

PAN Meeting with MPP Jennifer French (Oshawa)

On November 10, 2016, PAN representatives Anthony Ighomuaye and Mehemed Delibasic, P.Eng. met with MPP Jennifer French (Oshawa). MPP French is the NDP's Critic for Community Safety and Correctional Services and Critic for Pensions.

To begin, Anthony and Mehemed outlined the differences between OSPE and Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO). MPP French expressed appreciation for the work engineers do and stressed the importance of government listening to the perspective engineers bring to policy issues.



From left to right: Anthony Ighomuaye, MPP Jennifer French, and Mehemed Delibasic, P.Eng.

The meeting focused on OSPE's 2015 report, *Crisis in Ontario's Engineering Labour Market*, and the labour market challenges facing engineering degree holders in Oshawa and Durham region. Mehemed noted that the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) does not have a civil engineering program, which makes it difficult to recruit civil engineering students and graduates for infrastructure projects in the region. Mehemed also emphasized OSPE's position on the importance of work integrated learning opportunities and the role government can play in encouraging industry to create more co-ops for engineering students.

Mehemed and Anthony also addressed the underrepresentation of women in engineering. Given MPP French's teaching experience, she was particularly interested in the role OSPE can play in encouraging more grade 7 and 8 students to become interested in engineering. She also explained that to encourage young girls to pursue engineering, there's a need to showcase the different aspects of the engineering profession besides its technical nature. MPP French encouraged OSPE to connect with her to discuss future opportunities to collaborate on this issue.

Thank you to Anthony and Mehemed for their continued dedication to the engineering profession, and thank you to MPP French for meeting with OSPE!