

CELEBRATION APLENTY AS PEO BRINGS MESSAGE TO QUEEN'S PARK

By Michael Mastromatteo

PEO combined its 95th anniversary with celebrations of Canada and Ontario's sesquicentennial on October 4 at the 11th annual engineering reception at Queen's Park.

More than 40 MPPs, seven cabinet ministers, and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne attended the annual reception, which is organized to celebrate the engineering regulator's Government Liaison Program (GLP) and the growing relationship between legislators and the Ontario engineering community.

"Along with the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and Consulting Engineers of Ontario, our partners in the engineering community, our goal is to ensure the public and government continue to recognize PEO's regulatory mandate and our voices, priorities and issues are heard and considered," said PEO President Bob Dony, PhD, P.Eng., FEC, in his welcoming remarks.

"While we celebrate our milestones, we also gather this evening to recognize the work of PEO's Government Liaison Program, or GLP, and engage with you—Ontario's elected officials—here in this room," Dony added.

Although Premier Wynne did not address the gathering, she spent at least 30 minutes greeting PEO officials, chapter volunteers and other stakeholders in the engineering community, prior to the start of the official program.

Ontario Attorney General Yasir Naqvi, who oversees regulated professions for the province, offered his congratulations to PEO towards the end of the evening.

"I am very privileged as the attorney general to be responsible for regulating the [engineering] profession, and as such, one of the great parts of my job is to have a close working relationship with PEO," Naqvi said. "It's important for me as the AG, as somebody who is responsible for the legislation that is directed to professions, to have that close relationship, and I'm very proud to say that we have exactly that. You have worked very hard. We are almost

on a daily contact basis on important issues—making sure we are consulting with each other and making sure your voice is heard."

As in previous Queen's Park receptions, the evening included an engineering games event that saw an MPP, a professional engineer and an engineering student form teams to build durable bridge structures using only spaghetti and tape. The winning bridge team this year consisted of Liberal MPP Han Dong (Trinity-Spadina), Ved Proag, EIT, of the Ottawa Chapter and student Elaine Cook of Western University.

The engineering reception is also the occasion to present the GLP Awards to the most politically engaged PEO chapter, and to Ontario MPPs most supportive of PEO events. This year's GLP Chapter Award went to the York Chapter for its many and varied GLP events. MPP Award winners for 2017 are Soo Wong (Scarborough-Agincourt) of the Liberal party, Gila Martow (Thornhill) of the Progressive Conservatives, and Catherine Fife (Kitchener-Waterloo) of the New Democrats.

Offering greetings from the engineering advocacy group, OSPE President Jonathan Hack, P.Eng., said it's especially important for engineers to enhance their relationship with elected officials as the profession looks towards more active policy development.

"It is critical that engineers move toward this policy of leadership because policy development in areas such as climate change, sustainability and infrastructure is becoming increasingly complex in nature," Hack said. "As governments hire more engineers in policy development, they will be better positioned to proactively manage and understand the whole system dynamics associated with these types of issues."

Hack also outlined recent OSPE interaction with the provincial government and called for continuing avenues to celebrate engineering achievement and influence in Ontario.

While Attorney General Naqvi spoke on behalf of the governing Liberal party, MPPs for the two opposition parties also welcomed engineers and special guests.

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Gila Martow said engineers play an important role in advocating for STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) in schools.

“We always have to look to the future,” Martow said. “You are either growing or you’re failing. I think the engineers really understand that. We are either doing something and having success and innovating, or we’re falling behind as a profession—and engineers never fall behind. We thank you for everything you do, not just here in Ontario, but worldwide.”

In a similar vein, MPP Gilles Bisson (Timmins-James Bay), NDP natural resources and forestry critic, said engineers provide inspiration for past achievements and future potential. “On behalf of Ontario New Democrats, we understand that some of the work you do is challenging, but you’re a resilient bunch in the sense of understanding that, in the end, you have to rise up to the challenge, and you’ve got to think outside the box and invent the things that have not been invented before,” Bisson said.

Other special guests attending the reception included PEO Registrar Gerard McDonald, P.Eng., former presidents George Comrie, P.Eng., FEC, and Thomas Chong, P.Eng., FEC, PEO President-elect David Brown, P.Eng., BDS, C.E.T., OSPE CEO Sandro Perruzza, Rex Meadley, P.Eng., head of Consulting Engineers of Ontario, Emily Rowan of Engineers Canada, and Andrew Cook, president of the Engineering Student Societies’ Council of Ontario (ESSCO).

Darla Campbell, P.Eng., chair of the Government Liaison Committee, was emcee for the evening. She was assisted throughout by engineering student Angel Serah of the Queen’s Park Subcommittee, and by Jeannette Chau, P.Eng., manager, government liaison programs for PEO.

LONG LIST OF MPPs ATTEND 2017 RECEPTION

Premier Kathleen Wynne, MPP (Don Valley West); Citizenship and Immigration Minister Laura Albanese, MPP (York South-Weston); Environment and Climate Change Minister Chris Ballard, MPP (Newmarket-Aurora); Community and Social Services Minister Helena Jaczek, MPP (Oak Ridges-Markham); Agriculture, Food, Rural Affairs and Small Business Minister Jeff Leal, MPP (Peterborough); Speaker Dave Levac, MPP (Brant); Research, Innovation and Science Minister Reza Moridi, MPP (Richmond Hill); Status of Women, Early Years and Child Care Minister Indira Naidoo-Harris, MPP (Halton); Attorney General and Government House Leader Yasir Naqvi, MPP (Ottawa Centre); Durham MPP Granville Anderson; Etobicoke Centre MPP Yvan Baker; St. Catharines MPP James Bradley; Eglinton-Lawrence MPP Mike Colle; Ajax-Pickering MPP Joe Dickson; Trinity-Spadina MPP Han Dong; Ottawa South MPP John Fraser; Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth; Kingston and the Islands MPP Sophie Kiwala; Mississauga-Brampton South MPP Amrit Mangat; Davenport MPP Cristina Martins; Scarborough-Agincourt MPP Soo Wong; Wellington-Halton Hill MPP Ted Arnott; Sarnia-Lambton MPP Robert Bailey; Scarborough-Rouge River MPP Raymond Cho; Leeds-Grenville MPP Steve Clark; Whitby-Oshawa MPP Lorne Coe; Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman; Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Michael Harris; Thornhill MPP Gila Martow; Stormont-Dundas-South MPP Jim McDonnell, P.Eng.; Chatham-Kent-Essex MPP Rick Nicholls; Sault Ste. Marie MPP Ross Romano; Prince Edward-Hastings MPP Todd Smith; Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Bill Walker; London-Fanshawe MPP Teresa Armstrong; Timmins-James Bay MPP Gilles Bisson; Parkdale-High Park MPP Cheri DiNovo; Kitchener-Waterloo MPP Catherine Fife; Welland MPP Cindy Forster; Windsor-Tecumseh MPP Percy Hatfield; Hamilton East-Stoney Creek MPP Paul Miller; Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof; Carleton-Mississippi Mills MPP Jack Maclaren, P.Eng.

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QUEEN'S PARK RECEPTION 2017



Daniel Liao, P.Eng., PEO Government Liaison Committee member, with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne



PEO President Bob Dony, PhD, P.Eng. (left), with Lakehead Chapter Chair Zack White, P.Eng.



Len D'Elia, P.Eng. (left), with Jeffrey Lee, P.Eng., representing the Oakville Chapter



Bridge-building competition participants Jeffrey Lee, VP communications, Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario (left), and Ernie Hardeman, MPP, Oxford



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne chats with Howard Brown, president of Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs and PEO's government relations consultant



From front left: Elaine Cook, Western engineering student, Ved Proag, EIT, PEO Ottawa Chapter member, and Han Dong, MPP, Trinity-Spadina, complete their winning bridge-building entry while Mehwish Obaid, P.Eng., PEO Sudbury Chapter member, and Gabriel Pizarro of UOIT Engineering Students' Society work in the background.



Nadia Aftab, EIT, PEO East Toronto Chapter member, Sadiq Pirani, P.Eng., PEO Windsor-Essex Chapter member, and Christian Bellini, P.Eng., PEO councillor-at-large, enjoying the festivities



From left: GLP Award winners Daniel Liao, P.Eng., PEO Government Liaison Committee member, Gila Martow, MPP, Thornhill, and Antony Niro, P.Eng.



PEO Registrar Gerard McDonald, P.Eng. (left), with Jim McDonnell, P.Eng., MPP, Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry



Helping PEO celebrate 95 years (front row, left to right): Catherine Fife, MPP, Kitchener-Waterloo; Jeannette Chau, P.Eng., PEO manager, government liaison programs; Sadiq Pirani, P.Eng., PEO Windsor-Essex Chapter member; Marilyn Spink, P.Eng., PEO vice president (appointed); Attorney General Yasir Naqvi, MPP, Ottawa Centre; Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Kathryn McGarry, MPP, Cambridge; Ishwar Bhatia, P.Eng., PEO Eastern Region councillor; Rakesh Shreewastav, P.Eng., PEO Engineers Canada director; Nancy Hill, P.Eng., PEO vice president (elected); and Christian Bellini, P.Eng., PEO councillor-at-large