

PAN Meeting with the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur (Ottawa-Vanier)

On Friday, June 10, 2015, PAN representative Wayne Lonsdale, P.Eng., met with the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur (Ottawa-Vanier) to discuss infrastructure, climate change, labour market conditions, and the progress that has been made to increase the number of women in engineering. Minister Meilleur was interested in OSPE's message and supportive of OSPE's position that the engineering community can be a source of valuable input into public policy debates, especially when it comes to technical issues.

With regards to infrastructure, Wayne addressed the Ring of Fire. He emphasized the support that OSPE could provide with respect to this project and the advisory role that engineers could play in the development of this mining opportunity. Minister Meilleur explained that new or renewed infrastructure is a priority for Ontario and agreed that engineers will play a significant role in realizing the desired outcomes of these projects.

On the topic of climate change, Wayne expressed OSPE's support of the *Climate Ready Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan*, which was appreciated.

The third topic was the underemployment of Ontario's engineers based on OSPE's 2015 report, *Crisis in Ontario's Engineering Labour Market*. Wayne explained that the strong technical base existing in the province should be treated as a resource and that it would be a great loss if such expertise were to migrate elsewhere. This was a concern that Minister Meilleur understood.

The last topic that Wayne covered was the ongoing efforts by OSPE and its Women in Engineering Advisory Committee (WEAC) to encourage more young women to choose engineering as a career path. This was an area of particular interest for Minister Meilleur and she is well attuned to the challenges facing women in the workplace.

Thank you to the Minister Meilleur for meeting with OSPE and thank you to Wayne for his continued dedication to the profession!