

## PAN Meeting with The Honourable David Zimmer (Willowdale)

On November 4, 2016, OSPE Policy and Government Relations Leads, Catrina Kronfli and Patrick Sackville, met with Minister David Zimmer (Willowdale). The Hon. David Zimmer serves as Ontario's Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Minister Zimmer has strong knowledge of both OSPE and Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), having first been elected to the legislature in 2003 and serving as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General for a period.



**From left to right:** The Honourable David Zimmer, Catrina Kronfli, and Patrick Sackville

During the meeting, Catrina and Patrick reviewed key findings from OSPE's 2015 report, *Crisis in Ontario's Engineering Labour Market*. Based on data from the 2011 National Household Survey, the report revealed that around 30% of engineering degree holders in Ontario worked in jobs that did not require a university degree, while only 30% of degree-holders worked as engineers or engineering managers.

Minister Zimmer appreciated this background information as he interacts with constituents in need of assistance with finding engineering employment. OSPE staff informed Minister Zimmer's constituency office of the many Professional Development and Career Services the Society offers members and non-members, including job fairs that connect job seekers to employers and a job board, to name a few.

Catrina and Patrick also provided Minister Zimmer with highlights from OSPE's May 2016 submission to the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel. As this policy submission explained, OSPE strongly advocates for increased work integrated learning opportunities for engineering students. Co-ops and work placements provide students with valuable work experience, while building their skills and professional networks.

Minister Zimmer outlined a forthcoming public consultation that he recommended OSPE participate in given the Society's extensive work on the engineering labour market.

Thank you to Minister David Zimmer for meeting with OSPE!