

PAN Meeting with MPP Ted McMeekin (Ancaster—Dundas— Flamborough—Westdale)

On November 11, 2016, Andrew Cook and Sandro Perruzza, OSPE's CEO, met with MPP Ted McMeekin (Ancaster—Dundas—Flamborough—Westdale). MPP McMeekin is currently the Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier and previously served as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MPP McMeekin has strong knowledge of OSPE, having given greetings at OSPE's 8th annual Queen's Park Reception in 2016. The meeting focused on OSPE's 2015 report, *Crisis in Ontario's Engineering Labour Market*. When compared to other regulated professions that the survey compared, engineering had the lowest match rate. In addition, Ontario had the lowest percentage of engineering graduates working in engineering than British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Quebec.

As Andrew and Sandro noted, the report provides a snapshot of the labour market conditions facing engineering-degree holders in Ontario based on data from the 2011 National Household Survey. They also noted that, in comparison to other professional programs, engineering does not have a mandatory work-term for university students. As OSPE explained in its submission to the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy, based on data from the 2013 National Graduate Survey, students who complete a co-op program have higher employment rates and earnings than their non-co-op counterparts.

Andrew and Sandro also discussed the role the Government of Ontario can play in incentivizing co-op programs to improve the labour market outcomes for engineering graduates. MPP McMeekin agreed to discuss this topic with his caucus.

Thank you to Andrew for his dedication to the engineering profession, and thank you MPP McMeekin for meeting with OSPE!