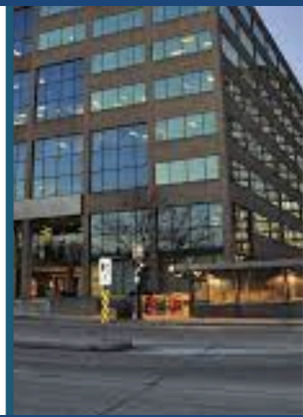


Professional Engineers
Ontario

Government Liaison Program



GLP WEEKLY TIMES

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Brian Saunderson, MPP (Simcoe—Grey) (centre), will remain in his position as Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte), (left) but the Premier has assigned him the additional responsibility as to PA to **Victor Fedeli**, MPP (Nipissing), Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade.

ATTORNEY GENERAL PA GETS ADDED MINISTRY TO RESPONSIBILITIES

Premier **Doug Ford**, MPP (Etobicoke North), announced changes to the Parliamentary Assistants of Ministers on July 19. The main position of note to PEO licensees is that of **Brian Saunderson**, MPP (Simcoe—Grey), who, in addition to remaining the PA to the Attorney General with responsibility of the *Professional Engineers Act*, will also now serve as an additional PA to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

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The only engineer in the legislature, **Andrew Dowie**, P.Eng., MPP (Windsor—Tecumseh) will remain PA to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Other MPPs retaining their posts are (in alphabetical order):

- **Patrice Barnes**, PA to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
- **Will Bouma**, PA to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, PA to the Minister of Northern Development, PA to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation
- **Ric Bresee**, PA to the Minister of Transportation
- **Rick Byers**, PA to the President of the Treasury Board
- **Lorne Coe**, PA to the Premier
- **Rudy Cuzzetto**, PA to the Minister of Energy and Electrification
- **Jess Dixon**, PA to the Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity
- **Zee Hamid**, PA to the Minister of Finance
- **Christine Hogarth**, PA to the Minister of Red Tape Reduction
- **John Jordan**, PA to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
- **Logan Kanapathi**, PA to both the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- **Robin Martin**, PA to the President of the Treasury Board
- **Graham McGregor**, PA to the Solicitor General
- **Dawn Gallagher Murphy**, PA to the Minister of Natural Resources
- **Billy Pang**, PA to the Minister of Education
- **Steve Pinsonneault**, PA to the Minister of Rural Affairs
- **Matthew Rae**, PA to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- **Brian Riddell**, PA to the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
- **Sheref Sabawy**, PA to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
- **Amarjot Sandhu**, PA to the Minister of Infrastructure
- **Stéphane Sarrazin**, PA to both the Minister of Francophone Affairs and the Associate Minister of Small Business

- **Laura Smith**, PA to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- **Effie Triantafilopoulos**, PA to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- **Daisy Wai**, PA to the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility
- **John Yakabuski**, PA to the Minister of Energy and Electrification

Seven MPPs who have new posts are (in alphabetical order):

- **Deepak Anand** has the new responsibility of PA to the Associate Minister of Small Business
- **Robert Bailey** has the new responsibility of PA to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, in addition to his role as PA to the Minister of Infrastructure (Legislative Affairs)
- **Hardeep Singh Grewal** has the new responsibility of PA to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
- **Kevin Holland** retains PA to the Minister of Mines but has the added responsibility of PA to the Minister of Long-Term Care
- **Anthony Leardi** has new responsibilities as PA to both the Minister of Health and to the Deputy Government House Leader
- **Natalie Pierre** has new responsibilities as PA to the Minister of Sport, and PA to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, in addition to being the Deputy Government Whip
- **Dave Smith** has the new responsibility of PA to the Minister of Finance



Parliamentary Assistants designated new or additional responsibilities include (left to right) **Robert Bailey**, MPP (Sarnia-Lambton), **Hardeep Singh Grewal**, MPP (Brampton East), **Kevin Holland**, MPP (Thunder Bay-Atikokan), **Anthony Leardi**, MPP (Essex), **Natalie Pierre**, MPP (Burlington), and **Dave Smith**, MPP (Peterborough-Kawartha) on July 19.

CORRECTION: Last week's PEO GLP Weekly Times misstated that Peterborough Chapter's Past Chair **Mike Wearing**, P.Eng., was their GLP Chair but he has handed over his responsibilities to **Katie Treviranus**, P.Eng.

MINES MINISTER RECOGNIZES IMPORTANT ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Mines Minister **George Pirie**, MPP (Timmins) has written an 800-word article in PEO's widely circulated *Engineering Dimensions* magazine, updating PEO licence holders on amendments made to the *Mining Act*. In the article, Minister Pirie said the province's new *Building More Mines Act* of 2023 updated the definition of qualified persons to recognize the professional engineers' scope of practice under the Mine Rehabilitation Code of Ontario. He also ensured that professional engineers have "the ability to use innovative solutions when developing mine rehabilitation strategies." [The 2024 Summer Issue is now available online.](#)



Ministry of Mines Updates Mine Rehabilitation Code

Under recent amendments to the *Mining Act*, the Ontario Ministry of Mines updated its definition of qualified persons to clarify professional engineers' scope of practice under the Mine Rehabilitation Code of Ontario.

By George Pirie

Broad amendments to the *Mining Act*, including the Mine Rehabilitation Code of Ontario, came into effect on April 1. Ontario Regulation 35/24: Rehabilitation of Lands, which replaces O. Reg. 240/00: Advanced Exploration, Mine Development and Closure under Part VII of the *Mining Act*, more clearly clarifies the credentials required to be considered a qualified person for mine rehabilitation that are proportionate with mine rehabilitation-related risks.

The province's *Building More Mines Act, 2023* amends the *Mining Act* and sets the stage for Ontario to become the leading global jurisdiction for mineral investment and development, creating the legislative and regulatory environment for companies to build mines more efficiently to support developing a made-in-Ontario critical minerals supply chain for the global electric vehicle revolution. This integrated supply chain will connect northern Ontario's critical minerals producers with our world-class manufacturing sector in southern Ontario.

Under O. Reg. 35/24, the role of qualified persons is more clearly defined in two main areas:

- New requirements to assure code-compliant closure plans; and
- A mechanism that will allow alternative rehabilitation measures.

These changes are designed to help companies save time and money by reducing administrative burden, clarifying requirements for rehabilitation and creating regulatory efficiencies while maintaining Ontario's strong standards for environmental protection and meeting the duty to consult with Indigenous communities. They are designed to ensure Ontario remains a competitive jurisdiction for mineral development and maintains its public health and safety and environmental standards. The Ministry of Mines recognizes that professional engineers play an important role in mine closure planning and building up the entire mining sector—and building up Ontario.

DEFINING A QUALIFIED PERSON

O. Reg. 35/24 was developed as a two-layer system consisting of minimum credentials and limitations of scope that provides a protective set of rules aligning education with experience, ensuring professional engineers are recognized qualified persons under the *Mining Act*. The code, which is made up of 10 parts and lays out a detailed set of instructions a proponent is expected to follow when rehabilitating mine hazards, covers a broad spectrum of technical expertise. Because professional

engineers practise in a wide range of engineering disciplines, they will not be limited in any parts of the code.

Previously, O. Reg. 240/00 specified no requirement for an attestation, or certification, from a suitably qualified person indicating that the technical content of a closure plan was compliant. This is why, under the new regulation, it is required that all closure plans contain certifications from qualified persons to attest that the closure plan is compliant with all parts of the code. Additionally, to avoid attempts to limit liability, O. Reg. 35/24 now specifies the form that must be certified by a qualified person. To ensure enforceability, only one qualified person can certify any one part, and they must now consider that the content of a closure plan is compliant with all relevant provisions within a part of the code.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS WHEN REHABILITATING MINES

Additionally, the ministry has given professional engineers the ability to use innovative solutions when developing mine rehabilitation strategies. Rehabilitation of mine hazards in Ontario is consistently evolving, and engineers and other specialists alike integrate their cumulative experience to ensure more effective ways of rehabilitation. These requirements prescribed in the code, which had not been substantially updated since 2000, could have potentially been inappropriate in some circumstances. It also meant that newer, improved methods from the collective experience of professionals could have been considered non-compliant.

To fix this dilemma, O. Reg. 35/24 now allows qualified persons to apply alternative, state-of-the-art rehabilitation measures. Each part of the code has an overarching objective statement that describes Ontario's intentions for rehabilitation. Proponents can use an alternative rehabilitation measure where a qualified person certifies that the alternative solution meets or exceeds the objective statement. To protect Ontarians from unsuitable or unproven approaches, two measures were taken. Specifically:

- The objective statements for each part of the code were reviewed and updated to ensure their intents were properly reflected and avoid interpretation issues; and
- Alternative rehabilitation measures are given a different certification template in the regulation and specifically indicate that the qualified person must also certify that the alternative is consistent with recognized industry standards and best practices, sound scientific principles and good engineering practice.

This approach allows professional engineers flexibility when developing mine rehabilitation strategies to meet unique, site-specific circumstances that are often associated with mining while continuing to protect health and safety and the environment.

For more information on the updated regulations, refer to O. Reg. 35/24 on the Ministry of Mines website.

[The Honourable George Pirie is Ontario's minister of mines. He has been the MPP for Timmins since 2022. He was previously the mayor of the City of Timmins.](#)

PEO WINDSOR-ESSEX CHAPTER GLP REP SPEAKS WITH MPP AT LOCAL EVENT

WINDSOR - PEO Windsor-Essex GLP Committee Member **Juliana Otero**, P.Eng., told the PEO GLP Weekly Times that she spoke with **Andrew Dowie**, P.Eng., MPP (Windsor—Tecumseh) at the annual Windsor Canada Day Parade on July 1.

The event is hosted by the Government of Canada.

Ms. Otero works for the City of Windsor as an Information Technology Support Analyst.

MPP Dowie is the only professional engineer in the legislature and served on the PEO Government Liaison Committee for many years including holding the post of Vice Chair. He serves as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.



PEO Windsor-Essex GLP Committee Member **Juliana Otero**, P.Eng., with **Andrew Dowie**, P.Eng., MPP (Windsor—Tecumseh) at the annual Windsor Canada Day Parade on July 1.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM?



The goals of PEO's Government Liaison Program (GLP) are:

- To ensure that the government, PEO licence holders and the public continue to recognize its regulatory mandate, in particular its contributions to maintaining the highest level of professionalism among engineers working in the public interest.
- To have the government view PEO as a partner and understand and support PEO's policy direction.

Through the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO governs more than 91,500 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/about-peo/glp-weekly-newsletter>

Deadline for submissions is Thursday the week prior to publication. Our next issue is August 2.

If you have any comments, additions or questions about the *PEO GLP Weekly Times*, please call or email: Howard Brown, Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs Inc. | 321 Brooke Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5M 2L4 | Cell: 416-844-1180 | howard@brown-cohen.com | www.brown-cohen.com