



Professional Engineers
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Government Liaison Program



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Mines Minister **George Pirie**, MPP (Timmins) (left), and PEO Porcupine/Kapusksasing Chapter GLP Chair **Anthony Linton**, P.Eng. (right) at a National Engineering Month (NEM) dinner on March 15 in Timmins.

PEO PORCUPINE/KAPUSKASING CHAPTER HOSTS MINISTER OF MINES AT NEM DINNER

TIMMINS - **George Pirie**, MPP (Timmins), Minister of Mines, was the keynote speaker at a PEO Porcupine/Kapusksasing Chapter dinner on March 15 at the Dante Club in Timmins. He was hosted by the Chapter's GLP Chair **Anthony Linton**, P.Eng., who provided a full update for the *PEO GLP Weekly Times*.

This was the Minister's first chance to meet with the Chapter.

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Mines Minister **George Pirie**, MPP (Timmins) (left), met with students and other participants of the Timmins Stratospheric Balloon launch at the PEO Porcupine/Kapuskasing Chapter's NEM dinner. Also in the photo is Timmins Mayor **Michelle Boileau** (right).

Mr. Linton told the *PEO GLP Weekly Times* that the attendance by the Minister at the AGM was the result of many months of planning following meeting Minister Pirie in the community.

Mr. Linton also stated that “many engineers will become the industry leaders of tomorrow and must focus on designs that allow families to return home safe each day,” and that Minister Pirie reminded the Chapter that engineers must “meet the needs of this generation without sacrificing the next.”

Minister Pirie, who is a former Mayor of Timmins, was first elected in 2022.

PEO Chapters are encouraged to meet with their MPPs in order to align with the Government’s expectations of a regulatory body acting in the public interest.

Congratulations to Mr. Linton for a successful first event with Minister Pirie!

ATTORNEY GENERAL PARTICIPATES IN ROBOTICS CONFERENCE IN BARRIE



Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie--Springwater--Oro-Medonte) (centre-right) attended Georgian College's FIRST Robotics Championships on March 16.

BARRIE - Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie--Springwater--Oro-Medonte) joined the opening of the FIRST Robotics Championships (FRC) weekend competition held at Georgian College from March 15-17.

According to the [FRC website](#), the competition showcases high school students and their brilliance in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The theme of the event was 'Crescendo' and celebrated the fusion of STEM skills with the arts.

FRC events are hosted across nine district competitions in Ontario by FIRST Robotics Canada and their partners, with teams competing across multiple district events to earn points and secure their spot at the highly anticipated Provincial Championship.

Attorney General Downey has participated in PEO events in the past both at the Simcoe/Muskoka Chapter and virtually at PEO AGMs. His Ministry is responsible for the *Professional Engineers Act*.

PREMIER ANNOUNCES NEW PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS



Brian Saunderson, MPP (Simcoe - Grey) (left), will remain in his position as PA to the Attorney General.

Patrice Barnes, MPP (Ajax) (centre), has been appointed as PA to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, and

Andrew Dowie, MPP (Windsor-Tecumseh) has been appointed as PA to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

On March 28, Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) announced changes to his team of Parliamentary Assistants. Three positions of note to PEO licensees are:

- **Brian Saunderson**, who has retained his position as PA to the Attorney General
- **Andrew Dowie** who assumes new responsibilities as PA to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the only P.Eng. in the legislature
- **Patrice Barnes** who assumes new responsibilities as PA to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.

The remaining posts are:

- **Lorne Coe** retains PA to the Premier
- **Mike Harris** becomes PA to the Premier
- **Will Bouma** becomes PA to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, PA to the Minister of Northern Development, PA to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Chair of Caucus
- **John Jordan** becomes PA to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- **Anthony Leardi** becomes PA to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Deputy Government Whip
- **Laura Smith** becomes PA to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- **Logan Kanapathi** becomes PA to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and PA to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- **Sheref Sabawy** becomes PA to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

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- **Hardeep Singh Grewal** becomes PA to the Minister of Colleges and Universities
- **Trevor Jones** becomes PA to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- **Effie Triantafilopoulos** retains PA to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- **Billy Pang** becomes PA to the Minister of Education
- **Natalie Pierre** becomes PA to the Minister of Education
- **Rudy Cuzzetto** becomes PA to the Minister of Energy
- **John Yakabuski** becomes PA to the Minister of Energy
- **Deepak Anand** becomes PA to the Minister of Finance
- **Stephen Crawford** retains PA to the Minister of Finance
- **Nolan Quinn** becomes PA to the Minister of Health
- **Amarjot Sandhu** becomes PA to the Minister of Infrastructure
- **Robert Bailey** becomes PA to the Minister of Legislative Affairs
- **Natalia Kusendova-Bashta** becomes PA to the Minister of Long-Term Care and PA to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility
- **Daisy Wai** retains PA to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility
- **Dave Smith** becomes PA to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- **Kevin Holland** retains PA to the Minister of Mines
- **Matthew Rae** retains PA to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- **Dawn Gallagher Murphy** becomes PA to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
- **Brian Riddell** retains PA to the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
- **Christine Hogarth** becomes PA to the Minister of Red Tape Reduction
- **Stéphane Sarrazin** becomes PA to the Associate Minister of Small Business and PA to the Minister of Francophone Affairs
- **Graham McGregor** becomes PA to the Solicitor General
- **Sam Oosterhoff** becomes PA to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- **Ric Bresee** becomes PA to the Minister of Transportation
- **Rick Byers** becomes PA to the President of the Treasury Board
- **Robin Martin** becomes PA to the President of the Treasury Board
- **Jess Dixon** becomes PA to the Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity

FORMER AG WHO MADE MAJOR CHANGES TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS ACT PASSES



Then PEO president **George Comrie**, P.Eng. (left), spoke with Former Attorney General **Roy McMurtry** (centre), and former Premier **Ernie Eves** (right) on February 22, 2017 at Queen's Park.

Roy McMurtry, who served as Ontario's Attorney General from 1975 to 1985 passed away on March 18 in Toronto at the age of 91.

Mr. McMurtry, a lawyer who had a long-time interest in the engineering profession, was also a former Chief Justice of Ontario.

In 1984, he brought in significant changes to the *Professional Engineers Act* to strengthen its application in the public interest.

Mr. McMurtry had a chance to meet a number of PEO representatives over the years. On February 22, 2017, then PEO president **George Comrie**, P.Eng, headed a PEO delegation and spoke with Mr. McMurtry at Queen's Park.

The encounter took place by chance following a legislative hearing on proposed changes to the *Professional Engineers Act* that year.

PEO ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR BARRIE



As reported in previous *PEO GLP Weekly Times* issues, the 2024 PEO Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on April 20 at the Horseshoe Resort in Barrie.

This year's AGM will be held in a hybrid format. This means proceedings will be conducted via live webcast with some in-person participation. P.Eng. licence holders will have the opportunity to ask questions live (in person or virtually) or submit questions online during the meeting, as well as provide submissions in advance.

In-person space is limited. All wishing to attend the meeting must [pre-register online](#).

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 12.

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