

On October 4, 2013 PAN Representative Graham Nasby, P.Eng., met with Liz Sandals, MPP Guelph to research and innovation and the engineering labour market. Mr. Nasby reviewed OSPE's position on research and innovation investment with MPP Sandals, and encouraged the government to continue to build on programs to encourage academics and entrepreneurs to commercialize technology with engineering firms. Guelph has model programs in place at the University of Guelph, Innovation Guelph, and at several other sites. The provincial government has showed leadership with the Showcasing Water Innovation (SWI) program which has resulted in higher efficiency/long-term money savings for municipal water/wastewater utilities in Guelph and in other communities. Mr. Nasby encouraged MPP Sandals to continue promoting these kinds of smart investments to her government.



The engineering labour market continues to be a challenging situation with a shortage of highly skilled workers, yet a large number of new engineering graduates that often have difficulty finding work. Mr. Nasby relayed OSPE's position that the Ontario government needs to further support training programs as well as encouraging businesses to invest in training/developing their workforce. Together, they discussed various active Ontario-sponsored training programs, and looked for opportunities to further support needs of both engineers and Ontario businesses with developing in-demand worker skillsets. They also spoke of some of the challenges faced by engineering students and new engineering grads when it comes to starting their careers. Currently less than 35% of engineering graduates end up becoming engineers, which indicates there is still room for improvement with regards to the capacity, types, and positioning of engineering schools with respect to market needs. MPP Sandals agreed to take this information back to the Ministry of Education for further study. Thank you to Mr. Nasby and MPP Sandals for taking the time to meet and discuss these important issues!