



Professional Engineers
Ontario

Government Liaison Program



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MPP Rick Byers (Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound), Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board (centre left) spoke at PEO Georgian Bay Chapter's AGM on April 6.

PEO GEORGIAN BAY CHAPTER HOSTS MPP/PA FOR LICENSING CEREMONY

SOUTHAMPTON - Rick Byers, MPP (Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound) was the guest speaker at the PEO Georgian Bay Chapter AGM and licensing ceremony at the Bruce County Museum on April 6. MPP Byers, who was first elected in 2022, is one of two Parliamentary Assistants to the President of the Treasury Board. This was the first time he met with the PEO Georgian Bay Chapter.

Following the presentation, he assisted with presenting licences to the three new licensees and was briefed on PEO licensing issues.

Continued on pages 2 and 3

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Ajax MPP/PA speaks at TMU Rocketry Conference.....pg.4
- PEO Council recognizes passing of former PEO President.....pg.6

Continued from page 1



New licensee **Connie Faith Melidy**, P.Eng. (centre left), was one of three to receive their licenses at the PEO Georgian Bay Chapter AGM on April 6. Also in the photo are, from left to right: Chapter Executive **Roberto Clemente**, P.Eng., Chapter Chair **Bill Hrinivich**, P.Eng., MPP **Rick Byers**, Chapter GLP Chair **Julian Glowacki**, P.Eng., and Chapter GLP Rep **Kiran Thomas**, P.Eng.

MPP Byers was introduced by the Chapter's new GLP Chair **Julian Glowacki**, P.Eng., who explained that PEO is "the regulator of professional engineering in the public interest and that PEO's jurisdiction comes from the province in the *Professional Engineers Act*.

He was also thanked by GLP Rep **Kiran Thomas**, P.Eng. Following his speech to the attendees he was briefed on PEO issues by Mr. Glowacki, Mr. Thomas, Chapter Chair **Bill Hrinivich**, P.Eng., **Roberto Clemente**, P.Eng., and PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**, who also attended the meeting. The main points of the briefing included:

- *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act* (FARPACKTA) and its impact on licensing
- Continuing Professional Development (PEAK) requirements
- Opportunities to participate in a Take Your MPP to Work event in his riding

It was also explained to MPP Byers that the *Professional Engineers Act* is under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General.

MPP Byers thanked the Chapter for inviting him to participate in the event, and he told them that he had a particular interest in the regulation of engineering as two of his sons are studying engineering.



Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2



Lisa Thompson, MPP (Huron—Bruce), Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, was scheduled to participate at the AGM but was unable to attend at the last minute due to a personal issue.

She sent a letter of regards in her absence, which thanked professional engineers across the province for their work in building a better Ontario, and congratulated those who were receiving their licenses at the ceremony.

Her full letter is shown below:

A Message from MPP Lisa M. Thompson

Professional Engineers Ontario – Georgian Bay Chapter

Hello everyone,

I wish I could be here with all of you today to celebrate the successes of the past year and learn more about your plans for the next year, but you can trust that my thoughts are with you this morning.

In Ontario, and Canada-wide, as a matter of fact, we're fortunate that we can have confidence in the engineering that goes into everything from our roads and buildings to the Bruce Nuclear power plant, and I'm keenly aware that that's due to the work of the people here in this very room. Through your governance and high-quality standards, you're building a better Ontario that people can trust in. I hope that's something that you all take great pride in.

And to the engineers who are receiving your official recognition today, I trust you too will take great pride in all you do!

At this time, I'd also like to thank the Georgian Chapter for their work in this community. Events such as the Mathletics Mathematics Challenge, held last October, offer a wonderful way to introduce local students to the field of engineering, foster critical thinking and mathematical skills, and celebrate academic excellence.

I know it takes a lot of work to develop events of this magnitude, and I want to thank today's organizers for their efforts. Have a fantastic day, everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa M. Thompson".

Lisa M. Thompson
MPP for Huron – Bruce

AJAX MPP/PA SPEAKS AT TMU ROCKETRY CONFERENCE



Erem Altunbulakli, P.Eng., GLP Rep for PEO West Toronto Chapter (left), **Patrice Barnes**, MPP (Ajax) (centre-left), Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) student **Bao Tran** (centre-right), and **Wintta Ghebreiyesus**, EIT, GLP Rep for PEO Lake Ontario Chapter (right), participated in the TMU Rocketry Conference on March 16.

Patrice Barnes, MPP (Ajax) was the guest speaker at Toronto Metropolitan University’s inaugural Student Rocketry Conference on March 16. At the time of the event MPP Barnes was the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education. As reported in last week’s *PEO GLP Weekly Times* Premier **Doug Ford** appointed her Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.

The event was organized by PEO Ajax Chapter GLP Rep **Wintta Ghebreiyesus**, EIT., who also was on the organizing committee for the 2023 PEO GLP Training Summit. The event was also attended by PEO West Toronto Chapter GLP Rep **Erem Altunbulakli**, P.Eng.

Ms. Ghebreiyesus told the *PEO GLP Weekly Times* that MPP Barnes’s opening speech “emphasized the event’s importance in fostering innovation and education within the aerospace industry.” She also mentioned that “As the GLP seeks to bridge the gap between engineering professionals and government to address public interest issues, the involvement of figures like MPP Barnes underscores the program’s success in bringing together diverse stakeholders to advance the public good through engineering and technological innovation.”

FAIRNESS COMMISSIONER RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT WITH FARPACTA UPDATES



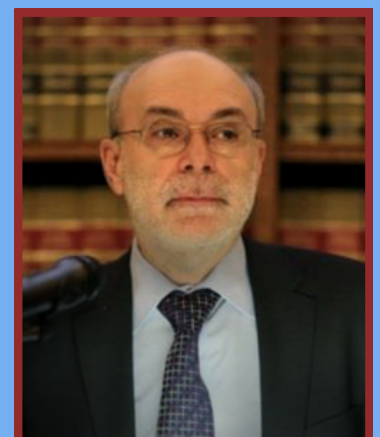
The Office of Ontario's Fairness Commissioner **Irwin Glasberg**, released their March 2024 newsletter which featured the online release of their latest annual report, as well as updates on amendments to the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act* (FARPACTA).

The FARPACTA amendments introduced new legal obligations for regulated professions relating to:

- Establishing time limits for making decisions on applications for registration, internal reviews and / or appeals.
- The ability of regulated professions to retain Canadian experience requirements.
- Developing Emergency Registration Plans.
- Accepting the results of language proficiency tests approved under the federal Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.
- Working in consultation with their responsible ministers to ensure that, as a matter of public interest, the people of Ontario have access to adequate numbers of qualified, skilled and competent regulated professionals.
- Fulfilling new reporting obligations.

For more information, please visit the [Ontario Fairness Commissioner website](#).

Mr. Glasberg was appointed as Ontario's Fairness Commissioner on January 10, 2020. His office oversees the registration processes of 41 regulated professions and health regulatory colleges, including PEO, whose members participate in key sectors of the provincial economy. He has worked closely with PEO and last spoke at PEO Council on March 31, 2023 and at the [GLP Training Summit on October 21, 2022](#).



PEO COUNCIL RECOGNIZES PASSING OF PEO'S SECOND WOMAN PRESIDENT



Mary Jane Phillips, PhD, P.Eng., who served as PEO's second woman president from 1993 to 1994, passed away on March 18 in Toronto at the age of 92.

Dr. Phillips was a lifetime member of PEO, and served on and chaired many committees, including 35 years of service on the Complaints Committee, of which she was Chair from 2003 to 2009.

An inspiration to women in engineering, Dr. Phillips taught at the University of Toronto, her alma mater, where she led the development of the Ethics in Engineering course and was involved in early Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Women in Engineering committees.

At the 562nd meeting of PEO Council on April 5, PEO recognized the passing of Dr. Phillips and her longtime service to PEO.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Clement's Church, 70 St. Clements Avenue, Toronto.

PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTIONS CALLED IN MILTON AND LAMBTON-KENT-MIDDLESEX FOR MAY 2



Residents in the Ontario ridings of Milton and Lambton-Kent-Middlesex will be heading to the polls on May 2 to vote for their new MPPs.

For more information, please visit the [Elections Ontario website](https://www.elections.on.ca/).

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM?



The goals of PEO's Government Liaison Program (GLP) are:

- To ensure that the government, PEO licence holders and the public continue to recognize its regulatory mandate, in particular its contributions to maintaining the highest level of professionalism among engineers working in the public interest.
- To have the government view PEO as a partner and understand and support PEO's policy direction.

Through the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO governs more than 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/about-peo/glp-weekly-newsletter>

Deadline for submissions is Thursday the week prior to publication. Our next issue will be April 19.

If you have any comments, additions or questions about the *PEO GLP Weekly Times*, please call or email:
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