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# PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

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## LONG-TIME LAKE OF THE WOODS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE APPOINTED BY PROVINCE TO PEO COUNCIL

Former PEO Lake of the Woods Chapter Chair **Scott Schelske**, P.Eng., (back row, third from the left) has been appointed by the province as a new PEO Lieutenant Governor Appointed Councillor. In this photo, he is with **Greg Rickford** (bottom row, centre), then MP and now MPP and Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Indigenous Affairs at the Chapter's 2014 AGM. Also in the photo are Chapter GLP representatives (back row, left to right) **Rob Neil**, P.Eng., **Barry Sadler**, P.Eng., **Biman Paudel**, P.Eng., **Mukesh Pokharel**, P.Eng., **Tom Lewis**, P.Eng., and (front row, left to right) **Michael O'Flaherty**, P.Eng., **Richard Perchuk**, P.Eng., **Keith Loucks**, P.Eng., and **Tom Kurtz**, P.Eng.

For more on this story, see page 5.

Through the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO governs over 89,000 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/about-peo/glp-weekly-newsletter>

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday of the week prior to publication. The next issue will be published on September 4, 2020.

## TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. PREMIER AND PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCE NEW N95 PLANT IN BROCKVILLE
2. ATTORNEY GENERAL PARTICIPATES IN MUNICIPAL MINISTERS FORUM
3. PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS INSIGHT ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP

## PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

**Scott Schelske**, P.Eng., a former PEO Lake of the Woods Chapter Chair, has been appointed by the Ontario government as an LGA Councillor (see pages 1 and 5). Last week, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) held their annual conference virtually, and were joined by all party leaders and Ministers, including Attorney General **Doug Downey**. PEO Councillor **Michael Chan**, P.Eng., was interviewed by GLP Weekly and shared his thoughts on the value of the Government Liaison Program.

## POLITICAL NEWS

### SON OF FORMER ONTARIO MPP ELECTED AS CANADA'S CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER



**Erin O'Toole**, MP (Durham) (centre left) won the Conservative Party Leadership on August 24, 2020. Here he is with former Conservative Party Leader **Andrew Scheer** (centre right) following his victory.

PHOTO CREDITS: Toronto Star

(OTTAWA) - **Erin O'Toole**, MP (Durham) was elected the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada on August 24.

He spent 12 years in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and was elected to the House of Commons in a by-election in 2012. He served as Minister of Veterans Affairs during the Harper government.

He regularly attended events with his father, **John O'Toole**, who was the PC MPP for the same riding from 1995 to 2014. MPP O'Toole frequently participated in PEO Queen's Park Days and activities.

### PREMIER AND PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCE NEW N95 PLANT IN BROCKVILLE



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) and Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** at 3M plant in Brockville on August 21.

PHOTO CREDIT: Narcity.com

(BROCKVILLE) - As many have seen, the provincial and federal governments are working more closely these days—partially in response to the pandemic.

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) and Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** made a joint announcement at 3M plant in Brockville on August 21.

The 3M plant has agreed to increase their capacity in order to mass produce N95 masks for Canadians.

Both the federal and provincial governments are each contributing \$23.3 million to assist with the increased production.

Hosting the event was local MPP and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing **Steve Clark** (Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes).

Minister Clark was guest speaker at the PEO GLP Academy and Congress in Kingston last November.

On August 18, Mr. Trudeau also announced that Deputy Prime Minister **Chrystia Freeland**, MP (University-Rosedale) will be Canada's new Finance Minister.

Upon hearing of the appointment, Premier Ford said "I absolutely love Chrystia Freeland. She's amazing. I'll have her back, I'll help her any way we can."



Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North) (left) and then Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister **Chrystia Freeland** (right) after Premier Ford's election in June 2018.

PHOTO CREDIT: Toronto Star

### ATTORNEY GENERAL PARTICIPATES IN MUNICIPAL MINISTERS FORUM



Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte) (centre) participated in a Ministerial Forum during the Association of Municipalities Ontario annual conference on August 19.

Here he is meeting at his Queen's Park office with then PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng., (left) and CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng., (right) on October 29, 2019.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario held their annual conference virtually from August 17-19.

There were dozens of informative sessions and interesting speakers.

There are currently six PEO licence holders who hold municipal office, including two former presidents **George Comrie**, P.Eng., who is the mayor of Whitestone and **Diane Freeman**, P.Eng., who is a Waterloo city councillor.

At the conference all four Ontario party leaders spoke, including Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North), NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre), Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca** and Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph).

Each day featured a ministerial Q&A panel with as many as nine ministers in each session.

Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte), whose ministry is responsible for PEO's file, participated in one of the forums on August 19.

At the AMO conference, he was asked a question on the municipal liability risk, looking at recreation centres and other facilities that have started to open up for leisure activities.

He told municipal leaders to "mitigate risks and continue to do what you're doing. Put in place the safety measures. Follow the advice of public health authorities."

He also encouraged municipalities to review the Ministry of Labour's guidelines.

PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** also participated in the three day conference.

### LONG-TIME LAKE OF THE WOODS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE APPOINTED BY PROVINCE TO PEO COUNCIL

(KEEWATIN) - Long-time PEO Lake of the Woods Chapter executive **Scott Schelske**, P.Eng., has been appointed by the province to PEO Council.

He replaces PEO London Chapter representative **Tomiwa Olukiyesi**, P.Eng., whose appointment concluded on July 30, 2020.

He began volunteering with PEO in the 1980s, and served on the Lake of the Woods Chapter Executive off and on for over 20 years.

He regularly participated in PEO Government Liaison Program and Chapter events.

He was named a Fellow of Engineers Canada, and in April 2020 was admitted to PEO's Order of Honour for service to the engineering profession.



**Scott Schelske**, P.Eng., has been appointed by the Ontario government to PEO Council.

Mr. Schelske spent 27 years in the mining industry, where he held positions such as:

- Chief Engineer at the Griffith Mine
- Quarry Manager at Cold Spring Granite
- Manager of Mining and Engineering at the Lac Des Illes Mine
- Regional Mineral Development Consultant with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

He later transitioned into civil engineering and opened a small consulting firm.

The last decade of his life has been spent working with First Nations managing a Tribal Council technical services department.

Mr. Schelske is the seventh provincial government appointment to PEO Council, since the 2018 election.

Other appointments include:

- **Arjan Arenja**, P.Eng., who is from Kincardine, ON
- **Robert Brunet**, P.Eng., who is from London, ON
- **Sherlock Sung**, P.Eng., who is from Richmond Hill, ON
- **Todd Bruyere**, P.Eng., who is from Fort Frances, ON
- **Andy Dryland**, C.E.T., who is from Sudbury, ON

# PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES HIS INSIGHT ON THE VALUE OF THE GLP

This week's interview is with PEO Councillor-At-Large **Michael Chan**, P.Eng.

### 1. What is your experience dealing with the political process?

I joined PEO as chapter manager in 1999. In 2005, I was very involved during the early stages of the development and implementation of the Government Liaison Program (GLP), when we were dealing with then Attorney General **Michael Bryant**. I have been a big fan of the program ever since.

I joined the Willowdale-Thornhill Chapter as chair for two years and later joined the Government Liaison Committee for two years as an Advisory Committee for Volunteers representative.

I was a liaison with each chapter to help invite MPPs to PEO events in the early days.

I knew a number of MPPs through my work with the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto (CCC). Because of my work with the CCC, I earned the trust of MPPs, and at the same time I learned how to deal with them and establish incredibly good relationships.

### 2. Why did you get interested in government liaison activities at PEO?

To me, the GLP was a great program that benefited PEO. I wanted to see it grow and continue to be successful. There are still a lot of things that PEO do to make it better.

With my in-depth knowledge of the program and my continued involvement with politicians through my volunteer work with the CCC, I felt I could still support and contribute to the success and advancement of GLP.

### 3. What do you think the biggest challenges are of the GLP?

This year, PEO started major reforms to implement changes to the practice, process, procedure and policies, which will improve our role as a regulator. Council approved all the Cayton recommendations related to our regulatory performance.

Council also engaged Governance Solutions Inc to provide independent expertise to assist them with developing and maintaining sound governance and leadership practices. Local PEO Chapters will have to keep MPPs informed and explain the background and reasons for the changes. With the pandemic, face to face meetings to discuss these issues is more difficult. This can also pose as a challenge.

### 4. What do you think the biggest opportunities are for the GLP?

Due to the pandemic, MPPs have more time on their hands as most of their normal riding activities are reduced, cancelled or changed to virtual meetings. This presents us with more opportunity to contact them and get their attention. As well, we, can help provide MPPs advice on engineering related matters through our local chapters and GLP representatives.



PEO Councillor-At-Large **Michael Chan**, P.Eng.

## GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to PEO Oakville Chapter GLP Co-ordinator **Mazen AbuOmar**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

**Who are the two PEO Government Liaison Committee members that have been named Co-Chairs of the PEO 2020 Government Relations Conference?**

**Answer: Vicki Hilborn, P.Eng., and Alex Weryha, EIT**

**This week's question:**

**Which special guest joined the PEO Government Liaison Committee for their monthly meeting on August 19?**

**Join the Contest:** Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., at [jchau@peo.on.ca](mailto:jchau@peo.on.ca) by Monday, August 31st.

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



**Mazen AbuOmar**, P.Eng., is the winner of last week's GLP Trivia contest.

## UPCOMING EVENT WITH MPPs

**Monday, August 31 – Scarborough-Guildwood Townhall with Mitzie Hunter**, MPP (Scarborough-Guildwood) at 7 PM. She will be joined by her Federal counterpart **John McKay**, MP and Municipal counterpart **Paul Ainslie**, City Councillor. To join visit: [rebrand.ly/AUG31](https://rebrand.ly/AUG31)

## STAYING IN TOUCH WITH MPPs DURING COVID-19

At this time, the PEO GLP Weekly will not be sharing any upcoming in-person events, in order to encourage PEO licence holders to practice social distancing and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

This does not mean they will no longer have opportunities to engage with MPPs that they have built relationships with MPPs are still receiving and sending emails, taking calls, conducting meetings remotely, and happy to connect.



If you have any comments, additions or questions about *The GLP Weekly* please do not hesitate to call or email:

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