raised with self-regulated professions is ensuring there's no discrimination in licensing, and an Ontario fairness commissioner was created in 2007 to address this. Do you think it's the type of issue we should continue to monitor?

Lindo: I totally do. We've got engineers from countries all over the world who come to Ontario and then they're not able to use their skillset in their chosen profession. It's a great thing to know we can introduce into our space people who have different ideas [about] what engineering can bring to a community. That's the joy of getting diverse people into the profession and into the conversation about what engineering can look like here.

ED: PEO is part of a 30 by 30 initiative, which aims to have 30 per cent of newly licensed engineers in Canada be women by 2030. Do you think this is a good initiative and why?

Lindo: All types of initiatives like that—that work diligently to try and bring women into spaces that traditionally women are not found—I hugely admire. There are pitfalls to a lot of initiatives; we look at women separate from ethnicity or race,

from folks with disabilities [and] from Indigenous realities in the province. One of the cautions I always have for people when they're doing these kinds of initiatives is to pay attention to the intersections.

ED: PEO has a Government Liaison Program (GLP) with local chapters. The chapter point of contact for an MPP is a role that is often held by diverse representatives. Do you think this allows for a stronger relationship when MPPs have constituents liaising with them who best reflect the demographics of their riding?

Lindo: Absolutely. Every time a profession actively ensures the leadership is diverse, they remind other professions about the importance of diversity. You've got a profession that says, "Look at all our diverse representatives. We are trusting them to encourage more people to participate in engineering, we are trusting them with liaising with government." I think it's hugely important and often has a bigger benefit than one might think.

ED: What do you think PEO GLP members should know about the importance of having a diverse legislature when it comes to implementing legislation and protecting the public interest?

Lindo: I think it's one thing to know what you want to liaise for because you understand your profession, but it's also important to understand the context that you're trying to do your changemaking in. Within that context, there is a lot of diversity. While the PEO GLP looks to continue to build strong relationships with MPPs, it's important those liaising with them best represent the demographic makeup of Ontario. This will ensure effective communication, continued respect from members of the legislature and the assurance that all voices are accounted for. [@](#)

Howard Brown is PEO's government relations consultant and the president of Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs Inc.

Laura Mae Lindo MPP (Kitchener Centre) was featured and interviewed by *Engineering Dimensions* for the April 2021 issue. Also in the photo is former PEO Grand River Chapter GLP Chair **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng.

WATCH THE WEBCASTS OF THE PEO COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATES

Twenty candidates have put their names forward for 9 positions for PEO Council this year. Voting by internet and telephone closes on **February 21 at 10 a.m.** Seven debates were held and are now available on the PEO website.

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES



Fred Saghezchi, P.Eng. Marilyn D. Spink, P.Eng. Greg Wowchuk, P.Eng.

The President-elect debate was held on January 6. See webcast [here](#).

VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES



Christopher Chahine, P.Eng. Abhishek Gupta, P.Eng.

The Vice-President debate was held on January 5. See webcast [here](#).

COUNCILLOR AT LARGE CANDIDATES



Chantal Chiddle, P.Eng. Sardar Asif Khan, P.Eng. Leila Notash, P.Eng. Glen Schjerning, P.Eng.

The Councillor at Large debate was held on January 5. See webcast [here](#).

REGIONAL COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES



Victor Lan, P.Eng.



Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.



Daryoush Mortazavi, P.Eng.

The East Central Regional debate was held on January 4. See webcast [here](#).

EASTERN REGIONAL COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES



Michelle Liu, P.Eng.



Joseph Podrebarac, P.Eng.



Randy Walker, P.Eng.

The Eastern Regional debate was held on January 4. See webcast [here](#).

WESTERN REGIONAL CANDIDATES



Susan MacFarlane, P.Eng.



Kris Popiolek, P.Eng.

The Western Regional debate was held on January 4. See webcast [here](#).

PEO COUNCIL CANDIDATES

NORTHERN REGIONAL COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES



Ahmed Elsaid Elshaer, P.Eng.



Luc R. Roberge, P.Eng.

The Northern Regional debate was held on January 3. See webcast [here](#).

WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCILLOR (ACCLAIMED)



Ravinder Singh Panesar, P.Eng.

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Good luck to all the candidates.
PEO licence holders are encouraged
to stay informed, and vote!

MEET YOUR MPPS

This week, the PEO *GLP Weekly Times* features Hon. **Ted Arnott**, MPP (Wellington-Halton Hills) and **Jill Andrew**, MPP (Toronto–St. Paul's), so PEO licence holders can get to know their representatives. For a full list of MPPs, click [here](#).

HON. TED ARNOTT, MPP



Speaker **Ted Arnott** MPP (Wellington-Halton Hills) (centre) participated in an event during 2020 with PEO Grand River Chapter representative **Oscar Napoli** P.Eng., (right) with Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph) (left)

Hon. **Ted Arnott**, MPP (Wellington-Halton Hills) is the speaker of the Legislature. He was first elected in 1990 at the age of 27, and has been re-elected 8 times.

Once the youngest MPP in the Ontario PC Caucus, he is now one of the longest-serving Members in the Ontario Legislature. He was elected Speaker in 2018 and re-elected in 2022. He served a number of roles including Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development.

MPP Arnott has always been supportive of PEO and has regularly attended PEO events at Queen's Park.

JILL ANDREW, MPP

Prior to her election in 2018, **Jill Andrew**, MPP (Toronto - St. Paul's) met with engineers in her riding and maintained an interest in professional regulatory affairs.

She holds a Child & Youth Worker diploma from Humber College, a Masters' degree in women and gender studies from the University of Toronto, her undergraduate education through York University, a BEd from York University and a PhD from York University's Faculty of Education.

Her first Private Member's Bill, Bill 61, passed in December 2020, creating an *Eating Disorders Awareness Week* the first week of February across Ontario.



GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to PEO Willowdale Chapter's **Noubar Takessian**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

Last week's question: Which MPP participated in Scarborough chapter's mathematics competition on November 26?

Answer: Mitzie Hunter MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood)

This week's question: Which professional engineer is the new mayor of the Township of Amaranth in the constituency of Deputy Premier and Health Minister Sylvia Jones?

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 Monday, January 30.

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



Noubar Takessian, P.Eng., is the winner of this week's Trivia Contest.

UPCOMING MPP EVENTS

Saturday, January 28 - Winter Levee with David Smith, MPP Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development - 1 - 3 P.M.

Location: Albert Campbell Square, 150 Borough Drive, Scarborough, M1P 0B1

For more information contact: david.smith1@pc.ola.org, (416) 615 2183

Saturday, February 4 - Ontario NDP Leadership Showcase with incoming leader Marit Stiles (Davenport), MPP-Toronto, Location to be announced.

Time: 10:30 A.M. To register, or for more information, see [here](#).

Wednesday, February 8 - Transportation Minister Caroline Mulroney, MPP (York-Simcoe) to speak at the Annual Transportation Symposium of the Toronto Region Board of Trade Time: 11:30 A.M. - 5 P.M. (Minister Mulroney will speak at 1:05 P.M.) Location: 100 Queens Quay East. Tickets cost \$150. To register please see [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 February 3.

If you have any comments, additions or questions about The *GLP Weekly Times* please call or email: Howard Brown, 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