



GLP WEEKLY TIMES

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PEO'S 100TH AGM TO BE HELD APRIL 30

This year, PEO's 100th Annual General Meeting is to be held virtually on Saturday, April 30. Licence holders who would like to participate must pre-register online. Registration for the event is open now and will close at 9 a.m. on April 28.

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HAMILTON MPP OUSTED FROM NDP CAUCUS



Paul Miller, MPP (Hamilton East-Stoney Creek) was ousted from the NDP Caucus on March 17. PHOTO CREDIT: Toronto Star

Paul Miller, MPP (Hamilton East-Stoney Creek) has been removed from the NDP Caucus and will be barred from running as an NDP candidate in the upcoming election on June 2.

He was first elected in the 2007 election.

In a statement, NDP leader **Andrea Horwath**, MPP (Hamilton Centre) cited "clearly unacceptable" information revealed during the vetting process as the reason for MPP Miller's dismissal. MPP Horwath did not elaborate further on the specifics of the new information.

Mr. Miller's dismissal from the NDP means he is now the fifth Independent MPP out of the 124 seats in the Legislature. Other independent MPPs include:

- **Roman Baber**, MPP (York Centre)
- **Randy Hillier**, MPP (Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston)
- **Lindsey Park**, MPP (Durham)
- **Jim Wilson**, MPP (Simcoe-Grey)

Mr. Miller has participated in PEO events in the past, and the NDP have been supportive of the PEO.

PEO PRESIDENT GIVES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO GLP WEEKLY TIMES

This week, we continue our series of interviews with PEO Councillors, GLP Representatives and other PEO opinion leaders. (This interview was originally published in the July 9, 2021 edition of the *GLP Weekly Times*.)

We are pleased to have for our interview this week, **Christian Bellini**, P.Eng., who took over as PEO's 102nd President at the Annual General Meeting in May 2021.

Professionally, President Bellini is the principal of Blackwell Structural Engineers with offices across Canada, where he has worked for over 25 years.



PEO President **Christian Bellini**, P.Eng.

He has served as an Adjunct Professor at the School of Architecture at the University of Waterloo (UW), a part-time post he has held since 2014.

He is a graduate of the UW Civil Engineering program in the Management Science option. He also served a three-year term as a Director of Engineers Canada.

He is a long-time PEO volunteer having chaired both the Legislation and the Experience Requirements Committees and is Vice-Chair of the 30x30 Taskforce. He lives with his wife and family in Toronto.

Here is an excerpt from the interview conducted on June 29 by phone from his home:

What is your previous experience with the political process?

My experience mostly with the political process would be the couple of years I spent on the PEO Legislation Committee, of which one year, I was the chair. In that role, we did have to interact with the government in the drafting of regulation changes to enact term limits for members of PEO Council.

And how was that experience?

Well, it was a good experience. You know, I think we got the feedback that we needed. I think that we had the right people at the table at our end, in terms of staff support. We were able to get to the intention of what we were looking at in terms of regulation changes and then get them passed very quickly. When I compare that to other experiences that I've heard of at PEO where regulation changes took years before they landed, this was a very expedient process and worked well.

When did you first take an interest in GLP activities at PEO?

I first took an interest before I got heavily involved at PEO. I was personally directly affected when the Ontario government imposed the Building Code legislation (Bill 124). This required me as an engineer to write building code exams to practice my profession. I realized the issue directly impacted PEO's jurisdiction in regulating the practice in the public interest.

I'm glad PEO stood up by taking the province to court to defend its jurisdiction and at the same time launched the PEO Government Liaison Program. I understand it was at the suggestion of then Attorney General Michael Bryant to build relations with all MPPs to make sure that PEO was brought into decision making earlier.

What do you think the biggest challenges are for the GLP going forward?

There has been a lot of conversations in PEO elections about the idea that PEO is a creature of the government. At the end of the day, whatever tools we have to regulate are pretty geared towards traditional types of engineering, like structural engineering. They haven't been updated to reflect all of these new fields of engineering. We are overdue for a dialogue with the government about how when the Act was written in 1922 it was to regulate people who build buildings, dams and bridges.

What role do you think we should play in regulating people who design self-driving cars and things like that? And if so, what tools are we going to use to actually do it? Just using the ones that we have in our pocket right now is not going to be enough. We know that it's ineffective just looking around... When you have people in those disciplines, they don't seek licensure. I think we have to have some dialogue with government sooner than later.

What are the biggest opportunities for the GLP?

The biggest opportunity for PEO with the help of the GLP is to figure out the role that engineering regulators play in addressing vulnerability and risk in the new world. When somebody gets hit by a self-driving car or gets hurt by another new technology, questions arise on risk management and responsibility in the public interest. And how do you manage that risk?

I would put it to the government and say that PEO has some of this oversight in what could be classified as engineering. PEO has the responsibility to regulate engineering but it may not be as equipped to deal with some of these new technologies. It's not necessarily an answer, giving somebody a licence, and suddenly you're protecting the public. It could be something different. You might need to licence a project, a company or a product. There are so many ways that you could protect and it might not be PEO. The government might say, we'll just create a whole new agency that can deal with that risk. I'm not looking for more work for PEO but what I would like them to be aware of is that the risks are out there. At the moment, nobody is really looking at them. And I think that's the message right?

MEET YOUR MPPS

This week, the *GLP Weekly Times* features Hon. **Lisa Thompson**, MPP (Huron-Bruce), Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and NDP Critic **John Vanthof**, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane).

HON. LISA THOMPSON, MPP



Hon. **Lisa Thompson**, MPP
(Huron-Bruce)

Hon. **Lisa Thompson**, MPP (Huron-Bruce) was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in 2011 as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party.

She is currently the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

She previously served as Minister of Government and Consumer Services from 2019 to 2021 and as Minister of Education from 2018 to 2019. Additionally, she has been a past Chair of the Ontario 4-H Foundation and Vice Chair of Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.

Prior to her election, MPP Thompson served as the General Manager of the Ontario Dairy Goat Cooperative. She has been an active participant in past PEO events, including the 2017 GLP Western Region Academy and Congress in Goderich where she was the keynote speaker.

JOHN VANTHOF, MPP

John Vanthof, MPP (Timiskaming—Cochrane) was elected as a member of the New Democratic Party to the Ontario Legislature in 2011.

MPP Vanthof is one of two NDP Deputy Leaders and is the Critic for Rural Development, Agriculture and Food.

Prior to his election, he was a full-time dairy farmer and had served on the Temiskaming Dairy Producer Committee, the Board of Dairy Farmers of Ontario and as President of the Temiskaming Federation of Agriculture.

Prior to the pandemic, he regularly participated in PEO activities at Queen's Park. He was also a keynote speaker at both PEO's Northern Region GLP Academies and Congresses in North Bay in 2019 and in Sudbury in 2012.



John Vanthof, MPP
(Timiskaming-Cochrane)

MPP PRESENTS OAKVILLE CHAPTER WITH CERTIFICATE CELEBRATING P.ENG. DAY



Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP (Oakville North-Burlington) met with the new Chair of the PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng. on March 14 to present him with a certificate in celebration of P.Eng. Day 2022.

OAKVILLE - On March 14, **Effie Triantafilopoulos**, MPP (Oakville North-Burlington), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care presented new Chair of the PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng. with a certificate celebrating P.Eng. Day, which takes place every year on March 1.

This was the 5th Annual Professional Engineer's Day in Ontario. It was first established as a way to celebrate and thank engineers across the province for the contributions they make to designing and safeguarding Ontario.

MPP Triantafilopoulos was first elected to the Legislature in 2018 to the Progressive Conservative Party and has served as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care since that same year.

She has been a regular participant in PEO Oakville Chapter events, including an online Chapter Licence Ceremony in November 2020 and an in-person Licence Presentation Ceremony in September 2019.

Mr. Lee was elected as Chair of the PEO Government Liaison Committee on March 10. He has worked as an Environmental Engineer for the Town of Oakville since 2020, has been a member of PEO's GLC since 2018 and previously served as the committee's Vice Chair.

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This year, 100th PEO's Annual General Meeting is to be held virtually on April 30 at 10 a.m. EDT. PEO President **Christian Bellini**, P.Eng., will preside over the meeting and provide his report, followed by President-elect **Nick Colucci**, P.Eng., and CEO/Registrar **Johnny Zuccon**, P.Eng., who will both be providing remarks.

The proceedings will be available exclusively over a live webcast in "listen mode". Licence holders participating in the event will be able to submit questions online during the AGM as well as make submissions in advance.

Related documents will be available prior to the event including member submissions, questions and answers, operations materials and a link for submissions.

To participate in the AGM, including voting on business brought before the meeting, licence holders must have a device with an internet connection for the full duration of the meeting. To register with the ability to vote, participants must register with their name, email address and licence number registered with PEO.

Registration is open now and will close at 9 a.m. EDT on April 28. Licence holders hoping to participate in the event must register in advance at this [link](#).

Details about the AGM, including submission guidelines, will be available at this [link](#).

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GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to PEO Willowdale Thornhill Chapter **Nanda Lwin**, P.Eng. for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

Question: Which Ontario Minister has participated in two meetings with PEO representatives from the North Bay Chapter in the last two weeks?

Answer: Hon. Victor Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing), Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

This week's question: Which Ontario Minister recently introduced a motion allowing participants to go maskless in the legislative chamber and committee rooms?

Join the Contest: Test your knowledge of the GLP Weekly Times with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to Erika Murray at erika@brown-cohen.com by Monday, March 28.

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



Nanda Lwin, P.Eng. is the winner of last issue's GLP Trivia Contest.

UPCOMING MPP EVENTS

Tuesday, March 29 9AM - 4:30 PM - Workforce Summit 2.0: Closing the Talent Gap with Monte McNaughton, MPP (Lambton-Kent-Middlesex), Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. It will be held at the Toronto Region Board of Trade. To register, [click here](#).

Wednesday, March 30 from 11:45 AM to 1:30 PM - The Canadian Club of Toronto hosts Ontario Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca**. In-person tickets are \$115. Virtual tickets are free. To register, [click here](#).

Wednesday, March 30 at 7 PM - An Evening with Liberal Candidate Catherine Mosca and Liberal House Leader **John Fraser**, MPP (Ottawa South). It will take place at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa. Regular tickets are \$375, Future fund/Senior tickets are \$250. To register, [click here](#).

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/aboutpeo/glp-weekly-newsletter>

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday of the week prior to publication. The next issue will be published on April 1.

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