

PAN Meeting with the Honourable Steven Del Duca (Vaughan)

On Friday, February 19, 2016, PAN representative Paul Acchione, P.Eng. and GLP representative Patrick Yeung, P.Eng. met with the Hon. Steven Del Duca (Vaughan). This meeting focused on 3 distinct topics.

The first topic that Paul discussed was electricity prices, including how Ontario's electricity rates are rising faster than our major trading competitors. Paul also pointed out that Ontario is exporting or curtailing significant amounts of surplus carbon-free electricity. Minister Del Duca offered to speak with Ontario's Ministry of Energy regarding OSPE's concerns.

The second topic Paul addressed was youth underemployment and he shared highlights from OSPE's 2015 report, *Crisis in Ontario's Engineering Labour Market*. Paul explained that recent graduates and internationally trained engineers need support to find their first engineering job in Ontario. OSPE advocates that government encourage the private sector to create paid internship opportunities to provide graduates and international professionals with the experience and skills they need to succeed in the field. As Paul explained, the high levels of underemployment facing Ontario's engineers present a missed economic development opportunity for Ontario.

Lastly, Paul addressed traffic congestion in urban areas. As Minister of Transportation, Minister Del Duca has a deep understanding of the major issues in his portfolio, as well as knowledge of the technical and financial complexities. Road and highway traffic and transit service are serious problems in Vaughan. Several projects are being built to help address this in the next 5 to 10 years. He is committed to fixing Ontario's transportation system and transit problems. Minister Del Duca supports improved interconnectivity among various transit options.

Thank you to Minister Del Duca for meeting with OSPE and thank you to Paul and Patrick for their continued dedication to the engineering profession!



From left to right: PAN representative Paul Acchione, P.Eng., the Hon. Steven Del Duca, and GLP representative Patrick Yeung, P.Eng.