

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

On July 5, 2017, PAN representative Gayle Campbell-Andrus, EIT and Mike Bell, P.Eng., PEO Hamilton-Burlington Chapter, met with MPP Ted McMeekin. MPP McMeekin represents the riding of Ancaster—Dundas—Flamborough—Westdale at Queen's Park.

MPP McMeekin is very familiar with OSPE's advocacy mandate and role, having met another PAN representative in November 2016 and delivered greetings at OSPE's 2016 Queen's Park Reception.



From left to right: Mike Bell, P.Eng., MPP McMeekin, and Gayle Campbell-Andrus, EIT.

To begin, Gayle explained that OSPE is a great place for government and decision-makers to access reliable information, as well as the experience and knowledge that Professional Engineers possess for policy decisions involving matters of complex science and technology. Gayle noted OSPE has particular expertise pertaining to Ontario's energy supply. High electricity prices are hurting not just Ontario consumers, but also Ontario's manufacturing sector which can operate more cost-effectively in the U.S. Consequently, jobs, including engineering jobs, may leave Ontario to the detriment of the province's highly educated workforce and economy.

As an entrepreneur, Gayle also shared her perspective on the important role Professional Engineers can play in Ontario's innovation hubs. Innovative, technical projects that are presented to investors or experts in innovation hubs without professionals who have a science or engineering background may not be able to properly adjudicate the project given the science and engineering that underscores a technical innovation. As a result, worthy innovations may be rejected, though commercialized elsewhere, to Ontario's loss.

Mike discussed his chapter's desire to host an "Take Your MPP to Work Day," an event which aims to help MPPs make use of the knowledge of Ontario's engineers and build relationships with residents in the MPP's riding.

Thank you to Gayle and Mike for their dedication to the engineering profession, and thank you MPP McMeekin for meeting with OSPE and PEO!