

PAN Meeting with the Honourable Reza Moridi (Richmond Hill)

On June 2, 2017, Richard Cunningham, an engineering student at the University of Waterloo and PAN representative for the riding of Richmond Hill, met with the Honourable Reza Moridi, Ontario's Minister of Research, Innovation, and Science. Joining Richard was OSPE's Senior Research Officer, Lee Weissling, PhD.

Minister Moridi is very knowledgeable about OSPE's role as the advocacy body for Ontario's engineers and engineering degree-holders, having delivered greetings at the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards (OPEA) Gala in 2014, OSPE's Queen's Park Reception in 2015, and OSPE's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2017.

The meeting focused on several areas, beginning with a discussion on the University of Waterloo's comprehensive co-op program. Minister Moridi expressed his support for co-operative education programs and noted the key role industry plays in partnering with post-secondary institutions to create these valuable learning opportunities for students.

The second topic of discussion was OSPE's 2016 report, *Excess Soil Management: Ontario is Wasting a Precious Resource*. Richard and Lee delivered a short presentation, highlighting the report's methodology, findings, and recommendations to government. OSPE has engaged many ministries in discussions on the province's management of excess soils and looks forward to future discussions with the Ministry of Research, Innovation, and Science.

The final topic that was covered was an overview of OSPE's latest report on stormwater management in Ontario. [Preliminary report findings](#) were released at the Society's reception in April 2017, highlighting the impending impacts of severe weather patterns and the importance of asset management planning for municipalities across Ontario.

Thank you to Richard for his dedication to the engineering profession, and thank you Minister Moridi for meeting with OSPE!



From left to right: Richard Cunningham, Minister Reza Moridi (Richmond Hill), and Lee Weissling.