



Annual Chapter Newsletter

Winter 2024



2024-2025 PEO York Chapter Executive Board of Directors

First Row (Left to Right):

Reza Mahmoudipour, P.Eng. (GLP Director), Darren Verasammy, P.Eng. (Secretary), Marcia Lim, P.Eng. (Chair), Oliver Xiao, P.Eng. (Vice-Chair), Sharon Chen, P.Eng. (Treasurer), Annabelle Lee, P.Eng., FEC (Past-Chair)

Back Row (Left to Right):

Denis Tse, P.Eng. (Communication & Marketing Director), Ali Sanaee, P.Eng., Ph.D. (Diversity & Inclusion Director), Liza Sheppard, P.Eng., PMP (Awards & Recognition Director), Iris Yan, P.Eng. (Education Director), Matthew Yeung, P.Eng. (Mentorship & EIT Director), Elven Tsui, P.Eng. (Business & Community Outreach Director), Alireza Siadatan, Ph.D., P.Eng., SMIEEE (LPC Director)

Message from PEO York Chapter Chair



As we approach the end of the year, the Chapter is excited to share the highlights and accomplishments of 2024. This year, the Chapter hosted 36 events, including two Licence Presentation Ceremonies, Project of the Year Awards, License Assistance Program (LAP) events, educational Engineering Design Challenge and Mathletics for students, technical presentations, mentoring and social events, and a catered BBQ social at Richmond Green Park, attended by over 120 York Chapter members, families, and friends.

These events were made possible by the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, including the Board of Directors, committee volunteers, and guest speakers. The generosity, time, talent, and dedication of our volunteers are instrumental to PEO York Chapter's success in providing meaningful events for our members and the community. With great gratitude, we thank all Chapter volunteers for your selfless contributions, dedication, and hard work. You are the backbone of our Chapter and PEO. I

encourage those interested in volunteering to join this exceptional group. PEO York Chapter's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on March 1, 2025, at which time the new 2025-2026 Board of Directors will be selected. If you would like to run for the board, please submit your nomination promptly.

The Chapter is committed to continuously evolving and modernizing our operations through a proactive and agile approach. This includes executive board onboarding and offboarding, training and strategy sessions, succession planning, and fostering greater collaboration between committees. We streamlined our executive board meetings, enhanced volunteer recognition, and improved volunteer, financial and operational activity reporting to PEO. By leveraging lessons learned, we refine our processes for future events and to ensure the Chapter remains a leader amongst chapters. In 2025, York Chapter will continue to focus on delivering meaningful and relevant events to its members.

There are several updates to come in 2025 from PEO relevant to chapters including a chapter's manual, and new standardized and improved chapter websites. Furthermore, at the 566th meeting of PEO Council on November 29, 2024, Council approved a motion committing to reintroducing a new Engineering Intern (EIT) program, this was in part from direct feedback from chapters. There are several steps before the rollout of a new EIT program and the timeline is not yet determined, but this is welcomed news.

I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lead PEO York Chapter this year. Thank you to our Board of Directors and volunteers for your trust, collaboration, and the positive energy. Please do take time as the year draws to a close to rest, relax and spend quality time with those that matter most to you. I look forward to PEO York Chapter's continued success in 2025.

Marcia Lim, P.Eng.

Chair, PEO York Chapter

chair@peoyork.com

Business and Community Outreach News

Business and Community Outreach Committee had a busy and successful year. With its ongoing engineering business relationship building activities and its added role in community outreach and technical presentation program, the committee goals remain to be raising engineering awareness and building strong relationships with engineering businesses, professional associations and academic institutions in the York Region and the surrounding communities.

The committee's key mandates are:

- Outreach to professional associations to promote PEO's regulatory role, and importance of licensing by helping and providing resources to their members through their licensing journey.
- Collaborate with academic institutions and universities to advocate PEO governance and licensing values to their engineering students.
- Facilitate strong and on-going relationships between PEO York Chapter and engineering businesses within the York Region and the surrounding area.
- Hosting technical presentations and seminars for the chapter members including P. Eng and EIT.

The committee's major activities and successes in the year 2024 included:

- Built new relationships with professional associations within the York Region and surrounding area.
- Organized 22 technical presentations and seminars.
- Supported PEO's regulatory work through Council Election all Candidates Meeting and Meet Your Councilors events.
- Hosted the Annual Chapter Open House providing opportunities for members to learn more about PEO and York chapter's latest updates.

The Business and Community Outreach Committee always looks for new volunteers to join and participate in committee activities.

Elven Tsui, P.Eng.

Director, Business and Community Outreach

business@peoyork.com

Diversity and Inclusion News



PEO's 30 by 30 initiative promotes to increase the number of newly licensed engineers that identify as women to 30% by 2030. Diversity & Inclusion Committee has been working to plan and organize events to support and promote this initiative. In particular, on June 25th, 2024, D&I Committee of PEO York Chapter held a Women in Engineering event. This was a successful event, and provided the opportunity for PEO York Chapter members to discuss the challenges that women face in engineering, the importance of equity,

and potential solutions to increase the recruitment, retention and professional development of women in engineering. I would like to thank our guest speaker for the event, and all volunteers who contributed to this great event. I look forward to more events in the future to continue the good work.

Ali Sanaee, P.Eng.

Director, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

diversity@peoyork.com



2025 Annual General Meeting and 2025-2026 Chapter Executive Elections

The Chapter's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and election for the 2025-2026 Executive Board will be held on **Saturday, March 1, 2025 @ 9:00 AM**. For more details on the AGM and elections, please visit:

<https://www.peoyork.com/agm2025/>

Who is eligible to run for election?

- Be a member of good standing with PEO and have no criminal record;
- Recommendations via email by two professional engineers (P. Eng.s) that you are in good standing; and,
- A short write-up on how you can contribute, including the position you are interested in, needs to be submitted to nominations@peoyork.com

Deadline: You will need to submit your nomination to nominations@peoyork.com by **February 15, 2025**. Your nomination needs to be endorsed by two professional engineers. Please also include a brief description why you wish to run for election.

Government Liaison News

As we reflect on this past year's accomplishments within the Government Liaison Program (GLP), I am pleased to share the strides we have made in strengthening our connections with Ontario's key decision-makers.

This year, we welcomed a new volunteer representing the Newmarket–Aurora riding, who played a pivotal role in organizing a productive meeting with MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy. Additionally, we held in-person meetings with MPP Daisy Wai and MPP Logan Kanapathy, as well as an online session with Minister Michael Tibollo.

Our team actively engaged in various community events, including MPP Michael Parsa's BBQ, Minister Caroline Mulroney's summer BBQ, and MPP Billy Pang's Thanksgiving celebration. These gatherings provided opportunities to connect with Premier Doug Ford, Minister Lecce, and other officials, further strengthening our relationships.

In May 2024, we were honored to host Minister Tibollo at our License Presentation Ceremony, where his participation demonstrated his continued support for our initiatives.

Additionally, the PEO York Chapter sent a letter of condolence to Minister Mulroney, honoring her father, the late Brian Mulroney.

A standout moment was our Take Your MPP to Work program, where Minister Tibollo visited a local company in Vaughan. During this visit, he explored their diverse projects and heard the inspiring story of a new immigrant family's journey, challenges, and successes in the industry.

We also had the pleasure of meeting MPP Pang during his Canada Day celebration, further deepening our connection with his office. Later, in November 2024, MPP Pang participated in our License Presentation Ceremony.

A special highlight this year was Minister Lecce's thoughtful gesture of sending individual certificates to the new license recipients at the York Chapter's November License Presentation Ceremony. This meaningful act will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on these professional engineers as they embark on their careers.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers. Their unwavering commitment has been the cornerstone of our success. I sincerely thank them for their tireless efforts and look forward to another year of collaboration and progress.

Reza Mahmoudipour, P.Eng.
Government Liaison Program Director
GLP@peoyork.com



Awards and Recognition News

The Awards & Recognition Committee has launched the 2024 Annual PEO York Chapter Engineering Project of the Year Award competition (13th year for Engineering Project and 5th year for Engineering Research Project). The Award recognizes outstanding technical and research projects within our community and showcases the achievements of local companies and educational institutions, while promoting the practice of professional engineering.

In 2023, we had a total of 17 submissions of interesting projects across the various categories of Large, Medium, Small and Research. The Committee congratulates the 2023 winners and thank all the applicants for their engineering contributions toward our local communities.

The 2023 winners are highlighted on the Chapter’s website here, and were:

Engineering Project of the Year Award:

- Major Mackenzie Drive Reconstruction (York Region)
- Maximizing Energy Efficiency in Large Buildings (NERVA Energy)

Engineering Research Project of the Year Award:

- Digitalization, Packaging and Structural Design of Project Arrow (AD2M Labs – Ontario Tech University)



Projects from ALL engineering disciplines are welcomed to be submitted for the 2024 Award. Please check [here](#) and [here](#) for award details and applications. Application deadline for the 2024 Award is **Friday, January 24, 2025**. We look forward to your project submissions and to celebrating your successes.

The Committee also recognizes the contributions of Chapter volunteers and has submitted our 2024 Chapter Volunteer List to PEO Headquarters to recognize our volunteers for their active contributions to York Chapter. We strongly encourage more York Chapter members to participate and volunteer in Chapter activities and to serve our fellow York Chapter members. It is an extremely rewarding opportunity.

Liza Sheppard, P.Eng., PMP
Awards & Recognition Director
awards@peoyork.com

Important Dates!

January 24, 2025 - Application deadline for Engineering Project of the Year Awards

February 15, 2025 - Last day to stand as a candidate for executive election

March 1, 2025 - Annual General Meeting

Licensing Presentation Ceremony News



As the director of the License Committee, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the new P.Engs. Your dedication and hard work have truly paid off, and it is with immense pleasure that I acknowledge your achievements.

The Licensing Presentation Ceremony (LPC) Committee focuses on several key activities:

- Facilitating the delivery of PEO licenses to recipients and organizing the Chapter's annual general meeting.
- Hosting Presentation Ceremony Events twice a year, in the fall and winter, with each event typically drawing an attendance of over 100 participants.
- Providing an opportunity for the local chapter to formally welcome its new members.

The 2024 Licensing Ceremonies, held on May 26, 2024, and November 23, 2024, were resounding triumphs. With a combined attendance of 321, including 103 license recipients, these events marked significant milestones in our chapter’s history. My sincere gratitude goes out to the PEO York chapter board members and the organizing committee whose efforts were crucial to the success of these ceremonies.

I would like to express special appreciation to our distinguished guests, MPP Michael A. Tibollo, Vaughan-Woodbridge Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Billy Pang MPP, Markham-Unionville, and Nanda Layos Lwin, whose presence added prestige to the occasions.

The LPC Committee is committed to surpassing our past achievements and organizing even more exceptional ceremonies in 2025. Thank you all for your contributions, and I look forward to another year of excellence and growth.

Warm regards,

Alireza Siadatan, Ph.D., P.Eng., SMIEEE,
Licensing Presentation Ceremony Director
certificate@peoyork.com

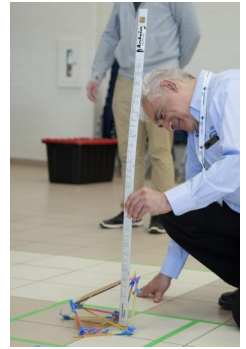


Education News

PEO York Chapter's Education committee had another successful year completing three milestone events including University Entrance Scholarship, Design Challenge and Mathletics competitions.

PEO York Chapter received many scholarship applications from York Region students who completed Grade 12 studies with honours and are attending their first-year engineering studies at an accredited engineering school in Canada. The Chapter reviewed the applications for the scholarship, and the \$1,500 scholarship was awarded to Jeremy Siu.

On Sunday, May 11th, 2024, the PEO York Chapter Education Committee hosted over 100 students in the PEO York Chapter Design Challenge Event 2024 at Sir William Mulock Secondary School Cafeteria. Grade 7 and 8 York Region students worked together in teams of four to design and build a load-bearing tower with materials provided. All participants had fun, learned a lot, and prizes were awarded to the top six teams. Thank you to all participants, and our fantastic team of volunteers for designing and preparing for this successful event!



The annual Mathletics competition was held on Saturday, November 16th, 2024. The participants applied their math skills to solve engineering problems. The morning session was open to students in grades 7 and 8, and afternoon event for students in grades 9 and 10. The Mathletics competition was held in Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School's cafeteria. PEO York Chapter would like to thank all students who participated in this event and education committee volunteers for their



dedication, contribution and passion in planning and execution of the events.

Iris Yan, P.Eng
Education Director
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Mentorship and EIT Committee News

As we approach the end of 2024, we're excited to share the highlights of a fantastic year for the Mentorship and EIT Committee. Together, we've built connections, shared knowledge, and inspired the next generation of engineers. This year, we organized six impactful events aimed at enhancing professional skills, building industry knowledge, and guiding engineers-in-training toward their P.Eng designation.

The year began with engaging activities like the P.Eng vs. EIT Bowling Night and Table Tennis Tournament, which blended fun with mentorship by encouraging informal connections between professional engineers and EITs. Our Speed Mentoring Event provided a focused opportunity for engineers to engage in rapid, meaningful discussions with mentors, gaining valuable career advice and insights into navigating the challenges of the profession.



The year began with engaging activities like the P.Eng vs. EIT Bowling Night and



In addition, we hosted an informative seminar titled "Everything You Need to Know About the P.Eng Application," where attendees gained a comprehensive understanding of the licensing process, including practical tips and resources for success. The LAP 2024 Orientation brought together one-to-one mentees and mentors in the Licensing Assistance Program, equipping participants with the tools and guidance necessary to achieve their licensure. To round off the year, we organized a Hiking Event, combining professional conversations with the rejuvenating experience of the great outdoors.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our volunteers, who have generously shared their time, expertise, and mentorship. Your contributions have been instrumental in shaping the careers of many future engineers, and we are deeply grateful for your dedication.

Here's to another year of growth, achievement, and professional excellence!

Matthew Yeung, P. Eng.
Director, Mentorship & EIT
mentorship@peoyork.com