



GLP WEEKLY TIMES

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Former PEO Councillor **Noubar Takessian**, P.Eng., (front row, centre) attended the Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter AGM on April 5. He is interviewed in this issue. In the photo above are also 2021-22 PEO President **Christian Bellini**, P.Eng., and **Vincent Ke**, PC candidate for Don Valley North (both back row, centre).

FORMER PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES THOUGHTS ON FUTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

Former PEO Councillor **Noubar Takessian**, P.Eng., shared his thoughts and experiences on the Government Liaison Program, which he has supported since it was first established in 2005.

For more on this story, see pages 6 and 7.

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PARTY LEADERS HIT THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL



PHOTO CREDIT: CTV News

NORTH BAY - It was a busy week on the campaign trail. The party leaders were traveling the province meeting with voters and had their first debate, which was held at the Capitol Centre in North Bay on May 9. The debate was moderated by **Markus Schwabe** of CBC News.

PC leader and candidate for Etobicoke North **Doug Ford** (centre right) debated his four opponents, NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** (centre left), Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca** (left), and Green Leader **Mike Schreiner** (right). They engaged in a debate about the issues the province is currently facing, primarily focused on the North.

The debate was organized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities in conjunction with their annual convention.

The next debate will take place on May 16, when the party leaders will gather at the TVO studios in Toronto for a 6:30 p.m. televised event.

Advance polls, which have doubled to 10 days from five in 2018, will be open in all ridings from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. from May 19 through May 28. On June 2, more than 7,000 polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Voters can download Elections Ontario's free mobile app at the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

PEO GLP Reps are encouraged to follow the PEO GLP provincial election guidelines before they engage with candidates at this time. It is important for reps to stay informed on the legislative happenings, including party platforms, as they can have an impact on the engineering profession.

ONLY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER IN ONTARIO LEGISLATURE RETIRES

CORNWALL - The only professional engineer sitting in the Legislature, **Jim McDonell**, P.Eng., has announced his retirement as the MPP for the riding of Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry riding as previously reported.

Mr. McDonell, who served most recently as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, first made the announcement in November 2021 that he would not be seeking re-election in the June 2 provincial election.

In a statement he released, he said, “I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish locally and across Ontario. However, the time has come to pass the torch and to enjoy the next chapter of my life closer to home.”



Jim McDonell, P.Eng., MPP (Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry) is retiring.

He was first elected to the Legislature as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party in the 2011 general election. He previously served as Mayor of South Glengarry from 2003 to 2011, and worked for Bell Canada for over 30 years in various roles.

Mr. McDonell has previously participated in many PEO events, including GLP Academies and Congresses, as well as the 2018 PEO Government Relations Conference, pictured below.



MPP **Jim McDonell**, P.Eng., (Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry) (second from left) is retiring. Here he is at the 2018 PEO Government Relations Conference with then Ottawa-Vanier MPP, **Nathalie DesRosiers** (centre left), **Bhutila Karpoche**, MPP (Parkdale-High Park) (centre right), then-Deputy Green Party Leader **Bonnie North** (second from right) and 2018 conference chairs **Jerome James**, P.Eng., (left) and **Arjan Arena**, P.Eng., (right).

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER RUNNING IN PROVINCIAL ELECTION



Andrew Dowie, P.Eng., is running as a candidate in the June 2 election. Here he is speaking to Attorney General **Doug Downey** at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference in Ottawa in 2019.

WINDSOR - Former PEO Government Liaison Committee Vice-Chair **Andrew Dowie**, P.Eng., is the only known professional engineer seeking election in the upcoming June 2 Ontario election. He is the PC Candidate for the Windsor-Tecumseh riding.

He previously served as the GLP Chair of PEO Windsor-Essex Chapter, and has been serving as a Councillor for the Town of Tecumseh (Ward 1) since 2014.

He earned French-language degrees in Civil Engineering and Computing Technology from Université d'Ottawa. He was also the first-ever recipient of the G. Gordon M. Sterling Engineering Intern Award, which he won in 2010.

The other Windsor-Tecumseh candidates in the June election are:

- **Craig Cameron**, New Blue Party.
- **Melissa Coulbeck**, Green.
- **Gemma Grey-Hall**, NDP.
- **Gary Kaschak**, Liberal.

Mr. Dowie was recently featured in the April 29, 2022 edition of *GLP Weekly Times* for an interview he gave to PEO GLC Vice-Chair **Asif Khan**, P.Eng.

LONG-TIME MPP PASSES AWAY AT 82

AJAX - A 15-year MPP has passed away. **Joe Dickson**, who represented Ajax, regularly attended PEO events at Queen's Park and the Lake Ontario Chapter.

Mr. Dickson was first elected to the Legislature in 2007 as a member of the Liberal Party. He went on to serve as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry from 2016 to 2018, and to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines from 2014 to 2018.

Mr. Dickson was always supportive of PEO and was a regular participant at chapter events, including the Lake Ontario Chapter Licence Presentations in September 2017 and January 2018 and the Chapter's 2018 Annual General Meeting, as seen in the photos above and below. Through attending chapter events he gained an understanding of PEO's role as the regulator of professional engineering in the public interest.

Liberal Leader **Steven Del Duca** gave the eulogy at Mr. Dickson's funeral in Ajax. Former Ontario Premier **Kathleen Wynne** was also in attendance. PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown** attended Mr. Dickson's Celebration of Life after the funeral.

Mr. Del Duca tweeted, "I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of my friend and former colleague, Joe Dickson. Lovingly called "Mr. Ajax", Joe had an unwavering love for his family, and the people of Ajax-Pickering, whom he proudly served as MPP. My thoughts are with the Dickson family."



Then-Ajax MPP **Joe Dickson** (third from left) at the PEO Lake Ontario Chapter Licence Presentation in September 2019 with then-Chapter Vice-Chair **Larry Westlake**, P.Eng., (left), then-Chair **Karen Chan**, P.Eng., (second from left), and former East Central Region Councillor **Thomas Chong**, P.Eng., (second from right).



Then-Ajax MPP **Joe Dickson** (fifth from right) at the PEO Lake Ontario Chapter Licence Presentation in September 2019. Other MPPs in attendance were **Lorne Coe**, MPP (Whitby-Oshawa) and **Jennifer French**, MPP (Oshawa).

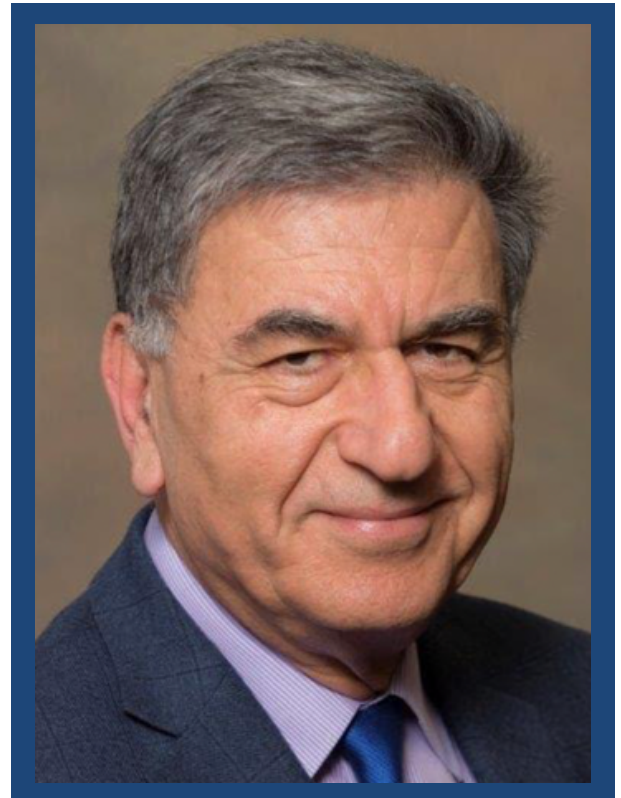


Then-Ajax MPP **Joe Dickson** (third from right) at the Lake Ontario AGM and Licence Presentation in January 2018. Former Durham MPP **Granville Anderson**, and **Lorne Coe**, MPP (Oshawa) also were in attendance.

FORMER PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES THOUGHTS ON FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

This week, we continue our series of interviews with PEO Councillors, GLP Representatives and other PEO opinion leaders. Today, we feature former PEO Councillor **Noubar Takessian, P.Eng.**

Mr. Takessian has been an active PEO volunteer for over two decades. He has served on the Willowdale/Thornhill (WTO) board of executives for many years, as a PEO East Central Councillor, and has also been on several committees. He is still serving on the WTO Chapter Executive. He will be named as an Officer to PEO's Order of Honour at a ceremony in June.



Former PEO Councillor
Noubar Takessian, P.Eng.

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

I have a lot of experience dealing with our local politicians since the GLP started in 2005.

We used to invite local MPPs to our events at the Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter of PEO during our certificate presentation events and other important opportunities.

I used to actively participate in our efforts to connect with government officials at every possible opportunity to promote our agenda. For this reason, I was very active in attending our yearly event at Queen's Park, and in meeting each and every politician in our riding and other ridings as well.

I have had a lot of interactions with our local MPPs. The goal was always to explain the role of PEO and the importance of its role in regulating the engineering profession across Ontario.

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

I was very interested in the Government Liaison Program (GLP) from day one when it was created in 2005. I introduced the GLP program to our Chapter as I was the Chapter Chair at the time. I think the GLP was one of the best things that happened to PEO. I really fully believe in our GLP program.

FORMER PEO COUNCILLOR SHARES THOUGHTS ON FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

My background of volunteering for PEO started within the Chapter. When you are at the local level, on the Chapter level, you interact with MPPs organizing events and inviting them to annual meetings and licence presentation ceremonies.

It was during my initial involvement at my local Chapter, around 2002-2003, that the province changed the *Building Code Act* to require engineers to write tests, which directly conflicted with PEO's jurisdiction. I personally wrote some of these tests myself. In 2006, PEO challenged the legislation in court and was successful in protecting PEO's jurisdiction. One of the reasons why we created the GLP was so that we could interact and build relationships with the government to avoid these situations in the future.

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

I think the biggest challenge is maintaining a connection with this government and future governments. We want the government to consult with us on engineering regulation issues before they get introduced. My take is we underestimate the value of relationships with individual MPPs.

It is important to always remember that we draw our strength from the government because it is the government that has given us the mandate to regulate our profession. Accordingly, it is important that we keep the line of communication with the government open all the time.

The challenge right now is COVID-19, as everything is virtual. In some ways, it's easier to connect, but in other ways it is harder because of the lack of a personal one-on-one connection. Things are opening up right now and this should improve in the coming weeks. We already invited our local MPP **Vincent Ke** to our Chapter's in-person AGM held on April 5, 2022.

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

When Council developed the plan for the GLP, we had as a specific objective to tell MPPs that "PEO has unique knowledge and expertise and it is in the best interest of government to consult with it before considering any new policy directions that may have the potential to impact the regulation of the practice of professional engineering."

Furthermore, inviting MPPs to Chapter events and having them listen to young engineers getting their licences helps to foster a genuine connection with MPPs. Take your MPP to Work Day is also a good opportunity for MPPs to experience the work of different engineering companies.

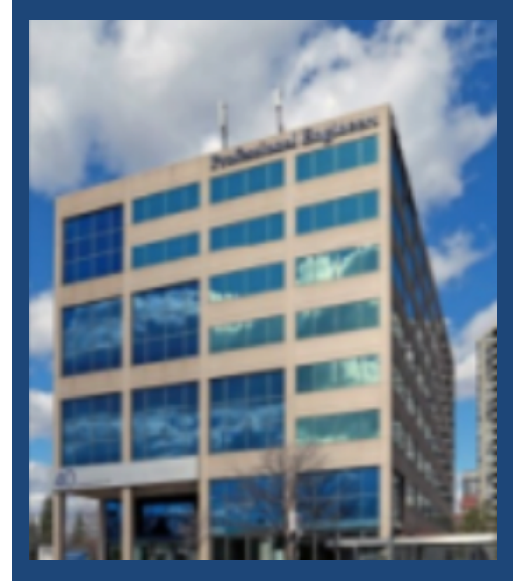
GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

There was no winner for the last week's GLP Trivia Contest, so the *GLP Weekly Times* has chosen a new question for the next week.

This week's question: Who was the MPP who spoke at PEO's 100th Annual General Meeting on April 30?

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, May 16.

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



UPCOMING SAMPLE EVENTS

Friday, May 13 at 6 PM - An Evening with Attorney General **Doug Downey**, PC Candidate (Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte) Location: Mississauga. Cost: \$1000. To register, [click here.](#)

Friday, May 13 at 6 - 8 PM - Reception with **Mitzie Hunter**, Liberal Candidate (Scarborough-Guildwood). Location: Lapis Lounge, Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wynford Drive, Toronto. Cost: \$250. To register, [click here.](#)

Friday, May 13 at 6:30 PM - An Evening with **Vic Fedeli**, PC Candidate (Nipissing). Location: North Bay, ON. Cost: \$500. To register, [click here.](#)

Saturday, May 14 at 2 - 4 PM - A Celebration of the Retirement of former Premier **Kathleen Wynne**. Location: Leaside Memorial Community Gardens - 1073 Millwood Rd, Toronto. Cost: free. To register, [click here.](#)

Saturday, May 14 at 2:30 PM - Campaign Rally with NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, Candidate (Hamilton Centre) and Federal NDP Leader **Jagmeet Singh**. Location: Brampton. Cost: Free. To register, [click here.](#)

Sunday, May 15 at 12:30 - 2 PM - Coffee and Election Meet and Greet with Green Leader **Mike Schreiner**, Green Candidate for Guelph. Location: Private residence, 17 Kent St., Guelph, N1H 3B6. Cost: free. To register, [click here.](#)

Tuesday, May 24 at 7 - 9 PM - Building our Ontario Liberal Black Caucus with **Mitzie Hunter**, Liberal Candidate (Scarborough-Guildwood). Location: TBA. Cost: \$400. 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 May 20.

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