



GLP WEEKLY TIMES

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PEO 2019 - 2020 President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng. (left) spoke about the PEO Government Liaison Program (GLP) in an interview on August 20. Here she is with CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng. (right), at a meeting with Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte) (centre), in 2019.

FORMER PEO PRESIDENT SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

PEO 2019 - 2020 President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng. had an exclusive interview with the *GLP Weekly Times* on August 20. She spoke about her experience with the GLP and opportunities for the program.

For more on this story, see pages 4,5 and 6.

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MEET YOUR MPP

This week, the *GLP Weekly Times* features **Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria**, MPP (Brampton South), President of the Treasury Board and **Catherine Fife**, MPP (Waterloo), NDP Finance and Treasury Board Critic



Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria (left) is the MPP for Brampton South and is the President of the Treasury Board. Here he is with Brampton Chapter GLP Chair **Ravinder Panesar**, P.Eng., (centre right) Transportation Minister **Caroline Mulroney**, MPP (York-Simcoe) (centre left) and **Amarjot Sandhu**, MPP (Brampton West), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure (right) at a Brampton Board of Trade event in 2019.

PRABMEET SINGH SARKARIA, MPP

Minister Sarkaria was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 2018 as a Progressive Conservative. He was appointed the President of the Treasury Board in June 2021 and previously was the Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction.

Minister Sarkaria was a corporate and commercial Associate at Miller Thomson LLP. He received his law degree from the University of Windsor. He has previously met with PEO representatives, such as at the above Brampton Board of Trade event in 2019.

CATHERINE FIFE, MPP

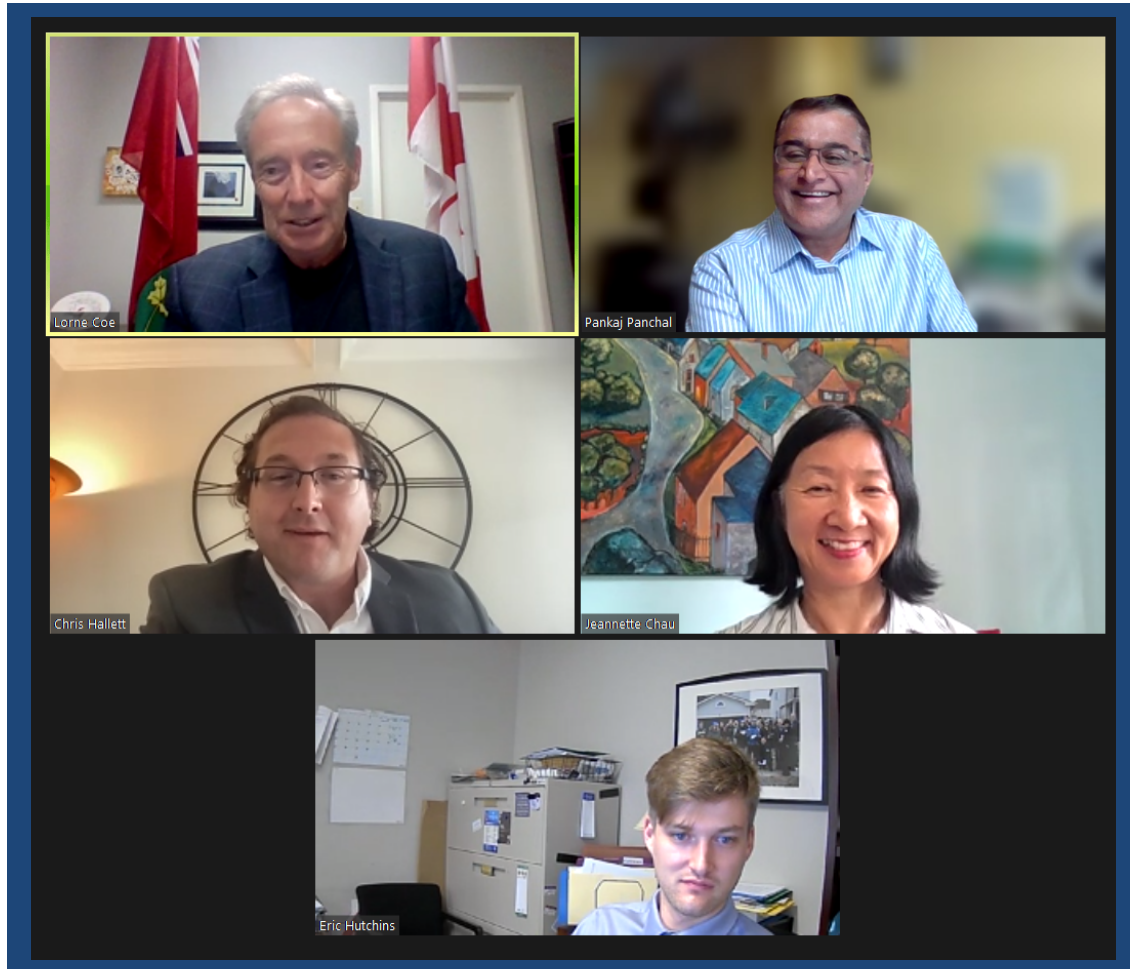
Catherine Fife, MPP (NDP - Waterloo) was first elected in a by-election in 2012. She is the Official Opposition Critic for Finance and Treasury Board.

Prior to being elected as an MPP, she served as a Trustee and Chair for the Waterloo Region District School Board. She has been a guest speaker at a number of engineering events including the PEO GLP Conference in 2016 and the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Engineering Students Societies' Council of Ontario.



Catherine Fife, MPP (Waterloo), NDP Finance and Treasury Board Critic

PEO LAKE ONTARIO CHAPTER EXPLAINS PEO'S REGULATORY ROLE TO MPP



PEO Lake Ontario Chapter representatives met with **Lorne Coe**, MPP (Whitby) (top left), Chief Government Whip on August 17. Also in the photo are **Pankaj Panchal**, P.Eng. (top right), Chapter GLP Chair, **Chris Hallett**, P.Eng. (middle left), Chapter GLP Rep, **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., Manager, Government Liaison Programs, and **Eric Hutchins**, MPP Coe's Chief of Staff.

WHITBY- A meeting was held to introduce **Chris Hallett**, P.Eng., as the new Chapter GLP Rep to **Lorne Coe**, MPP (Whitby), Chief Government Whip on August 17. This was part of the 'One GLP Rep per MPP' initiative by PEO.

Also attending the meeting were **Pankaj Panchal**, P.Eng., Chapter GLP Chair, **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., Manager, Government Liaison Programs, and **Eric Hutchins**, MPP Coe's Chief of Staff.

They discussed PEO's mandate and current initiatives.

Also covered at the meeting was the importance of MPPs maintaining a relationship with PEO such as by arranging virtual meetings with them. The Chapter representatives also invited MPP Coe to upcoming Chapter events.

FORMER PEO PRESIDENT SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM



Then Minister of Finance and now Minister of Long-Term Care **Rod Phillips**, MPP (Ajax) (right) is with then PEO President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng. (left) at an event in October 2019.

This week's *GLP Weekly Times* interview is with PEO 2019-2020 President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng. We interviewed Ms. Hill on August 20 about her work with PEO and the Government Liason Program. In addition to being a professional engineer, Ms. Hill is a lawyer, and a patent and trademark agent. She is a partner in the Toronto firm, Hill & Schumacher. She has been a volunteer for PEO for over 20 years and served as past chair of the Complaints Committee, Awards Committee, and the Women in Engineering Advisory Committee.

She was recognized for her influence on the engineering profession in Canada by being inducted as a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. In 2017, she was named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women.

Ms. Hill was instrumental in amending the *Professional Engineers Act* to include harassment as part of the definition of professional misconduct. She was also instrumental in getting Council to approve term limits for all elected councillors.



PEO 2019-2020 President **Nancy Hill**, P.Eng. participated in a face-to-face meeting with members of the PEO Government Liaison Committee in 2019. Also in the photo are Student Representative **Shawn Yanni**, PEO Grand River Chapter GLP Chair **Gabe Tse**, P.Eng., then PEO West Central Region Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., then Advisory Committee Volunteer **Nick Colucci**, P.Eng., (now PEO President-Elect), PEO Manager **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., and PEO Oakville Chapter Treasurer **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng.

What is your experience dealing with the political process?

My first experience with the political process was attending a meeting as a Councillor with my local Member of Provincial Parliament, Kathleen Wynne, looking at processes to help get internationally trained engineers licenced in Ontario. That led to the introduction of the *Fair Access to the Regulated Professions Act* in 2007 and the appointment of the first Ontario Fairness Commissioner. PEO continues to deal with those issues today.

The recent adoption of the National Professional Practice Exam will help to address issues raised by the Fairness Commissioner and identified in the Regulatory Review and will reduce some barriers for internationally trained graduates on their path to licensure. It was also helpful that one of the changes to the Act in the last few years was the ability to allow individuals to be licenced without having landed immigrant or Canadian citizenship status.

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

I have always had an interest in the GLP from my early days on Council 15 years ago but didn't have a lot of time to get involved. Over the years, I regularly attended PEO GLP annual receptions at Queen's Park and had a chance to meet a number of MPPs and gained an appreciation for the work of the Government Liaison Program.

As the Awards Committee Chair, I regularly called on the services of the GLP representatives to encourage MPPs to recognize engineers for Ontario Citizenship Awards, the Ontario Women's Directorate Leading Women, and Leading Girls Building Communities Award. I was delighted to also use the services of our GLP representatives to facilitate my participation in a special hour-long documentary on TVO, recognizing the 30th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre tragedy.

What do you think the biggest challenges are of the GLP?

The biggest challenge for the GLP is to speak with one voice and keep the PEO focused on regulatory issues. I feel strongly that we should continue to advocate to the government for more diversity on our Council, particularly for the inclusion of women and other under-represented groups. I am pleased that we have had government appointees over the previous months who now reflect a more diverse population and in particular, our first Indigenous P. Eng. Lieutenant Government Appointed Councillor. That was one of the issues I raised with the current Attorney General when I met with him in 2019.

I think another challenge we have is to ensure that the government knows that we are on a path towards having continuous professional development for all licensees. We also need to show the government that we are being a modern regulator with the tools to ensure our licensees are receiving their credentials in a timely manner. There are many regulatory issues that are on or have been on the government agenda. For example, Walkerton raised a number of regulatory issues. PEO took part in the Walkerton Inquiry, which investigated the loss of seven lives due to water issues.

What do you think the biggest opportunities are for the GLP?

The opportunity for GLP is to continue making the government aware of the work we are doing in response to our Regulatory Review. We need to continue to meet with MPPs. We are a delegated authority of the government and it is important for the Government and MPPs to know who we are, what we do, and what we want to accomplish. I think it's an important relationship.

I would say that one of my takeaways particularly from the day-long PEO GLP conference I attended in 2018 was that we had a number of MPPs there and it was evident that they wanted to meet their constituents. That local relationship is very important to them. It was even important to the Attorney General. Clearly, we are a co-regulator with the Government.

GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

Pierre Barras, P.Eng. from the PEO Hamilton-Burlington Chapter was the winner of last week's question for the GLP Trivia Contest.

Question: Which local MPP did PEO London Chapter meet with on August 6?

Answer: Terence Kernaghan, MPP (London North Centre).

This week's question: What date is the Ontario Legislature set to reconvene on?

Join the Contest: Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly Times* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to **Emily Binkley** at emily@brown-cohen.com by Monday, August 30. *You may only win once in a four-week span.*



Pierre Barras, P.Eng. was the winner of last week's GLP Trivia Contest.

UPCOMING MPP EVENTS

September 2, 2021 — Summer Barbecue 2021 hosted by **Robin Martin**, MPP (Eglinton-Lawrence), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, from 5 to 8 PM at the Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Ave W., Toronto. To RSVP, visit: <https://www.robinmartinmpp.ca/bbq>

Every Friday—Virtual Coffee Hour with **Teresa Armstrong**, MPP (London-Fanshawe), NDP Children and Youth Critic from 3 to 4 PM. To register, visit: <https://www.teresaarmstrong.com/coffeehour>

Every Saturday—Coffee with your MPP hosted by **Faisal Hassan**, MPP (York-South Weston), NDP Critic for Youth Opportunities from 3 to 4 PM. To tune in live, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/FaisalHassanNDP/>

Through the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO governs over 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/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 3, 2021.

If you have any comments, additions or questions about The GLP Weekly Times please do not hesitate to call or email: Howard Brown, President, Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs Inc. 321 Brooke Avenue | Toronto, ON M5M 2L4 | Direct line: 416-783-1140 | Cell: 416-844-1180 howard@brown-cohen.com | www.brown-cohen.com