



**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS ONTARIO
OTTAWA CHAPTER**

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Prepared for:
The 66th Annual General Meeting
March 26, 2026**

**Alex Polyak, P.Eng.
Chair, PEO Ottawa Chapter**

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1. **Agenda for 66th Annual General Meeting**

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026

Location: HILTON LAC-LEAMY, 3 boulevard du Casino, Gatineau, Québec J8Y 6X4

5pm – Registration Open

- Chair's Reception and Networking

6:00 pm -Chair's Welcome and Business Meeting

- Call to Order and Welcome
- Introduce VIP Guests and 2025 PEO Ottawa Chapter Executives
- Review and adopt minutes of 65th Annual General Meeting
- Chair's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Introduction of the 206 Slate of Candidates (Officers and Directors)

6:40 pm -Discussion and Q & A

7:00 pm -Grace and Reflections, Dinner

7:30 pm -Keynote Speaker - Leonard MacEachern, PhD, P.Eng.(APENS)

Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Electronics, Carleton University

Topic: Insight into how engineering education is adapting to prepare graduates for AI-integrated practice and briefly address the responsibilities of Professional Engineers Ontario in providing guidance as these technologies mature.

8:15 pm -Break

8:30 pm -Presentation of Service Awards and New Member Certificates

9:15 pm -Adjournment

2. Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

PEO Ottawa Chapter AGM
Friday, March 28, 2025
In person at The Infinity Conference Center

Executive Present:

Alain Basakay, P.Eng., Chair
Alex Polyak, P.Eng., Vice-Chair
Joseph Podrebarac, P.Eng., Past Chair, and Treasurer
Emil Joannou, P.Eng., Secretary
Sana Abou Shaaban, P.Eng.
Sucha Mann, P.Eng.
Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng.
Mohamad Alzayed, P.Eng.
Hooman Mohammadian, EIT

Incoming 2025:

Glen Schjerning, P.Eng.
James Ramage P.Eng.
David Landsberg, P.Eng.
Behrooz Abbaszadeh, EIT
Mohamed Mansor, EIT

Business Segment of the AGM

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by the Current Chair, Alain Basakay, P.Eng. Approximately 135 people were in attendance.
2. Alain Basakay, introduced the 2024 Executive, and introduced our special guests:
 - John Fraser - Member of Provincial Parliament of Ontario
 - Philip Rizcallah, - Chief Executive Officer, Engineers Canada
 - Gregory Wowchuk – PEO President
 - Fred Saghezchi – PEO President-elect
 - Guy Boone – PEO Vice President (elected)
 - Glen Schjerning – PEO Councillor-at-large
 - Chantal Chiddle – PEO Eastern Region Councilor
 - Mathieu Grondin - Ottawa Night Commissioner
 - Adam Newlands -co-founder and operations manager, Stalwart Brewing
3. Ishwar Bhatia gave a report of the Government Liaison Committee program, followed by an in-person speech by

- John Fraser, MPP, Ottawa South.

Other local area MPPs also addressed the Ottawa Chapter and congratulated new members via pre-recorded videos and letters.

- Lucille Collard, MPP for Ottawa-Vanier
- Chandra Pasma, MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean
- Karen McCrimmon, MPP for Kanata-Carleton

4. PEO President, Greg Wowchuck, P.Eng., gave a welcoming address. He showed slides showing how Canada's GDP-per-Capita, a metric of economic performance, has been declining relative to other industrialized nations, and encouraged Engineers to do what they can to reverse the trend.

5. PEO President Elect, Fred Saghezchi, P.Eng., gave a welcoming address.

6. Michelle Liu, P.Eng., PEO Eastern Regional Councilor, also addressed the Ottawa Chapter and congratulated new members via a pre-recorded video.

7. Sucha Mann, P.Eng., gave a report for the Sustainability Committee.

8. Emil Joannou, P.Eng., gave a report for the Innovation and Entrepreneurship committee.

9. The minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

10. Outgoing Ottawa Chapter Chair, Alain Basakay, P.Eng. presented the Chair's Report.

11. Joseph Podrebarac, P.Eng., gave the Treasurer's report, as printed in the AGM Booklet available at each table during the AGM. In FY2024 (ending Dec 31), we spent 89% of the \$60,150 budget. For FY2025, we have an approved budget of \$97,840. A motion was made by Guy Boone, P.Eng., seconded by Glen Schjerning, P.Eng. to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

12. Alain Basakay, P.Eng., introduced the 2025 Executive slate, as recommended by the Nominations Committee:

Officers:

- Alex Polyak, P.Eng., Chair
- Glen Schjerning, P.Eng., Vice-Chair
- Alain Basakay, P.Eng., Past-Chair
- Joseph Podrebarac, P.Eng., Treasurer

- Emil Joannou, P.Eng., Secretary

Directors:

- Sana Abou Shaaban, P.Eng.
- Sucha Mann, P.Eng.
- Mohamad Alzayed, P.Eng.
- Hooman Mohammadian, EIT
- James Ramage P.Eng.
- David Landsberg, P.Eng.
- Behrooz Abbaszadeh, EIT
- Mohamed Mansor, EIT

There were no nominations received from members. A motion was made by Alex Polyak, P.Eng., seconded by Sana Abou Shaaban, P.Eng. to accept above slate of Officers and Executives. Motion carried.

13. Alex Polyak, P.Eng., took over as Chair and thanked departed executives for their service:

- Haitham Kayyali, P.Eng, Vice-Chair (resigned in 2024)
- Anthony Mestwarp, P.Eng., Treasurer (resigned in 2024)
- Tapan Das, P.Eng., Director (resigned in 2024)
- Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng., Director.

14. The following persons were recognized for their excellence and achievement:

- Joseph Podrebarac, P.Eng., received his 15 year service pin.
- Theophilus Tettley, P.Eng., received the Engineering Management Award.
- Justin Quan, P.Eng., received the Young Engineer award.

This concluded the Business Segment of the Meeting.

Guest Speaker Presentations During Dinner

Mathieu Grondin - Ottawa Night Commissioner, shared his background, and explained the role of a Night Commissioner.

Adam Newlands -co-founder and operations manager, Stalwart Brewing, talked about how the technology of making beer has evolved from Babylonian days up until now.

New Member Certificates

There were thirty-eight new members eligible to receive their P.Eng. certificates, as listed in the AGM Booklet available at each table during the AGM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

3. Chair's Report for 2025

On behalf of the Ottawa chapter executive, I am pleased to present a summary of the chapter's accomplishments and activities for 2025.

The year commenced with a strategic visioning session in Toronto, focused on reviewing chapter activities across the 36-Chapter Network, identifying collaborative opportunities, and translating these outcomes into a comprehensive Chapter Procedures Manual.

New license presentations were conducted in-person across three events, beginning with the Annual General Meeting and followed by two dedicated new member nights in June and November.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on March 28, 2025, and featured a keynote presentation by Ottawa Nightlife Commissioner, Mathieu Grondin.

In 2023, substantial revisions were made to the Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) application process and licensing framework. These modifications were enacted to align with provincial government mandates, specifically amendments to the Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act (FARPACTA). Key changes include the prerequisite for prospective applicants to demonstrate requisite academic and experiential qualifications prior to application, and the implementation of a competency-based assessment for evaluating experience. Further, in November 2025, Council approved a reduction in the experience licensing requirement from four years down to two, thus shortening the path to licensure.

The Engineering Intern (EIT) program was suspended on May 15, 2023. However, this program is scheduled for reinstatement as a pathway to licensure upon the enactment of amendments to the Professional Engineers Act by Parliament within the forthcoming years.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the committed volunteers that contribute to the work of the Chapter, as well as to the diligent members of the executive committee. Your support and unwavering commitment to the profession and to the chapter are greatly valued.

We look forward to connecting with you at one of our upcoming Chapter meetings or events.

4. Chapter Executive and Executive Committees for 2025

The Officers and Directors of the 2025 Chapter Executive consisted of the following:

Officers

Chair: Alex Polyak, P.Eng

Vice-Chair: Glen Schjerning, P.Eng. (Resigned in 2025)

Treasurer: Joseph Podrebarac, P.Eng.

Secretary: Emil Joannou, P.Eng

Past-Chair: Alain Basakay, P.Eng.

Directors:

Sana Abou Shaaban, P.Eng.

Sucha Mann, P.Eng.

Mohamad Alzayed, P.Eng.

Hooman Mohammadian, EIT

James Ramage P.Eng.

David Landsberg, P.Eng (Resigned in 2025)

Behrooz Abbaszadeh, EIT

Mohamed Mansor, EIT (Resigned in 2025)

The Ottawa Chapter would like recognize the efforts of volunteers attending the executive meetings.

The 2025 PEO Ottawa Chapter organization structure was composed as follows:

Awards Committee
Chair: Joe Podrebarac
Members: Mohamed Mansor, Mohamad Alzayed, Ahmed Al Qassab
Communications Committee
Co-Chair: Emil Joannou, Hooman Mohammadian
Members: Pedro Gomez, Alex Polyak, Alex Portugal.
Education and Outreach Committee
Co-Chair: Mohamad Alzayed, Mohamed Mansor
Members: Behrooz Abbaszadeh, Mohammad Hasheminasab, Mohammad Zahmani
Membership Committee
Co-Chair: Mohamad Alzayed, Ahmed Al Qassab
Members: Jacob Jurkovic, Mohamed Mansor, Kingsley Okafor, Glen Schjerning
Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program Committee
Co-Chair: Ray Barton, Emil Joannou,
Member : Joe Podrebarac, Kingsley Okafor, Renato Garzillo, Behrooz Abbaszadeh,

Mohamed Mansor
Sustainability and Green Energy Committee
Chair: Sucha Mann Members: James Ramage, Hooman Mohammedian, David Langsberg, Alex Polyak, Mohammad Hasheminasab, Mohammad Zahmani
Government Liaison Program (GLP) Committee
Chair: Ishwar Bhatia Members: Alex Polyak, Sana Abou Shaaban, Mohamad Alzayed, Behrooz Abbaszadeh, Ray Barton, Zaineb Al-Faesly, Pedro Gomez333
Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee
Co-Chair: Sana Abou Shaaban, James Ramage Members: Behrooz Abbaszadeh, Hooman Mohammadian
Nominating Committee
Chair: Alain Basakay Members: Joe Podrebarac, Sana Abou Shaaban
Annual General Meeting (AGM) Working Group
Chair: Alex Polyak Members: Joe Podrebarac, Emil Joannou, Mohamad Alzayed, Behrooz Abbaszadeh, Elsayed Elnaday
By-laws Task Force
Chair: Joe Podrebarac Members: Sana Abou Shaaban, Glen Schjernerig
Website Management
Chair: Behrooz Abbaszadeh Members: Renato Garzillo, Alain Basakay

5. Keynote Speaker's Biography

Leonard MacEachern, PhD, P.Eng.,
Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Electronics, Carleton University.

Leonard MacEachern is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Electronics at Carleton University. A licensed professional engineer, he brings more than three decades of experience spanning industry, entrepreneurship, consulting, and academia. His career has included founding an electrical engineering consultancy specializing in power systems analysis and advising high-technology organizations across multiple sectors.

Dr. MacEachern's technical expertise is in microelectronics, radio-frequency and mixed-signal integrated circuits, and intelligent sensing systems. He has contributed to the development of low-power electronics and wearable technologies, holds multiple Canadian and U.S. patents, and has served as an expert witness in Federal Court. At Carleton, he has held leadership roles within the Department of Electronics, including

Associate Chair (Graduate Studies), and has received university awards recognizing both teaching excellence and innovation in engineering education.

As Department Chair, he is actively engaged in curriculum development and graduate mentorship, with current interests at the intersection of microelectronics, artificial intelligence, and engineering education. He is a member of IEEE and holds the P.Eng. designation.

6. Awards Committee Report

The Ottawa Chapter is comprised of engineers in a wide variety of disciplines working in the public and private sector, in a diversity of enterprises. In this environment, engineers produce significant achievements, and as a professional community it is important to take the time to recognize and celebrate these accomplishments. Modelled after the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards (OPEA) at the provincial level, the Ottawa Chapter launched a chapter level recognition program for professional engineers from the region who have improved our quality of life through the ingenious application of their engineering skills. Recipients' achievements are significantly above the normally high standards of the profession. The presentation of this award is also aimed at furthering public understanding of the professional engineer's role in society.

Recognition Awards & Certificates of Appreciation

The PEO Volunteer Service Recognition Program continues to recognize PEO volunteers for their dedication to the engineering profession and the association through their volunteer service.

The PEO Ottawa Chapter recognizes professional engineers in the Ottawa Chapter who have made outstanding contributions to their profession and their community, with awards in the following categories:

Citizenship Award - recognizing a professional engineer's contributions to volunteer activities and public service. Those who earn this award have given freely of their time, professional experience and engineering expertise - to the benefit of humanity.

- **The 2026 Ottawa Chapter Citizenship Award winner is Justin Quan, P.Eng.**

Engineering Excellence - recognizing overall excellence in the practice of engineering, where the innovative application of engineering knowledge and principles has solved a unique problem, led to advanced products, or produced above-average results.

- **The Engineering Excellence Award goes to Dr. Burak Kantarci, P.Eng.**

Entrepreneurship - recognizing those applying new technologies or innovative approaches that have enabled new companies to get started, and/or assisted established companies to grow in new directions. The engineer should have demonstrated the initiative, energy and spirit it takes to seek out new ideas and to take a leading role in fostering and promoting them.

- **Entrepreneurship Award winner is Dr. Mohammad Rayhani, P.Eng.**

Management - for managing and directing engineering projects or enterprises, where innovative management practice has contributed significantly to the overall excellence of the engineering achievement.

- **The 2026 Management Award winner is Jean-Michel Carrière, P.Eng.**

Young Engineer Award - recognizing outstanding young Ottawa Chapter engineers, who have made exceptional achievements in their chosen fields. To be eligible for nomination in the Young Engineer Award category, a candidate must be no older than 35 years of age as of December 31 in the year the nomination is submitted; and have demonstrated excellence, not only in career, but also in community and professional participation.

- **There were no submissions for 2026.**

Engineering Intern Award – recognizing an engineering intern’s commitment to leadership and engineering profession through volunteer’s activities. To be eligible for nomination in the Engineering Intern category, a candidate must be a registered Engineering Intern at the time of nomination.

- **There were no submissions for 2026.**

Ottawa Chapter Scholarship

The Ottawa Chapter of Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) offered Scholarship in 2025 to support and inspire high school students as they embark on their journey into the engineering profession. The amount of the scholarship is \$1,500. Scholarship Objectives are to foster interest in engineering among high school students, build connections between PEO and future Professional Engineers, provide financial assistance to students pursuing accredited engineering programs, promote a sense of belonging to a respected profession that values high standards, competence, and responsibility, highlight the importance of the P.Eng. license and encourage students to pursue licensure as part of their career development.

- **The 2025 Ottawa Chapter winner was Sonya Qu.**

7. Communications Committee Report

The communications committee provides information about the chapter to our members and the public in general. This is achieved using E-Blasts, and Eventbrite. These tools are provided to the Chapters by PEO headquarters.

Campaigner is used to send eBlasts to our 9,500 members in Ottawa, containing announcements of upcoming events. Make sure that you are on our mailing list

- Log in to the PEO portal from the PEO home-page: www.peo.on.ca .
- Go to “Subscription Management” under the “Profile” tab, verify your email

address, and check off that you would like to subscribe to Your Chapter News.

Eventbrite is used as a registration tool for chapter events, as mandated by PEO headquarters. You can keep informed by logging in to Eventbrite and following the PEO Ottawa Chapter. The shortcut is <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/28801902837>. Then you will get an email notification whenever a new event is posted.

Our Facebook, Twitter (X), and LinkedIn accounts were abandoned during COVID, and we lost the login credentials. The Communications Committee was able to recover these accounts in 2025. Stay tuned for postings in 2026.

Members are encouraged to check our communications Committee tools:

<https://www.peo.on.ca/chapters/ottawa>
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/d/canada--ottawa/peo/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/OttawaPEO/>

8. Website Management Committee Report

In December 2024, PEO Headquarters deleted all chapter website content and started all chapter websites fresh. The Website Management Committee has been active throughout 2025 repopulating our website. The website provides important information about the chapter committees, events and publications.

There was also an insecure unofficial website created pre-COVID. During COVID we lost the log-in credentials. The 2025 committee has taken care of this, and the old, insecure chapter website has now been successfully sunset. The domain associated with the former site has been fully cancelled, and all related subscription services have been terminated.

This transition ensures that all chapter activities and communications are now hosted exclusively on the secure, centrally managed PEO platform at <https://www.peo.on.ca/chapters/ottawa>. The new website continues to be properly updated, monitored, and maintained to align with PEO standards and to provide a reliable and consistent online presence for our members.

9. Education and Outreach Committee Report

The Education and Outreach Committee is responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing programs and initiatives that support education, community engagement, and public awareness of the engineering profession. The committee's activities are designed to strengthen the pipeline of future engineers while enhancing the visibility and impact of engineering within society.

Specifically, the committee works to:

Promote high-quality education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by supporting initiatives that help develop the competencies, technical knowledge, and professional skills required of future engineers.

Engage students at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels through outreach programs, workshops, and interactive activities that inspire curiosity and encourage them to pursue careers in engineering and related technical fields.

Increase public awareness and understanding of engineering, highlighting the important role engineers play in addressing societal challenges and improving everyday life through innovation and technology.

Enhance the public image and recognition of engineers and the engineering profession by promoting ethical practice, professional excellence, and the positive contributions engineers make to communities and infrastructure development.

Through these initiatives, the committee aims to build stronger connections between the engineering community, educational institutions, and the public, ultimately supporting the long-term growth and sustainability of the engineering profession.

10. Membership Committee Report

The Membership Committee typically conducts three new Member License ceremonies annually. These ceremonies offer newly licensed engineers a valuable networking opportunity with peers, potential colleagues, and Chapter Executives, while simultaneously enabling the Chapter to cultivate member engagement and future participation.

Three new member events were held in 2025: the AGM in March, an event on June 29th, and a final event on November 27th.

The following individuals were invited to receive their licenses in 2024, including those to be recognized at the 2026 oPEO AGM:

June 2025

1. Pourya Esmaeli
2. Ikenna Charles Ezeugwu
3. Harrup Singh Bamrah
4. Khoi Vo Dang Phan
5. Ahmad Ali Hmud Al-Jumaili
6. Brendon Brejnev Racine
7. Paul Cristian Cipcigan
8. Shalin Rajeshkumar Shah
9. Steven Paul Fabbro
10. Van Quyen Ngo

11. Nawar Al Madi
12. Vargha Talebi
13. Joseph Darcy Harold Kruger
14. Samuel James Woolsey
15. Dylan William Simpson
16. Sharif Khaled
17. Imad Hazim Alainachi
18. Asafa Khan
19. Anthony Chalhoub
20. Rahul Saini
21. Ehsan Mirzaee
22. Elnazossadat Yasoubi
23. Adam Frey
24. Rebecca Frances Conrod
25. Ali Ahmed Ali Elashery
26. Hugo Davidson-Roy
27. Herve Ndayimirije
28. Peng Jiang

November 2025

1. Long Fan
2. Ali Elashery
3. Maykel Hanna
4. Brendan Patrick Rundle
5. Kareem Mostafa
6. Mohammadali Mehdizadehtavasani
7. Kajal Madhusudan
8. Samuel Moses
9. Bouchra Ahabbane
10. Megan Elizabeth McEwen
11. Angelina Paula Cassandra Willet Gomes
12. Nicole Tsiolas
13. Farid Mullally
14. Amr Hassan
15. Brian Yee Sui Chun
16. Umang Hariram Bhanushali
17. Sean Philip Ferguson
18. Jasmine Dana Leikucs
19. Daniel Aubrey
20. Niloufar Goshayeshi
21. Irina Neusser
22. Mohamad Youssef
23. Asefeh Poshtchioskuei
24. Oriol Soto Martin
25. Mohammad Sadegh Mahdipoor Varaniab
26. Yasmin Marie Anderson

27. Liam Gabriel Curley
28. Osama Mohammad Ghani
29. Chintan Devendrakumar Vakharia
30. Manjyot Singh Anand
31. Parisa Hasanpour Dastjerdi
32. Othman Benamrane
33. Alec William Bradford
34. Mohammed Hazim Younis
35. Kristen Rene Schell
36. Ahmed Yusuf Ahmed Abdulrahim Abdulla
37. . Aquib Jahangir
38. Ravirajkumar Khumansinh Mahida
39. Jessica Katherine Llewellyn Christie
40. Mohammad Farhat
41. Ahmed Moustafa Gomaa Ismail Alsayed
42. Marieh Rajaie
43. Ruslan Zhabashkanov
44. Abdul Rahman Doidary
45. Hossein Memarian
46. Matthew Alexander Verch
47. Eslam Essam Mohamed Salem Elshorbagy
48. Yashar Ziaeimehr
49. Ashish Ankush Yerunkar
50. Christa Leah Faubert
51. Ibrahim Fekry Sayed Abdelhalim Zidan
52. Adebiyi Joseph Adesina
53. Washima Mede
54. Adya Karthikeyan
55. Taiwo David Abel
56. Rafik Zekri
57. Bahar Afzalan

March 2026

1. Farhad Mansouri
2. Martin Borup Dapoz
3. Sima Singaravelu
4. Madeleine Yeomans
5. Bahar Afzalan
6. Hugo Valido Deda
7. Jared Wright
8. Nathan Daniel Yaraskavitch
9. Konstantina Chalastara
10. Maryam Razavipour
11. Mit Vrajeshbhai Shah
12. Sahil Garg

13. Devin Stuart Radley
14. Hasnain Saifuddin
15. Bernadette Beebe
16. Abhijith Thankachan
17. Jonas Philip Fernandes
18. Fahad Arshad
19. Yazan Haddadin
20. Ramina Rashtchi
21. Abdelelah Maged Amin Alzahed
22. Caroline Alexine Pamela Marianayagam
23. Andisheh Zahedi Rezaieh
24. Antonio Ottavio Milito D'Orazio
25. Marco Esteban Tochijara
26. Sydney Kathleen DeBenedictis
27. Maiss Al-obaidi
28. Moshiny Kowlessur
29. Patrick Marcel D'Aoust
30. Matthew Young-Davies
31. Poornima Visalakshi Venuturupalli
32. Maria Luisa Arnal
33. Rajkamal Kodepaka
34. Sara Ranjbar
35. Alexander James May
36. Christina Bitar
37. Hardik Kamleshkumar Sakariya
38. Sagar Narendrabhai Chhayani
39. Jacob Pierre Riopelle
40. Majid Aminalroayajazeh
41. Abderrazzak Mouslim
42. Emad Alrefaai
43. Ehsan NasserAlshariati
44. Matilda Mazari
45. Alex Junior Laura Portugal
46. Elham Zomorodi Anbaji
47. Edmund Kiiza

11. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program Report

The purpose of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program is to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among the community of engineers and engineering students in Ottawa for economic and employment benefit of Ottawa, Ontario and Canada.

In 2025 we had the following presentations aiming to encourage engineers (and others) to be more entrepreneurial and start businesses of their own.

- **March 17** – Entrepreneurship Seminar- Abdul Kader Jaber, M.Eng. P.Eng. of Structable Engineering.
- **May 6** - Entrepreneurship Seminar- Vincent Donato
- **August 19**- Constuction Innovation: Mr. Aguiade Sebai, P.Eng. from Stantec, and Dr. Omar Abdelalim,P.Eng., from Lampkin Structural Services Ltd.
- **October 21**- Entrepreneurship Seminar: Client Acquisition Workshop by Alex Thoric.
- **December 3**-Tour of uOttawa Makerspace

In lieu of running a separate Innovation Challenge, this year we sponsored a design competition on Energy Efficiency as part of Design Day at the University of Ottawa on Nov 27, awarding first, second, and third prizes in cash for the winning teams.

12. Sustainability Committee Report

In 2025, the Sustainability Committee organized a sustainability seminar in March with a theme of "Innovation & Shift to Sustainable World". In September, the committee arranged a tour and lunch at the St-Albert Cheese Cooperative (factory).

Sustainability Committee March, 2025 Presentations:

1 - MDS Aero Support: Validating Next Generation Propulsion Technologies:

George Hajecek P.Eng., Director of Business & Technology Development & Martin Du Toit CEng., Senior Project Manager

2 - Mental Interoperation, Social Interaction, Personal Introspection: Dr. Susan Hempinstall

3 - Application of Lunar Hydroponics for Sustainable Agriculture: Carleton University Engineering Students: Antoine Brule, Sophia Fayat, Noah Landsberg, Harrison O'Reilly, Valeska Rodriguez, and Alexander Zanatta

We are always looking for new speakers and topic suggestions. We welcome PEO members to volunteer in the Sustainability Committee to help in organizing speakers for the symposiums and organizing industrial tours to promote "Cultural Shift to Sustainability". As per the PEO requirements, all chapter volunteers are required to complete the PEO's Volunteer Training. If interested you may contact: Sustainability Chair Sucha S. Mann: sucha@bangagroup.com or James Ramage: james.ramage@rogers.com .

13. Government Liaison Program (GLP) Chapter Committee Report

GLP program was originally guided through a Government Liaison Committee known as GLC for all 36 chapters of the PEO. A major shift took place on November 25, 2025 where the PEO Council stood down the work of GLC and approved changes to the GLP to strengthen governance, accountability, and alignment with the PEO's regulatory mandate. Council will redevelop the program with a view of centralizing GLP.

This decision reflects Council's direction to modernize PEO's government relations approach in response to change in Ontario's political and policy-making environment, while preserving an appropriate and clearly defined role for volunteer engagement. Under the revised approach, all engagement with the government will be targeted, coordinated, and aligned with PEO's strategic priorities and public-interest responsibilities.

Please note that our original consultants Cohen and Cohen headed by Howard Brown who provided guidance for many years were replaced by a new consulting firm Wellington Advocacy. The Chair Ishwar Bhatia attended the volunteer Symposium in September, 2025 which gave us an introduction to the new consultants and forehad on changes coming in 2026.

The present decentralized program poses few risks and needs to be centralised to overcome time lines with key political figures in the cabinet of the ruling party for effective and timely changes to the PEO Act.

In the follow up, GLP manual will be revised and a new protocol will be defined for interacting with the MPP's.

The chair, Ishwar Bhatia, is in touch with the 8 MPP's representing the Ottawa region, out of a total of 124 MPP's. The current MPP's are Stephen Blais (L)-Ottawa Orleans; Lucille Collard (L)-Ottawa Vanier, George Darouze (PCC)-Ottawa Carleton; John Fraser (L)-Ottawa South; Chandra Pasma (NDP)-Ottawa West Nepean; Karen McCrimmon (L)-Kanata Carleton; Catherine McKenney (NDP)-Ottawa Centre; and Tyler Watt (L)-Ottawa Nepean. Party affiliation wise 5 Liberals, 2 NDP's and 1 Conservative out of the 8 MPP's

14. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Ottawa Chapter is committed to fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all engineers. Through our initiatives, we strive to provide networking opportunities, mentorship programs, and professional development activities that enhance the experiences of engineers at all career stages. Through mentorship, outreach, and networking events, we aim to empower engineers to thrive in their careers and contribute positively to society.

Committee Activities and Events (2025-2026)

Event #1: NRC Engineering Challenge

- **Date:** February 2026
- **Organized by:** NRC (National Research Council Canada)
- **Participants:** Grades 4-5 and 6 elementary school teams
- **Description:** Students were challenged to design and build a Mechanically Powered Launcher (MPL) prototype for the competition. Teams applied engineering principles, creativity, and problem-solving skills to develop and test their launcher designs, fostering STEM education and hands-on interest in engineering.

- **PEO Contribution:** The PEO Ottawa Chapter provided prizes in the form of gift cards for winning teams.
- **Committee Chairs Involvement:** Sana Abou Shaaban participated as a Guest Judge for the NRC Engineering Challenge.

Event #2: ANCWT - Engineering the Future 2026 #NEM2026

- **Date:** March 2026
- **Organized by:** Advancing New Canadian Women in Technology (ANCWT)
- **Participants:** Newcomer women with technical expertise in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
- **Description:** Held in recognition of National Engineering Month 2026 (#NEM2026), led by Engineers Canada, this event provided a platform for newcomer women in STEM to expand their professional networks and demonstrate their technical knowledge and presentation skills. The program featured a keynote address, a 3-Minute Technical (3MT) Pitch Competition, and a structured “Ask/Give” networking session. Participants in the 3MT competition presented concise technical pitches showcasing their expertise and innovation.
- **PEO Contribution:** The PEO Ottawa Chapter - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee - sponsored the event as Platinum Sponsor, providing funding support for event costs. In addition, Sana Abou Shaaban, Co-Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, participated as a guest speaker.
- **Committee Chairs Involvement:** Sana Abou Shaaban presented a 15-30 minute presentation (including Q&A) - titled “Building Belonging in Engineering: Launching the PEO Ottawa Chapter Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee.” The session highlighted the establishment of the Committee in 2023, including its motivation, early challenges, lessons learned, and impact to date.

Join the PEO Ottawa Chapter’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

We always welcome PEO members to volunteer and support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. Volunteering provides an opportunity to make a meaningful impact within the engineering community while gaining valuable leadership and networking experience. As per PEO requirements, all chapter volunteers must complete the PEO’s Volunteer Training. If interested, please contact the PEO Ottawa Chapter’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Co-Chairs, James Ramage and Sana Abou Shaaban.

15. Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with Section 7 of the Chapter By-laws, the Nomination Committee prepared a slate of Officers and Executive Members for the 2026 term of office. This slate was published in the Ottawa Chapter Newsletter.

Officers:

Chair: Alex Polyak, P.Eng.

Vice-Chair: Emil Joannou, P.Eng.

Treasurer: Behrooz Abbaszadeh, P.Eng.

Secretary: Pedro Gomez, P.Eng.

Directors:

Mohamad Alzayed, P.Eng.

Alain Basakay, P. Eng.

Joe Podrebarac, P.Eng

Hooman Mohammadin EIT

James Ramage P.Eng.

Sucha Mann, P.Eng.

As of March 6th, 2026, no nominations from the membership was received by the Chapter. Therefore, in accordance with Section 7(e) of the Chapter by-laws, this slate is acclaimed, and nominations from the floor during the AGM will not be accepted.

The Nominating Committee is confident that this group of volunteer Engineers and EITs will maintain the Ottawa Chapter as one of the most dynamic, ambitious and the largest Chapter in the Province.

16. Treasurer's Report

Background

This report summarizes the financial aspects of the Chapter operations for 2025. The PEO Ottawa Chapter Fiscal year end is December 31st each year and the financial report shows the monies received and expended to complete the Chapter Business Plan. This Business Plan is usually created in June/July and submitted to PEO Headquarters for Eastern Regional Councilor's review and approval. The allocation to the Chapter is usually provided early in the New Fiscal Year.

2025 was the fifth full year of operations using a centralized banking system administered by PEO Headquarters. The Chapter allocation is electronically provided in one installment in February.

The Chapter Treasurer obtains end of month reports from PEO Headquarters that show expenditures and balance remaining within the chapter account for all months up to November 2025. As chapter headquarters is currently performing an audit the official summary of the account will not be available until mid March

Summary of Financial Activities

For 2025, PEO Ottawa Chapter held all core activities in person. For the 2025 fiscal year the Business Plan forecasted, and received, **\$97,840** to undertake Core and Optional activities.

A summary of the larger expenditures for the year are as follows: The 2025 AGM cost **\$16,252.40** for the venue and food and we hosted two New Member nights in June and November at costs of **\$9,511.92** and **\$16,188.11** respectively plus the cost of certificate framing of **\$2,787.87**.

The 2025 Chapter expenses were approximately **\$63,549.91**. Funds remaining were approximately \$34,290.09. According to the latest PEO financial rule set, this amount goes to zero and a new 2026 allocation is attributed to the Ottawa Chapter. For the upcoming 2026 year the chapter budget is **\$109,350.00**. The increased budget is predominantly driven by the recent economic inflation and the resultant increase in the costs of event venues.

17. Ottawa Chapter By-Laws

There were no by-law amendments ratified at the 2024 AGM.

In 2025, the Executive made no amendment to the bylaws amendments.

For information – the process to update by-laws requires the chapter executive first agree and confirm amendments, then submit them to the PEO Regional Congress Committee (RCC)/Chapter Office for approval and only after approval is given, ratify amendments with Chapter membership at the next Chapter AGM.

There is a project at PEO Headquarters focused on updating chapter operations (volunteer led advisory group) and they are looking at by-law application, among everything else. In addition, the Regional Councilors Committee (RCC) has asked PEO policy staff to consider the future of Chapter by-laws with plans to issue generic Chapter by-laws in Q2 or Q3 of 2026.

The Bylaws are published at <https://www.peo.on.ca/chapters/ottawa> under the About tab.

18. Chapter Boundaries

Chapter boundaries are set according to the postal codes of licensees in PEO head-office's database, plus exceptions based on towns. In particular, the Forward Sorting Area (FSA) (aka first three characters of postal code) is used for the preliminary allocation to a chapter.

The first map illustrates the border of the Ottawa Chapter, surrounding the beige-coloured area. The second map illustrates the borders (surrounding the pink area) of the seven chapters defined by PEO as the Eastern Region.

These seven chapters regions include:

- **Peterborough** (Millbrook, Lindsay, Cobourg, Haliburton, Bancroft);
- **Quinte** (Belleville, Picton, Brighton, Trenton, Cambellford, Madoc, Tweed);
- **Kingston** (Napanee, Odessa, Verona, Gananoque);
- **Algonquin** (Renfrew, Pembroke, Petawawa, Deep River);
- **Ottawa** (Carleton Place, Arnprior, Constance Bay, Rockland, Embrun, Kars, Osgoode, North Gower);
- **Thousand Islands** (Kemptville, Cardinal, Prescott, Brockville, Gananoque, Smith Falls, Perth);
- **Upper Canada** (Vankleek Hill, Hawkesbury, Cornwall, Morrisburg, Iroquois, Winchester)



