



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE ALBERTA PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION, THE SASKATCHEWAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION, THE MANITOBA PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION, AND THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION

THE ROADRUNNER

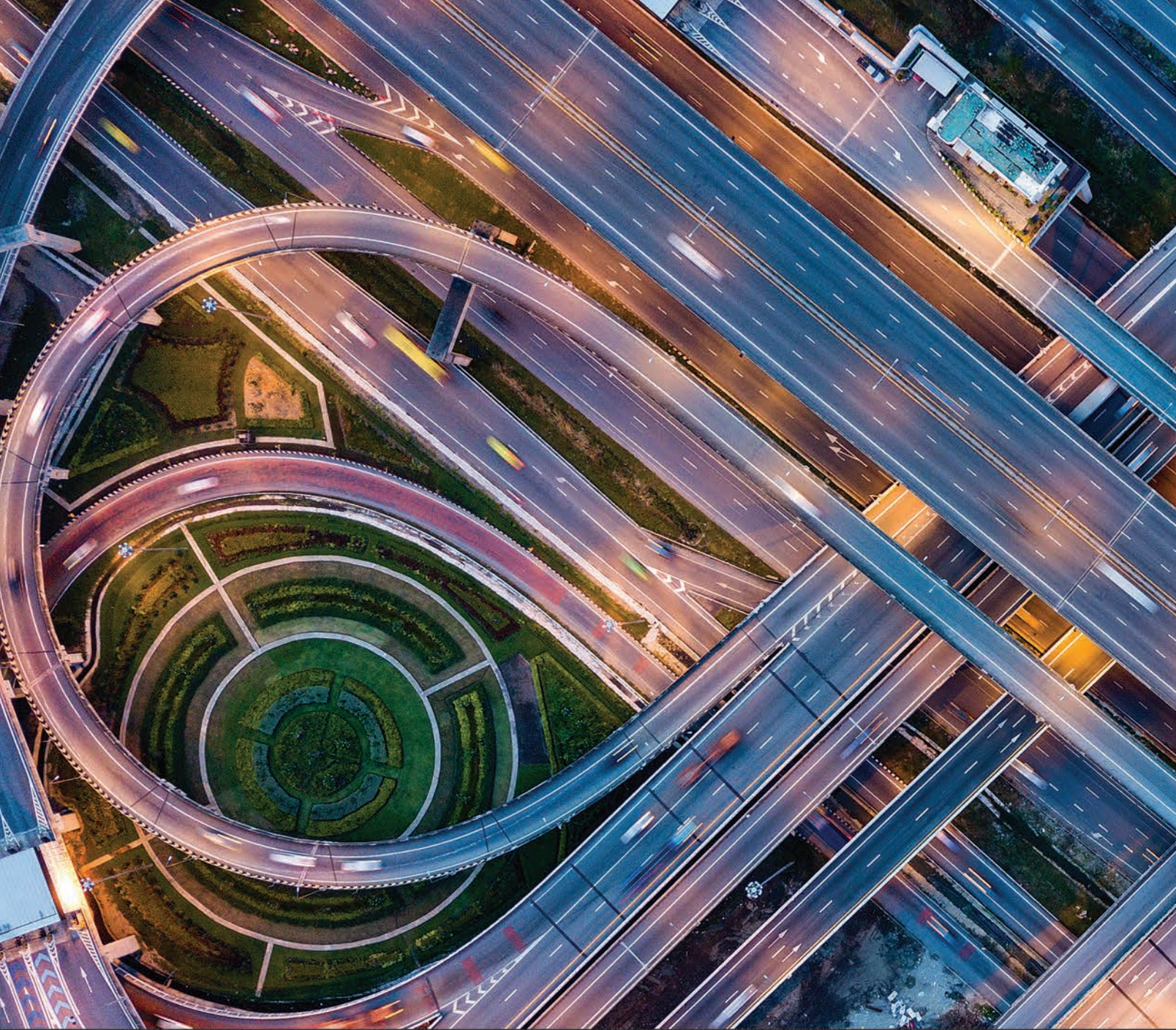
FALL 2022

Cold Lake's New Home for Public Works



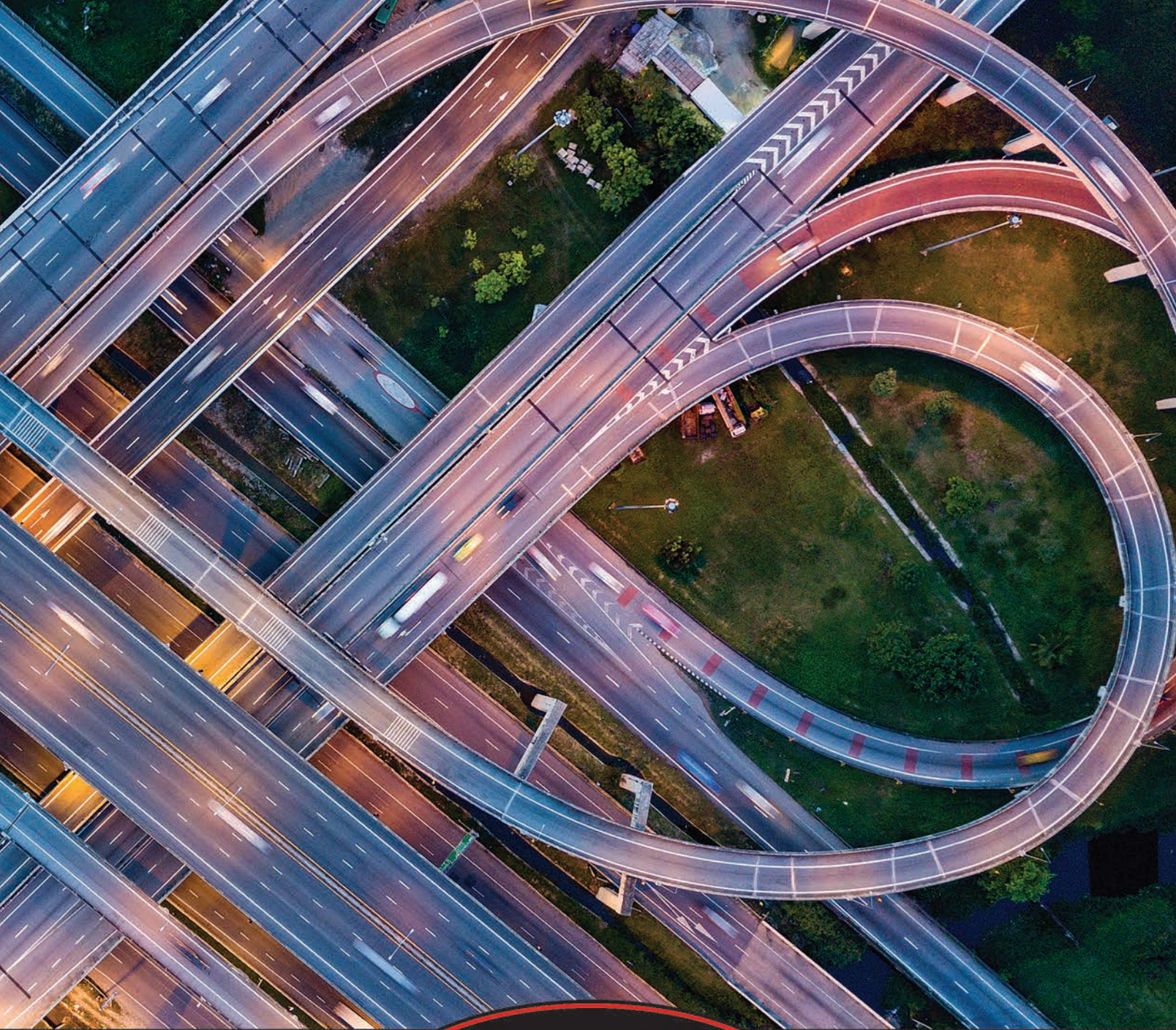
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4300 - 18.9 L Pail, # 4500 - 208 L Drum
5207 - Brush Top Can - 237 ml**



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Bulk (NAS): # 6400 - 3.78 L Can,
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1 air regulator

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(1500)

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(1500)

Accessories

**# L090-90
Drum Lid for
4500 & # 6600 Drums**

Use with pump # L033-208.



(600)

**# L090-049
Drum Hand Pump**

Fluid Film Drum Pump for # 4500 & # 6600. Dispenses 23 oz.



(150)

**# L751580
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Suction Pipe**

Convert Pail Pump to Drum Pump. Mesh Filter Included.



(125)

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On the cover: A rendering of the planned new Public Works Operations Centre in Cold Lake, AB. Rendering provided by S2 Architecture. Renderings are artistic representations and are subject to change.

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All members of a CPWA Chapter are members of the American Public Works Association (APWA). As a member, you share common goals, challenges, and solutions with other public works professionals throughout North America. To find out more on member benefits, go to www.apwa.net or www.cpwa.net.

A Message from the Canadian Public Works Association

The theme for this year's National Public Works Week is *Ready and Resilient* — always READY to serve our communities and RESILIENT as ever in our abilities to pick ourselves up off the ground after encountering challenges we have never faced before.

This past summer was another year of challenges for our public works professionals, and we all faced resource issues that included a lack of both supply and staffing to complete scheduled projects. And while we thought that the 2021 construction season pushed our 'playbook' to the limits, this past season saw the goal post move outside of our reach many times. But challenges are what makes us resilient and builds capacity within our organizations to deliver critical services, while also moving us closer to our goals as a team.

The Canadian Public Works Association Board of Directors met in Ottawa this past spring to redefine what our priorities should be while representing chapters across this beautiful country, and it was clear that our advocacy must focus on emergency management and disaster mitigation, water resilience, and climate resilient infrastructure. Advocating to the decision-makers in Ottawa to ensure they provide funding opportunities, not only for capital but for operations and training in these three areas, has been challenging. We urge you to reach out to your community's elected officials and provide them with our public policy priorities so that they may understand the critical resources you need to maintain and improve critical services. Our website has excellent resources and I encourage you to familiarize yourself with them at the Canadian Public Affairs page found on the American Public Works website, <https://www.apwa.net>.

What is advocacy? This is something we all do when we are passionate about something. The voice of public works lies within our membership and how we continue to build and nurture relationships with key decision-makers and influencers. That is how each of us can influence change, and the incredible power of experience

will help train our emerging leaders for generations to come and ensure our critical infrastructure will withstand our changing climate.

I was honoured to be chosen, along with Past President Andrew Stevenson, to be on the advisory board for the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) to develop public works programming for our Indigenous communities. I know that this work will assist other post secondary schools in developing programming to deliver formal public works training.

As Rylan Wadsworth steps down as President of the CPWA this year at PWX2022 in Charlotte, North Carolina, I think about how quickly a year goes by when you're the leader of such an amazing group of people. I am continually amazed at the work of our Board of Directors who give so generously of their time to discuss what matters most to our profession, and our Board alumni continues to do amazing things to serve our country and the American Public Works Association, where we are thrilled that Gary Losier has accepted the position of President Elect for the APWA. Congratulations Gary!

We thank Rylan Wadsworth, Directeur Travaux Publics of the Ville de Montréal-Ouest, for his service as our President this past year and look forward to his continued leadership as Past President on the Board. We welcome, Mike Walker, Manager of Roadway Operations, Fredericton, New Brunswick, as our President for the 2022-23 term. Through his leadership, and the experience on our board, I know CPWA will continue to support our community and further the strategic goals of the association. Remember – the key to continued success for CPWA is the participation of our membership. Get involved in the organization and stay engaged. Give us your ideas, time, and expertise! As an organization, CPWA will only be as strong as the talents and contributions of its collective membership.

Patty Podoborzny, C.E.T, CLGM, PWSIII
Past President
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You can learn more about
the Public Works Association
of British Columbia on their
website: www.pwabc.ca.

A Message from the Public Works Association of British Columbia

Hello again to all PWABC members and friends. I hope your summer of 2022 has been amazing and that you are looking forward to settling into the fall and winter season.

In British Columbia, our Chapter is very excited to be on the verge of getting back to our in-person conference. In partnership with the British Columbia Municipal Safety Association, the Public Works Association of BC is thrilled to be co-hosting the 4th Joint Annual Conference & Tradeshow happening October 4th and 5th, 2022 in beautiful downtown Vancouver at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre. The conference will feature a full tradeshow and an amazing lineup of speakers and presentations, so please be sure to head to our website at www.pwabc.ca now and register today!

Partnered with the 4th Joint Annual Conference and Tradeshow is the PWABC's 2022 annual awards. Our Awards Committee has streamlined the process, so you don't have an excuse to miss getting your application in this year for a chance to be recognized, in-person, as a 2022 winner! Speaking of our annual awards, we were a little late getting this out the door earlier this year, but the PWABC is very happy to recognize the following winners from 2021:

- Women's Ambassador Award Winner – Dawn Carpenter of Dawson Creek
- Outstanding Public Works Employee – Jamie Hilton of the City of Kamloops
- Public Works Week Celebration Award – City of Nanaimo

As always, our Chapter encourages you to keep an eye on our website at www.pwabc.ca for training and event details. For 2022 and 2023, we are excited to be delivering or planning for the following:

- Construction Inspection Workshop
- Leadership Series (multiple micro-sessions)
- Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate
- Winter Maintenance Operator Certificate
- Women In Public Works Workshop
- Public Fleet Management Certificate

Registration is/will be opening soon, so don't miss out on your chance to get involved with these training opportunities and enhance your career!

As always, please don't forget that the PWABC wants to hear from you. If you have some volunteer capacity and want to help with one of our events or offerings, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at executivedirector@pwabc.ca. This is particularly important if you are considering an opportunity to serve our membership in a volunteer capacity as a PWABC Board member. We will be releasing our Expression of Interest soon, so if you think you'd like to get involved this way, please keep your eyes open for this opportunity as we will be looking to affirm our new Board members at our upcoming AGM.

On behalf of our Chapter in British Columbia, I hope that we'll see you all soon!

Chris Anderson, ASCT, CPWP-M
President 2021 & 2022
Public Works Association of British Columbia

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The Alberta Chapter was founded in 1979 to enhance the services of the APWA to the Alberta public works community and to improve the quality of public works products and services to Canadian citizens.

A Message from the Alberta Public Works Association

As you reflect on this past summer, I hope you all had a chance to spend some time with old friends and make some new ones. If you just sat back on the deck and read a book or if you got a bobber on the water, hopefully your batteries got recharged.

On June 6-9, 2022, we held our annual conference *Stronger Together We Are One*, a tradeshow, equipment rodeo, and our first golf tournament. A tip of the hat to all who played. It was a bit damp but there were lots of smiles at the last putting challenge. If you were there, you would know why but I promised the boys from Toefield I wouldn't say more.

I would like to thank the planning committee for doing a fantastic job with the conference. I heard over and over how nice it was to be back in person and anyone that I talked to said the biggest thing they missed was the social networking. A huge shout out to our sponsors and vendors that support us!

The equipment rodeo was also a great success – congratulations to the winners.

BACKHOE

1. Nick Flora, City of Red Deer
2. Neil Van Brabant, Sturgeon County
3. Scott DeJong City of St. Albert

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1. Devon Ladouceur, City of Spruce Grove
2. Curtis Cheverie, Rockyview County
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TRUCK PLOW

1. Miguel Rodriguez
2. Raymond Derenowski
3. Shawn Lutz, Sturgeon County

To all the communities that supported National Public Works Week, *Public Works Ready and Resilient* on May 15-21, 2022, thank you for your continued support.

We have a few programs coming up and we'd love you to attend!

- Public Works Supervisor Level 1, September 12-15, 2022 in Fort Saskatchewan;
- Level 1, October 24-27, 2022 in Coaldale; and
- Level 3, October 3-6, 2022 in Bruderheim.

Congratulations to Terra Brennies from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for completing her PWS level 3!

On September 30, 2022, join us for the *Stronger Together We Are One Awards and Recognition Luncheon* at the Cambridge Hotel in Red Deer. Check out our website – <http://alberta.cpwa.net> – for upcoming idea group meetings in your area and for future programs.

I would like to welcome our new Board members: Director of Idea Groups, Bill Ruether, City of Spruce Grove; Director of Emerging Leaders, Justin MacPherson, Town of Coaldale; and Director of Outreach, Winslow Davis, Talbera International Technologies Ltd.

To Jeannette and the rest of the Board (Joe, Chris, Mike S., Catt, and Patty) thank you for your continued support and dedication to the association and to your communities. And – last, but not least – thank you to our employers that continue to support us and allow us to pursue our passion for public works.

Mike Haanen

President
APWA, Alberta Chapter



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A Message from the Saskatchewan Public Works Association

HELLO FALL (and goodbye summer... it went too fast!). The 2022 construction season is wrapping up and soon we'll be preparing for blizzards and ice. Putting 2021 behind us, we have started on the new road to post-COVID operations. We are very excited to be almost back to our new normal! We at the Saskatchewan Public Works Association want to thank our delegates, suppliers, and the SPWA Board for making all this possible!

On April 28, 2022, we held a Contracts 101 Roundtable and it was a hit and, from the success of that event, we will be hosting a follow-up Contracts 201 Roundtable on November 24, 2022. In addition to being educational, SPWA has found our Roundtables to be beneficial as a great networking and collaborative opportunity for participants. A fall online Water Roundtable will be held September 8, 2022, followed by Rural Roads *Stretching Your Dollar* on October 5, 2022. For more information on our Roundtables, please visit the SPWA website and join us for one of our upcoming events.

Our Annual Golf Tournament and Equipment Demo, with Industrial Machine Inc., was held on July 13, 2022. It was great to get together and having a fun day!

Ready and Resilient was the National Public Works Week (NPWW) theme this year and it was so very fitting. As public works professionals, we have overcome the obstacles the pandemic placed on us and prevail for our residents and communities. Public works professionals are the superheroes of our communities.

NPWW was May 15-21, 2022, and we had incredible support of the week by our Saskatchewan communities, with 17 signing the National Public Works Proclamation. Thank you to the Cities of Saskatoon, Regina,

Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Melfort, Melville, Humboldt, and Warman, the Towns of Rosetown, Moosomin, Asquith, Blaine Lake, Churchbridge, Kindersley, Battleford, and Lafleche, and the Village of Buena Vista. Your support of the NPWW, and all it encompasses, is greatly appreciated.

Moose Jaw hosted an SPWA Workshop during NPWW on hydrant maintenance (thank you, Mueller), which was a success. We are looking forward to being able to plan more of these events to assist our Saskatchewan communities by providing them education, information, and assistance to better support their communities.

Planning for our 2023 Annual Conference in Saskatoon (February 28-March 2, 2023) is well underway. One highlight is that we are creating an SPWA Public Works Supervisor Course to run along with the conference.

Stay tuned for more details and watch your email for more information on all these events. (*Remember that the discounted rate members receive at our combined yearly events pays for the annual cost of membership with SPWA)

As you can see, the SPWA is endeavouring to bring our members and others in the public works profession greater value in educational and networking opportunities. We also continue to promote professionalism in the public works field, advocate the essential role that public works plays in the quality of life, and promote it as a career choice for the work force of the future.

Visit our chapter website at <http://saskatchewan.cpwa.net> or contact our Chapter Administrator for more information and details about our upcoming SPWA events or how to become an SPWA member.

Staci Dobrescu

President

Saskatchewan Public Works Association

The Saskatchewan Chapter strives to promote professionalism in the public works field and provide a network through which members can share and receive useful information.

A Message from the Manitoba Public Works Association



“We need to continue building our strategic partnerships and provide value-added experience to members, non-members of the public works professionals, and the public.”

“I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.” – Jimmy Dean

It’s amazing how quickly the seasons go by! As I write this message, we have just passed the longest day of the year and the first day of summer. While everyone is thinking of summer vacations public works professionals in Manitoba are trying to catch their breath from a very harsh, snow-filled winter and spring, along with unusual amounts of rain that caused flooding across the province. The demands on all have been extreme, including the demands from the public to keep them safe and dry by providing timely response to their needs. It has been very challenging to respond to the extreme weather events and our employees have been asked to work many more hours than normal, while still getting over the impact of COVID-19 that is still around us.

As in the quote I referred to earlier, public works professionals must continually adjust their responses to whatever comes at them. These individuals need our support on the human side, as well as by making sure their physical and mental wellbeing is considered.

So, how do organizations like the Canadian Public Works Association and our Chapters support these professionals and help educate the public? That’s the challenge we face, and visibility, recognition, and awareness are the key. As an example, we had a booth at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities Trade Show earlier this year and – surprisingly – a few attendees came by the booth thinking we were a union.

Our Board’s challenge is great. We need to continue building our strategic partnerships and provide value-added experience to members, non-members of public works professionals, and the public.

One of those value-added events is our upcoming Snow Conference, October 27-28, 2022. Working with the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba, we hope to provide knowledge transfer on best practices, equipment, and people. I ask all of you to read our article about the Snow Conference in this issue (turn to page 44) and look at possibly attending.

I hope you had a great summer! Be safe!

Randy Pitz, CMC

President
Manitoba Public Works Association

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Did you know that Manitoba is the longest serving of the Canadian Chapters and has been providing a forum for practitioners since 1955? We actively support our membership, the public, and policy makers to collaborate and maintain healthy communities throughout the province.



A Message from the Alberta Municipal Supervisors Association

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As I write this note, construction season is winding down and planning for next year's infrastructure projects has begun across Alberta. Hopefully your municipality was able to complete all your 2022 budgeted capital projects over the summer before the snow starts to fly in the fall.

For those of you who aren't familiar with who we are, the Alberta Municipal Supervisors Association (AMSA)'s mission is to unite members towards individual development, improved service to their municipality and the public, and to improve the members' knowledge related to their role in public works. AMSA provides a forum for exchange, both online and in person at conventions, and the development of innovative ideas, as well as offers various professional development opportunities. I do encourage you to visit our website www.amsapw.ca to learn more about AMSA's 40-plus year history of advocacy, sharing best practices, and training.

Each year AMSA hosts a spring and fall conference and this year's fall conference takes place between November 8-10, 2022 at the Edmonton Convention Centre, with various presentations and guest speakers over the three days. From Jeff Mowatt's Managing Priorities to keynote speaker

Quick Dick McDick for some leadership downtime, the Fall Convention is not to be missed. Convention attendees review new legislation and technologies, as well as examine management strategies beneficial to both seasoned public works professionals and newcomers to the field.

This fall there will be several executive Board vacancies and, if you are interested in becoming part of AMSA's executive, we'd love to have you join our team. Please consider putting your name forward to become an AMSA executive member.

The Roadrunner magazine, created in partnership with four other public works associations from across western Canada, is a great example of how best practices are shared in the public works industry, and speaks to the strength of each of the respective associations and their commitment to enhancing the learnings for leaders in the field.

Public works is an essential service, with teams that work weekends, holidays, and sometimes during the night to ensure communities have fresh water, wastewater systems that function, and roads that are clear and safe. Big kudos to all the public works staff along with their families who sacrifice to keep communities functioning through all four seasons.

On behalf of AMSA and its 150-plus members, thanks go out to our dedicated group of executive members and to the associations' many sponsors. Sponsor contributions help sustain our operations and allow us to continue to provide two conventions annually at no cost to members.

Shaune Kovitch

AMSA President

Alberta Municipal Supervisor' Association

AMSA's mission is to unite members towards individual development, improved service to their municipality and the public, and to improve the members' knowledge related to their role in public works. AMSA provides a forum for exchange, both online and in person at conventions, and the development of innovative ideas, as well as offers various professional development opportunities.

At conventions, AMSA members review new legislation and technologies, as well as examine management strategies beneficial to both seasoned public works professionals and newcomers to the field.

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Fundamental Breach and its Role in the Termination of Contracts



By Sonia Sahota & Marcela Ouatu, Civic Legal LLP

Under the common law, there are certain breaches of contract that entitle the innocent party to terminate the contract. Such breaches are often referred to as “fundamental breaches,” “material breaches,” or “substantial breaches.” It is important to understand when a breach of contract entitles the non-breaching party to consider the contract at an end. If the innocent party incorrectly determines that the breach is a fundamental breach and terminates the contract, the innocent party may be responsible for paying damages to the breaching party for wrongful termination of the contract. This article discusses what constitutes a fundamental breach and the remedies available to the innocent party when such a breach is committed.

A fundamental breach, giving the innocent party the right to terminate the contract, occurs when the breach is so serious and fundamental that it goes “to the root of the contract,” meaning that the “foundation of the contract has been undermined because the thing bargained for has not been provided for.”¹ In other words, an innocent party may terminate the agreement based on the law of fundamental breach when the breach was of

a term of the contract so important that its breach deprived the innocent party of “substantially the whole benefit” that the innocent party intended to obtain from the contract. Notably, the parties may expressly stipulate in the agreement that the breach of a particular term will entitle the non-breaching party to terminate the agreement.

A fundamental breach of contract does not automatically lead to the termination of the contract – rather, a fundamental breach gives rise to the right of the innocent party to elect to affirm the contract or terminate the contract. If the innocent party elects to terminate the contract, the parties will be relieved from further performance. It is important to emphasize that the innocent party has the power to terminate the agreement for a fundamental breach; the breaching party cannot force the termination of the contract through its breach. In reality, this point may be moot if a breaching party refuses to perform the contract.

Irrespective of the choice, the innocent party makes (to affirm or terminate the contract), the innocent party has a right to seek damages for the loss resulting from the fundamental breach. In certain circumstances,

as an alternative to a claim for damages, the non-breaching party may claim restitution and claim for the recovery of the value that was conferred to the breaching party. By contrast, where the breach of contract complained of is not a fundamental breach, the innocent party only has a remedy in damages.²

The following are two illustrative examples when the courts have considered the law of fundamental breach in the context of construction contracts. In *Urbaccon*, the municipality contracted with the contractor for the construction of a civic administrative complex. According to the contract, the payments to the contractor were to be made when certain milestones in the project were reached. After the commencement of the work, various delays were encountered due to design and specifications issues, multiple substantial changes in the scope of work, and the municipality’s and its consultant’s failure to provide authority to proceed with changes in a timely fashion.

The parties arrived at a settlement respecting the delays and the resulting financial aspect of the delays, including regarding an extension of the substantial completion date. However, the progress of the work did not move more efficiently, and the revised substantial completion date had not been achieved; thus the project was not occupancy-ready when anticipated.

The municipality gave notice of default stating that the contractor failed to comply with the contract to a substantial degree and, subsequently, advised the contractor that it was choosing to terminate the contract. The court found that the municipality failed to establish that the contractor was in fundamental breach of its obligations. It declared that the termination of the contract was wrongful and invalid and ordered that the municipality pay the contractor damages arising from the municipality’s invalid termination.

In arriving at its decision, the court accepted the contractor’s evidence that there was very little work remaining to be completed to achieve substantial completion of the project, and agreed with the contractor’s

submission that fundamental breach cannot be equated to a delay in occupancy unless such delay is intolerable and the owner (as the innocent party) has no alternative but to terminate the contract in order to avoid the delay in occupancy.³

In *Contura*, the parties entered into a design-build stipulated price contract for the construction of an industrial facility. In the initial stages of the project, the contractor provided a notice of default to the owner for reasons related to the owner's failure to produce a geotechnical report, provide requested information on a timely manner, and make timely payments to the contractor. Subsequently, the contractor terminated the agreement due to the owner's failure to remedy the default. The court applied the law of fundamental breach to find that the contractor was entitled at law to terminate the contract. In the court's view, the owner's failure to pay in accordance with

the terms of the contract went to the root of the contract. This breach, the court reasoned, together with the breach of the financing information clause, failure to produce a final geotechnical report and the owner's clear conduct that it considered the contract at an end constituted sufficient basis for the contractor to terminate the agreement.⁴

Key takeaway

For owners, understanding the full consequences of termination prior to making such a decision is vital, as the contract document alone may not always prescribe the limits of the parties' legal rights and obligations, and prematurely terminating a breaching party may have unintended risks for the terminating party. ▶

This article is intended for the general information of organizations in British Columbia. If your organization has specific issues or concerns

relating to the matters discussed in this article, please consult a legal advisor.

Marcela Ouatu is an associate solicitor and Sonia Sabota is a senior solicitor and current managing partner at Civic Legal LLP, a British Columbia law firm with expertise in municipal law, land development, construction, procurement, and complicated contract matters. Visit www.civiclegal.ca for contact and additional information.

References:

1. *Urbacon Building Groups Corp. v Guelph (City)*, 2014 ONSC 3641 [*Urbacon*]; *Contura Building Corporation v 0772551 Ltd.*, 2018 BCSC 466 [*Contura*].
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Urbacon* at paras 151 – 153.
4. *Contura* at para 131 and 132.



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Keep Steady:

Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls on the Job

By the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)

With more than 55,000 workers in Canada injured every year because of fall incidents, managers and workers in public works departments need to be aware of the risks and the role they play so that everyone can stay safe on the job.

In addition to the thousands of fall-related injuries that make up the 20 per cent of time-loss injuries accepted by workers' compensation boards or commissions across the country, statistics show that most falls (67 per cent) happen on the same level, resulting from slips and trips. The remaining 30 per cent are falls from heights, like ladders or roofs.

Slips and trips happen when there is some unexpected change in the contact between the feet and the ground or floor. Spills, leaking machinery, or unkempt floors are a few examples of such unexpected changes for those working indoors. When working outdoors, slippery conditions caused by ice, mud, oil slicks, or debris should be top of mind.

To prevent these fall incidents, workplaces should address four factors: good housekeeping, the quality of walking surfaces, proper footwear, and a safe walking pace.

Good housekeeping is good practice for fall prevention

Good housekeeping is one of the most important factors in preventing falls due to slips and trips. It involves containing and cleaning all spills immediately, marking wet areas clearly, and sweeping debris from floors. In addition, work areas should be kept free of clutter and obstacles by storing equipment properly and removing boots, shoes, and other equipment from walkways.

Always secure mats, rugs, and carpets with tape or tacks so they're flat, and cover cables that cross walkways to prevent trips. Brightly coloured tape may be helpful to draw attention to a potential tripping hazard. Keep working areas and walkways well-lit, making sure that light bulbs and faulty switches are replaced when necessary.

When working outdoors, be on the lookout for spills or slippery conditions, and any debris or obstacles that should be moved or raked over to prevent slips, trips, and falls.

Provide sure footing with safe flooring

It's important to provide sure footing for those working outdoors. In slippery conditions, use sand, salt, or another approved anti-slipping agent to provide grip. Ensure work sites are well lit, elevation changes or tripping hazards are marked wherever possible, and workers are outfitted in the appropriate footwear for the conditions.

Where appropriate, changing or modifying walking surfaces to provide 'sure footing' is an important step in preventing slips and trips. Recoating or replacing floors, or installing mats, pressure-sensitive abrasive strips, or abrasive-filled paint-on coating and metal or synthetic decking can further improve safety and reduce the risk of falling. Also, resilient, non-slippery flooring prevents or reduces foot fatigue and can help prevent slips.

Take the right steps with proper footwear

Although it's the worker who will wear the footwear, employers are responsible for making sure personal protective equipment requirements are being followed in the workplace. When it comes to slips, trips, and falls, assess your environment and the type of work to understand if footwear contributes to the risks.

In workplaces where floors may be oily or wet or where workers spend a lot of time outdoors, selecting proper footwear is essential to preventing falls. Since there is no 'one size fits all' solution with footwear, it's recommended to consult with manufacturers for options that are suited for the conditions of the workplace.

Prevent-the-trip tip

When assessing protective footwear for your workers, be sure to consider the following:

- Is the sole made of appropriate anti-slip material for the flooring or walking conditions?
- Is there a risk of the soles quickly becoming dirty or worn out, which reduces the slip-resistant qualities?

- Is the shoe secure on the foot (e.g., are laces or a closed back required)?
- Is there a need to provide support to heels and ankles to help reduce twists and sprains?

Mind your pace

Train employees on the steps they can take to avoid falling at work, while making sure they are able to take their time and pay attention to where they are going. Workers should walk at a pace that is suitable for the surface and the tasks they are doing. Pointing feet slightly outward and making wide turns at corners will offer more control.

Employers can also reduce risks by installing light sources that provide sufficient light for tasks and along walkways, both indoors and out. Consider providing flashlights for workers if they are entering an area with little to no light. Make sure that the objects workers are carrying or pushing do not prevent them from seeing any obstructions, spills, or other potential hazards.

Other considerations

Workplaces can support a safe environment by identifying and addressing potential risks through regular workplace inspections to identify and correct slip, trip, and fall hazards. This could include the parking lot, walkways, and other surfaces susceptible to potholes and slippery or uneven surfaces.

Workplace safety is a shared responsibility and potentially hazardous conditions should be corrected right away. When employers and workers work together to reduce slip, trip, and fall hazards, the workplace is made safer for everyone. ▸

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) promotes the total well-being – physical, psychosocial, and mental health – of workers in Canada by providing information, advice, education, and management systems and solutions that support the prevention of injury and illness. Visit www.ccohs.ca for more safety tips.

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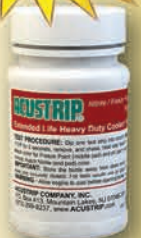
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Upcoming Events

SPWA Fall Virtual Water Roundtable
September 8, 2022

PWS Level 1 Institute Course
September 12-15, 2022
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

APWA Stronger Together We Are One Awards Recognition Luncheon
September 30, 2022
Red Deer, Alberta

PWS Level 3 Institute Course
October 3-6, 2022
Bruderheim, Alberta

2022 4th PWABC & BCMSA Joint Annual Conference & Trade Show
October 4-6, 2022
Vancouver, British Columbia

SPWA Rural Roads 'Stretching Your Dollar'
October 5, 2022
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

PWS Level 1 Institute Course
October 24-27, 2022
Coaldale, Alberta

2022 Mid Canada Snow Conference
October 27-28, 2022
Winnipeg, Manitoba

AMSA Fall 2022 Convention
November 8-10, 2022
Edmonton, Alberta

SPWA Follow-up Virtual 'Contract 201'
November 24, 2022

SPWA 2023 Annual Conference & PWville, and PWS Level 1 Institute Course
February 28 - March 2, 2023
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

2023 North American Snow Conference
April 16-19, 2023
Omaha, Nebraska

Focus on Public Works

The American Public Works Association presents expert-led online education, trending technologies, resources, networking, and learning opportunities each month. Visit their website for the upcoming schedule.

Mid Canada Snow Conference & Trade Show

October 27 & 28, 2022

Victoria Inn

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Come and get informed, inspired, and motivated at the Mid Canada Snow Conference!



For more information, visit <http://manitoba.cpwa.net/>



Kealy Dedman was presented her Top 10 Public Works Leader of the Year Award by former Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA) President, Andrew Stevenson.

APWA Top 10 Award (Presented May 17, 2022)

Kealy Dedman, Commissioner of Public Works, was honoured at the Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA) Annual Awards Event as the winner of the Top 10 Public Works Leader of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association (APWA).

The award, which is in its 63rd year, is one of APWA’s highest honours and is based on a lifetime of professional contributions. Kealy was chosen by past Top Ten recipients and the award recipients “embody professionalism, expertise, and personal dedication to improving the quality of life in their communities through the advancement of public works services and technology.”

Kealy has been a champion of sustainable and resilient public works, providing strategic leadership and oversight of the Public Works Department with an annual operating budget of over \$850 million and a ten-year capital plan of \$10 billion, and is also responsible for delivering Transportation, Waste Management, Water and Wastewater, Operations Support, Planning and Development, and TransHelp services to approximately 1.5 million people and over 175,000 businesses.



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National Public Works Week Workshop

On May 17, 2022, as part of National Public Works Week (NPWW) in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Public Works Association (SPWA) partnered with Mueller to host a 0.6 CEU workshop titled, 'Hydrant and Gate Valve Maintenance.'

It was well attended and, in completing this workshop, water operators gained an understanding of:

- Applicable associations and standards pertaining to fire hydrants and gate valves (AWWA, ANSI, UL, ULC, FM, NSF-61/372).
- Common Western Canada Fire hydrant and gate valve makes, models and options (thread spec, operating nut, colour coding, draining/non-draining, and their functions).
- Safely operate, conduct maintenance, and recommission fire hydrants and gate valves.
- Starting and continuing a hydrant and gate valve maintenance program (mapping location, where to start, how often).
- Conduct a hydrant inspection and record keeping of inspections.
- Troubleshooting common issues and what corrective actions to take.

Thank you to Mueller, the City of Moose Jaw, and the attendees.



SK Public Works @SPWACHapter · May 5

What a great way to show that #PublicWorks staff are Ready and Resilient! #SuperHeroes #NPWW

City of Moose Jaw @CityofMooseJaw · May 5

Mayor Tolley joined our #PublicWorks superheroes to proclaim #PublicWorksWeek May 15-21. Our Open House at the City Complex is back - May 18, 11-2 so you can check out our equipment and meet our workers. Full details in the news Section of MooseJaw.ca @SPWACHapter



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Working Near Vehicles? Watch Out for Hazards

The Basics of Risk Management

WorkSafeBC advises employers take a risk-based approach to prevent workplace injuries. Managing risk in the workplace involves thinking about what might cause harm to your workers and determining whether you are taking reasonable steps to prevent that harm from happening.

Step 1: Understand the risks

- *Identify hazards:* Begin by accurately identifying hazards in your workplace. A hazard is anything that can cause harm.
- *Assess the risks:* The risk is the chance that somebody could be harmed by these hazards, as well as the potential severity of the harm.

Step 2: Implement control measures

The greatest risk should be addressed first. If you cannot eliminate a risk, you must implement control measures to minimize it. Follow the hierarchy of controls: elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and, finally, personal protective equipment (PPE).

Step 3: Communicate the risk management program

Provide managers, supervisors, and workers with orientation and training on how to identify hazards and what to do to control the risks. Then document and share your safe work procedures and policies.

Step 4: Monitor and update your plan

Employers need to monitor the effectiveness of the control measures in place and improve those that are not working as intended.



By Alexandra Skinner, WorkSafeBC

Working near vehicles or mobile equipment comes with an elevated risk of injury. In fact, over the past 10 years, WorkSafeBC recorded more than 550 serious injuries and fatalities from workers on foot being struck by mobile equipment or vehicles

“Municipal workers spend time on foot in work yards, on roadsides, while coordinating with equipment operators, or in proximity to construction zones,” says Morris Benetton, Manager, Prevention Field Services, at WorkSafeBC. “The interface between workers on foot and mobile equipment introduces a potential for high risk of serious ‘struck by’ injuries.”

Benetton says that is why WorkSafeBC is working with municipalities across the

province to raise awareness of ‘struck-by’ incidents and educate employers on how to do thorough risk assessments and introduce the most effective control measures.

Employers: Evaluate your workplace risks

The first step in protecting workers is to understand the risks at your workplace and identify the hazards. “Don’t generalize a specific hazard across an entire operation or work location. Look at the specific scenario. Consider worker and equipment tasks, site layout and travel ways, and mobile equipment selection and characteristics,” Benetton says.

Employers should ask where workers are likely to be near mobile equipment? Why are both workers and vehicles in the

same area? Do they both need to be there at the same time?

“In addition, some hazards are not addressed at worksites because ‘it’s the way we’ve always done things,’” Benetton says. “With mundane, repetitive tasks, people often think the risk of injury is low. However, we know that without effective, risk-aligned controls in place workers can suffer life-changing injuries.”

You know the risks. Now what?

Once ‘struck-by’ hazards have been identified, Benetton says employers should be able to describe the nature of the hazards and assess the degree of risk to workers. For example, are workers commonly crossing the work yard on foot in the same areas where vehicles come and go? Why and how often? Are there blind spots for drivers in the work yard?

Then employers need to act by implementing a hierarchy of controls to mitigate identified risks.

“The most effective way to reduce the risk to workers is to design a workplace that eliminates, or limits, the interaction between workers and mobile equipment,” Benetton says. “This isn’t always practicable, and that’s why employers should refer to the hierarchy of controls, and address risks accordingly.”

Hierarchy of controls

Employers should implement a range of controls that include the following (in order of effectiveness):

1. *Eliminate the hazard:* Reroute traffic out of the area where workers are on foot.
2. *Substitute the hazard:* Use slower-moving, lighter or even low- or non-powered mobile equipment, like replacing a lift truck with a pallet jack or cart.
3. *Isolate the hazard from workers:* Use concrete barriers or guardrails; use traffic control devices, including temporary traffic signals and automated flagging assistance devices (AFADs), which allow traffic control persons to actively manage traffic without being on or near the road traffic.
4. *Change the way people work around hazards:* This includes creating safe work procedures and planning mobile

equipment activities when less (or no) workers-on-foot are nearby.

5. *Personal protection equipment (PPE):* PPE is the last control and includes ensuring workers are wearing hi-visibility clothing, hard hats, and other protective equipment.

As for AFADs, Benetton says, “They are a good option and can be evaluated for use, especially when roadwork is being done. You still need a qualified traffic control person to manage the devices. They aren’t a silver bullet but are part of a suite of tools that can reduce the risk of struck-by incidents.”

A shared responsibility

Preventing workers from being struck by vehicles – in work yards, parking lots, and other worksites – is a shared responsibility.

Benetton says that employers should be engaging their workers in all aspects of health and safety to get their input and ensure concerns are heard and addressed. Workers need to be aware of their surroundings, and employer’s need to have effective controls in place.

Benetton cautions that people often overestimate their ability to multi-task, such as doing the job at hand and being aware of their surroundings. “It comes

down to minimizing the potential for human error,” he says. “Applying the hierarchy of controls allows employers to do just that.”

A collective effort

To reduce struck-by serious incidents, WorkSafeBC’s Serious Injury Prevention Initiative and Construction High Risk Strategy teams are working together. “Our goal is to reduce these kinds of injuries through consultation and education – but we will also conduct inspections and use enforcement tools when necessary to ensure compliance,” Benetton says.

In addition, WorkSafeBC has several resources on its website (<https://www.worksafebc.com>) to further assist employers, including a step-by-step guide on the basics of risk management, a guide on reducing the risks to workers of struck-by incidents, and a customizable Key Risk Inventory template to help employers identify key risks at their worksites.

Benetton adds, “What’s important is improving the health and safety culture at worksites and making sure everyone goes home healthy and safe at the end of the day.”

Alexandra Skinner is the Director of Communications for WorkSafeBC.

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The entire Construction Safety Association of Manitoba team is here to provide exceptional customer service, quality, and value for its clients.



Selecting the Right Tools for a Safer Workplace

By The Construction Safety Association of Manitoba (CSAM)

With most jurisdictions across Canada having criteria for the evaluation, selection, and monitoring of contractors, Certificate of Recognition (COR®) Certification is typically identified as a condition of tender and/or a condition of contract. And with its success, many owners and government agencies are recognizing the value of COR® and have themselves become COR® Certified.

Building, implementing, and maintaining effective workplace safety and health procedures, policies, and programs might feel daunting, but the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba (CSAM) and other associations under the Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations (CFCSA) are here to help.

Established in 1989, CSAM has earned the reputation as a leader in the safety landscape of Manitoba, as well as within the Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations (CFCSA). This reputation has been fueled by CSAM's focus on providing exceptional customer service, quality, and value for its clients. "Practical Solutions for a Safer Workplace" remains a cornerstone and guiding principle for the implementation of CSAM's objectives:

- To provide information regarding accident prevention methods and changes to health and safety regulations;
- To develop information, resources, tools, and training programs to enable contractors to meet their legislated responsibilities;
- To provide guidance with respect to establishing comprehensive safety programs tailored to meet the needs of individual companies both large and small; and
- To act as the Authority Having Jurisdiction to grant COR® Certification and SECOR® Certification.

"CSAM works for YOU," says CSAM Executive Director Sean Scott. "We're here to make safety simpler, providing practical information to manage safety and health, ultimately helping workers go home safely at the end of the day and to give employers the tools they need to meet their legislated responsibilities."

Legislated safety and health responsibilities, as well as incident prevention, can be simplified into three aspects: the identification, communication, and control of hazards. First, identify existing and potential hazards your workers may encounter. Second, let workers know about the existing

and potential hazards. Third, take measures to eliminate or control the risks associated with the hazards.

The creation of a safety and health management system (i.e.: a safety program to identify, communicate, and control hazards) is a requirement in Manitoba's workplace safety and health legislation and in most Canadian jurisdictions. COR® is the most recognized and renowned program used in construction. COR® is an occupational safety and health accreditation program that verifies a fully implemented safety and health management system which meets national standards. The objectives of COR® are to provide industry employers with effective tools to develop, implement, assess, and promote continual improvement of their safety and health management system to prevent or mitigate incidents and injuries as well as their associated human and financial costs.

"Your scope of work will affect what kinds of safe work practices, procedures, and training you need in place," says CSAM Client Services Advisor Ross Jardine.

"The framework of a safety program is straightforward, but how you comply with that program changes from site to site," he explains. "For example, a company

that does snow removal might need policies for equipment operator training, cold stress, and musculoskeletal injuries related to manual snow removal. Whereas an employer in roadwork might require policies for flag person training, excavations, and silica dust.”

CSAM’s advisors can come right to the jobsite to help in many aspects of identifying hazards, and even develop toolbox


talks and assessments to help workers better understand these hazards. CSAM can also help employers develop customized safety policies and programs to fully address the risks workers will face while on the job.

Implementing such safe work procedures or safety policies is a great step toward reducing an employee’s risk of being hurt at work. But one size doesn’t fit all – CSAM can help tailor these policies directly to a

company’s scope of work, so it fits practically with daily tasks.

“Safety can save time, money, and lives,” Scott says. “Preventing incidents is good for business and a strong workplace safety culture helps employees feel valued.”

Find more information on CSAM at www.constructionsafety.ca or visit www.cfcsa.ca to find the construction safety association in YOUR province.



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Planning for the Future: Get Your Ducks in a Row



By Charlene Birdsall, CPA, CMA, CIM, CFP, National Bank Financial – Wealth Management

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, the phrase, ‘all your ducks in a row’ means, “to be well prepared or well organized for something that is going to happen.” In this article, we talk about you being prepared for something that eventually happens to EVERYONE; your demise. But are you prepared? Have you planned and followed through with your plans? Have you thought about an estate plan, and have you drawn up your will, power of attorney, and health care directive? And, if so, are they current?

According to a recent survey released by Lawyers’ Professional Indemnity Co. (LawPRO), 56 per cent of Canadian adults do not have a signed will. When you think that you have spent your lifetime working to build your legacy, you should really take the quality time necessary to build a succession plan for your wealth, and ensure the assets are passed on seamlessly and efficiently to those who matter to you most. Writing a will does provide you with peace of mind and

relieves your loved ones from troubles and stress after your death.

Family meeting – The will

Prior to writing a will, you must plan out precisely what you would like to leave and to whom, and in what percentages or amounts, be it to family, friends, or charities. You may also want to set up a family meeting to address the family dynamics, clarify or set objectives, and discuss your wealth transfer, which will help to prepare your family for when you pass away.

The subjects of death and money can be uncomfortable for even the most open families to discuss, but a family meeting will give you an opportunity to explain your rationale for your intended distribution of assets. This is especially important in the case of unequal distributions to others, such as philanthropic gifts. The family meeting should reduce the likelihood of surprises, which can mean less chance of conflict after death.

You may also want to include your wealth advisor to help set the agenda of the meeting, seeing as they would understand

your concerns and interests. The wealth advisor would act as the facilitator of the family meeting and can encourage the conversation, keep the meeting on track, get everyone involved, manage disagreements, and get a commitment to go ahead with the plan.

The executor

Another important step in the plan is to choose your executor, who would administer your estate after your death. Because the executor would follow instructions in the will, such as liquidating the assets, paying bills and taxes, and distributing the balance to the beneficiaries, they should be trustworthy, have good judgement, and have the time to look after this very important duty. Depending on the size and complexity of the estate, an executor’s work can take anywhere from an average of 18 months to up to four years, so don’t forget to talk it over with them beforehand to make sure they’re willing to take on such a big role. It is also advised that the executor be in the same province where you reside to avoid any unnecessary legal hassles, as well as to have

alternative executors who can take over if your first choice is unable or unwilling to do the job.

If you cannot think of someone to be the executor, or you have a large estate, own a business, or have property outside of the country, you could consider appointing a professional person, such as a lawyer, notary, or trust company to serve as an executor. Fees would be charged by the professionals or trust companies, which would come out of the estate. Also, given the amount of work that is required by your personal executor, you may want to specify the percentage of amount of compensation.

Other documentation

Before you see the lawyer to draw up your will, you should also think about the power of attorney document and the health care directive. These are documents that come in handy while you are alive.

The power of attorney

The power of attorney document is used when you can no longer take care of your financial assets. It is a legal document that grants the attorney (the person you have given the authority) to make decisions on your behalf and pay bills, deal with investment accounts, manage rental properties, continue any planned giving arrangements, or generally look after your financial assets.

The power of attorney can be a continuing – or enduring – power of attorney, which gives the unlimited attorney broad rights to look after your affairs, including if you become incapacitated. The power of attorney could also be a springing power of attorney, giving the attorney unlimited powers and only when you become incapacitated. Typically, the attorney would be your spouse or someone close that you trust.

The healthcare directive

This document expresses your wishes about the amount and type of health care treatment you want, plus it states that you can refuse medical treatment should you become unable to communicate this with your doctors and family. This document relieves the burden on your family in guessing how you want the doctors to act towards your healthcare.

By getting your ducks in a row now, you will have a roadmap of your choosing detailing your wishes for your loved ones to follow if you become incapacitated or upon death. ▶

Charlene Birdsall, CPA, CMA, CIM, CFP, is a Wealth Advisor and Portfolio Manager for National Bank Financial. You can reach her at charlene.birdsall@nbc.ca. National Bank Financial – Wealth

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The new operations centre is designed to accommodate current and future growth in Cold Lake with an option for expansion. Rendering provided by S2 Architecture.

Cold Lake's New Home for Public Works

By Paul Adair, Staff Writer

Nestled approximately three hours northeast of Edmonton, the City of Cold Lake will soon open a new public works operations centre that will replace an aging facility that is outliving its life expectancy. It's also too small to accommodate current and future operational functions and equipment.

"The current public works operations centre in Cold Lake was built more than 40 years ago, and it's really starting to show its age," says Azam Khan, General Manager of Infrastructure Services at the City of Cold Lake. "Unless we were to commit to spending a significant amount of money to renovate the out-of-date facilities we have, we would simply not be able to continue maintaining the high level of service that's being provided today. It just made sense to invest in a new facility that can incorporate the latest building codes and technologies, and that allows us to improve upon those service levels."

The design concept for the new facility is now complete and consultants are

currently working on the tender documents for the design, with the overall tender package to be released soon. Vancouver-based S2 Architecture has been secured as the architectural firm for the project. The chosen location for the new centre has already undergone tree clearing and site preparation in April 2022, with construction anticipated to begin in the spring of 2023. The project is expected to be open to the public and City staff by late 2024.

When complete, this new, state-of-the-art, \$18.5 million public works facility will consist of an administration building along with modern fleet maintenance and transit storage bays. The back of the new facility will provide working bays for various departments including Roads, Utilities, Parks, and Building Maintenance, and the yard will accommodate public and heavy truck access, deliveries, and pedestrian traffic that will travel around the facilities. The building is also being designed to accommodate current and future staff and equipment needs with an option for expansion.

"The way the building is designed, we can add additional bays to the sides of the facility in case we need to expand," says Khan. "Right now, we are planning for 50 years of growth but, if other departments or facilities within Cold Lake end up coming to work with us at the new facility, those long-range expansion plans will be updated."

When Cold Lake was formed in 1996, it united the Town of Cold Lake and the Town of Grand Center, as well as land annexed from the Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87. The location for the new facility is situated just below the museum on City-owned land located between Cold Lake North and South, bringing the two sides of the city together. This centralized location will also help to decrease response times to work orders throughout the city.

"City growth is slowly weaving Cold Lake North and South together, and this project is right in the middle of the two communities," says Khan. "City Council's decision to put the new public works operations centre here was based on providing

better access for people to come in and manage their accounts, and connect with the City. Our vision is to offer a one-stop shop where we can more efficiently provide a high level of service now and into the future.”

The new public works operations centre is being designed to meet – and even exceed – the standards set by the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB) and has taken into consideration factors such as overall energy efficiency, building materials, and the eventual traffic flow around the site. S2 Architecture has purposefully orientated the building to maximize the sunlight throughout the seasons, and careful thought has also been given to stormwater capture to help protect the surrounding environment. As part of this, a stormwater management facility will be constructed alongside the main facility building to manage any water runoff.

“The site is located close to some adjacent wetlands, as well as the air force base, which has created some challenges for us to overcome,” says Khan. “In addition to managing the water on site to safeguard the

“Our vision is to offer a one-stop shop where we can more efficiently provide a high level of service now and into the future.” – Azam Khan, General Manager of Infrastructure Services, City of Cold Lake

environment, we have also had to navigate around military flight paths and meet the demands of the regulatory and approval processes, all the while maintaining our budget when the state of the economy is impacting the cost of everything from raw materials and supplies, to labour, and shipping.”

When the construction of the future public works operations centre was first announced, the response from those who will eventually be working there was extremely positive, and the excitement surrounding the new facility has only grown with time.

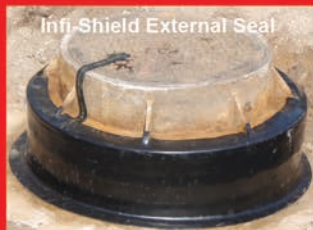
Khan has seen firsthand how the morale of staff is boosted when they are able to take

pride in the buildings where they work. His hope for the new facility is that it will become a Cold Lake landmark where not only City employees, but the public at large will be able to feel a greater sense of civic pride.

“This project is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Cold Lake to have a facility of this size and nature, and that’s important for both the people of Cold Lake and our public works staff who – too often – do not receive the recognition they deserve” says Khan. This building will be a complement to those people who work in public works, will improve services, and will give them a better place to work and operate within.”

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Leaking infrastructure has led to Pierceland having to dig up large sections of pavement, a costly and time-consuming endeavour.

Maintenance Challenges for the Village of Pierceland



Frost heaves are commonplace for many western Canadian towns, as are the costs of repairs.

By Tammy Landry,
Village of Pierceland

With a population of just 605, the Village of Pierceland is a small, urban community north of the Beaver River on Saskatchewan Highway 55.

The Village is in a remote area of the province, so shipping costs can be quite costly and local contractors are not readily available, which also leads to increased costs due to travel.

The Municipality is situated 20 kilometres from the Alberta border and is approximately a half-hour from the City of Cold Lake. Pierceland is, in many ways, a bedroom community to the city and this has made it very difficult for local businesses to survive because of the competition from the larger centre.

Pierceland is not alone, and many municipalities are struggling with the challenges of their current infrastructure hitting the end of its life expectancy. In fact, most municipalities are facing the same kinds of issues, such as deteriorating sidewalks, buildings, roads, and water/sewer lines. While there may be regular maintenance completed, as time goes on, there are unexpected issues that arise, and the cost to replace this infrastructure can prove to be overwhelming for the community due to it having a limited budget.

In the face of this challenge, Pierceland has implemented a three-year plan to upgrade and replace its aging infrastructure. Our operating budget in 2021 was just over \$1 million, which included our capital and operating expenditures, as well as amortization. What follows details how we are trying to maintain and upgrade our infrastructure within our limited resources.

Pierceland has a Class 1 Water Distribution system. The water plant is owned by SaskWater, but the distribution system is owned by the Village, which employs the operators. SaskWater also owns the lagoon, but the sewer lines and lift station are owned by the Village. The sewage collection system is also Class 1. The Village pays SaskWater for the water used by the residents, as well as fees for sewer.

Following our plan, we are purchasing 30 new water meters every year, seeing as ours have reached their expected life. Because we are doing this annually, it will take several years to

complete the replacement of all the metres, but our limited resources make it so that we simply cannot implement the change-over all at once.

Pierceland is growing and as the years have passed, people have filled in their ditches, which affects our drainage. Because of this we have commenced drainage improvements, with a third of the Village being completed each year on an annual basis. The community is surveying the proper grade/slope of current and proposed ditch improvements, and we are in the process of cleaning out the current ditches and replacing the culverts as needed to ensure proper drainage.

Some sidewalks have shifted due to frost heaves and the general deterioration has led to the Village replacing some of them. We have completed sections of them over the last two years and, as the budget permits, we hope to have more done this year. The heaved sections have been marked with florescent paint and ground down to – hopefully – last until they can be replaced.

We are fortunate that our main street Highway #21 is paved and, as such, its

maintenance is the responsibility of Sask Highways. The remainder of our roadwork network consists of gravel streets. The scheduled maintenance plan for our roadways is to gravel a third of the municipality annually, with deviation in those areas which may need more, or less, attention.

Needless to say, the winter of 2021-2022 left the Village with huge and unexpected snow removal costs, which will definitely have an impact on planned projects for 2022.

Some of the projects that arose last year that the community hadn't planned for, and needed to be addressed as soon as they were discovered, were:

- Pierceland had to replace four water lines last year due to leaks where the copper pipe was corroded. When attempting to isolate the water leaks, the Village discovered that numerous gate valves were inoperable and needed to be replaced. There has been an increase in leakage as the infrastructure is aging and, because of this, we had to dig up quite a large area of pavement. This was quite costly and a time-consuming project.

- During regular maintenance of the fire hydrants, we discovered that two required replacing, which was, again, another unbudgeted expense.

- Last spring, two frost heaves came to the surface and needed to be addressed for the safety of residents. The project consisted of digging out 48-inches of old fill and replacing it with 38-inches of compacted clay with 200-pounds of geotextile fabric placed in between the clay and the base gravel. It was then covered with 10-inches of compacted ¾ inch road gravel.

Overall, the long-term plan of any municipality is to be proactive instead of reactive to our infrastructure issues. This is difficult for most municipalities due to limited funds, but the Village of Pierceland is being proactive in planning the replacement and maintenance of our existing systems. ▸

Tammy Landry is the Administrator for the Village of Pierceland, SK. She is also the Public Works Operator for the community.

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Potable & Raw Water Projects in Saddle Hills County

By Mike Archer, Saddle Hills County

The current allocations of water licences in Alberta are coming under stress across the province, and continued and future economic growth will depend on substantial and reliable sources of water. Saddle Hills County has decided to do something about that by constructing a new raw water supply intake on the Peace River.

Situated in the Central Peace Region of northwestern Alberta along the southern banks of the Peace River, Saddle Hills is a rural county with a large and diverse oil and gas industry, as well as a major pulse crop producer – especially peas and canola.

The County's strategic location provides easy access to three major airports: Grande Prairie, Fort St. John, and Dawson Creek. All three airports offer commercial passenger services to centers such as Prince George, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver. Rail service is available nearby in the Village of Rycroft, the Hamlet of Woking, and the City of Dawson Creek.

The larger region includes the cities of Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek, and Fort St. John, as well as the municipalities of Fairview and the Central Peace Region. With a population of some 42,445 and a workforce of approximately 30,772, the region is home to a thriving oil and gas and forest industry with access to national and international markets.

With all these economic advantages, the County has been devoting substantial time and resources to adding water into the mix to better the lives of its current residents, as well as provide serious opportunities for economic growth through those industries which rely on secure sources of water to function.

Rural Potable Water Initiative

In Saddle Hills County, making sure that everybody has access to clean and safe water is a top priority. While citizens and businesses in the Hamlet of Woking have water and sewage services provided by the County, rural residents have (until recently) needed to rely on truck fill stations to supply themselves with potable water. Online potable water accounts allow users to have access to potable water 24/7 and manage their accounts online.

In 2015 the County began building a series of water treatment plants to provide truck fill opportunities for rural residents, so they don't need to drive to neighbouring communities for water. The County now has four plants supplying potable water to most residents.

The County has since invested in the necessary infrastructure to provide potable water delivered directly to rural properties in selected areas of the County. Initially, landowners were required to pay a \$10,000 connection fee but, in 2022, the County announced that it would remove this fee and reimburse all the customers who have paid to date. Residents still need to apply for rural water hook ups to help the County determine interest and the most beneficial and cost-effective way to proceed as we continue to build our rural potable water system.

Central Peace Water project (Phase 1 & 2)

In September of 2020, Saddle Hills County announced a project it had been working on since 2015 to provide a reliable source of water from the Peace River for the Central Peace Region.

*Peace River at Saddle Hills.
Photo courtesy of Gracie Dolen.*

The project includes the construction of a new raw water supply intake on the Peace River as well as approximately 36 kilometres of new raw water pipeline.

The \$40 million project includes \$16 million in funding from the Federal Government and \$20 million from the Provincial Government, with Saddle Hills County providing the balance. This project is made possible by the Alberta Government and the Government of Canada.

“We look forward to proceeding with this exciting project and its associated benefits to the long-term sustainability of the Central Peace Region,” said Saddle Hills County Reeve Alvin Hubert. “The project will provide a reliable source of water for residents, business and industry.”

It is expected that, once the tender is awarded, land is secured, a water diversion license has been obtained, and the required permits and approvals have been secured, the project will have an anticipated two-year construction schedule.

While the project will proceed over a decade or more, landowners who would like to take advantage of the opportunity to have their property hooked up to the County’s expanding rural potable water system can fill out a Rural Potable Water Servicing

Agreement on the County website or call Manager of Environmental Services Darren Lubeck at the County office. ▶

Mike Archer is the Communications Coordinator for Saddle Hills County.

Area Background

The Peace River Basin is part of the largest water basin area in Alberta spanning nearly one-third of the entire province. There is an annual discharge of 68.2 billion cubic metres (55,300,000 acre ft), as well as:

- An average of 2,110 m³/s (75,000 cu ft/s);
- A minimum of 344 m³/s (12,100 cu ft/s); and
- A maximum of 9,790 m³/s (346,000 cu ft/s).

Saddle Hills County, as we know it today, spans across 5,838.15 square kilometres, and is defined by its northern border along the Peace River.

The first two decades of the 20th century were vital in the development of the area. A combination of war veterans, European immigrants and the increasing need for inexpensive lands, and the continued construction of the railroads brought a flood of homesteaders to the County.

Settlement continued following the Second World War and, by the early 2000s, the development of means of extracting gas from the Montney Play led to significant growth in oil and gas.

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A River Runs Through It:

Upgrades to Lethbridge's Treatment Plant

By Paul Adair, Staff Writer

Lethbridge's drinking water may look and taste the same as always, but recent upgrades completed at the City's Water Treatment Plant in 2020 are today protecting the water quality of the Oldman River – an important waterway that has provided Lethbridge residents recreational opportunities, picturesque views, and drinking water for generations.

The upgrades to Lethbridge's Water Treatment Plant were a collaboration between the City of Lethbridge, the engineering firm MPE Engineering, and the manufacturer Fournier. Detailed design of the project commenced in 2016 and construction began in 2018. The completed upgrades eliminate the discharge of any water treatment residual streams to the river, meeting new requirements set by Alberta Environment and Parks.

Located across the river from the University of Lethbridge, the Water Treatment Plant processes a daily average of about 61 million litres of high-quality drinking water (with the capacity to treat up to 150 million litres of water per day) through a multi-step process. River water is first collected into a raw water well and pumped up to clarifiers. Coagulant and polymer are added to improve settling in the clarifiers, where most of the sediment and particles in the water is eliminated. Water then undergoes filtration, where additional particles are removed before moving on to additional treatment steps. The clarification and filtration treatment processes generate treatment residuals streams, including clarifier blowdown, filter backwash, and filter to waste. These residuals streams contain concentrated river particles and sediment removed from the river water, as well as some coagulant and polymer used to treat the water.

"We are increasingly aware of what we're discharging to the river and the impact that our water treatment processes may have on

Lethbridge's new sludge dewatering rotary presses.



The project team was able to give a face-lift to the aging 1956 water treatment plant.



our overall river water quality," says Water and Wastewater Engineer, Tyler Bennett. "Where these residuals streams used to be discharged back into the river, we now redirect them and provide additional treatment to ensure no impacts on river water quality."

The clarifier blowdown from the bottom of the clarifier is sent to the new residuals

handling facility, where it is thickened and pumped through rotary presses to dewater it and the thickened, clay-like sludge comes out at a rate of up to 1,000 kilograms per hour. It is then conveyed to a trailer and taken to the Waste and Recycling Centre for disposal. Water from the dewatering process, as well as filter backwash and filter to waste, is



Construction of the new equalization tank as part of the project.

sent to an equalization tank, from which the residuals streams are either recycled to the head of the water treatment plant for re-treatment or pumped to the wastewater treatment plant.

“The upgrades enable our plant to recycle treatment residual streams, reducing the total volume of water we draw from the Oldman River,” says Bennett.

The project reused several pieces of existing infrastructure that were part of an adjacent decommissioned water treatment plant to maximize utilization of existing facilities. MPE Engineering completed the design to repurpose two decommissioned clarifiers into gravity settling tanks and retrofitted an old filter gallery to house the new dewatering equipment. A new loadout building to convey the solids was also constructed.

Renovating sections of the legacy water treatment facility proved to be the largest challenge for the project team, which needed to navigate hidden underground infrastructure already present at the site.

“The first water treatment plant on our site was constructed over 100 years ago,” says Bennett. “Since that time the plant has undergone several expansions and upgrades, with the original plant long having been decommissioned and demolished and parts of later plants no longer being used. This meant there was buried and abandoned pipes and other infrastructure that we had to find ways to work around. MPE Engineering did a tremendous job with the facility condition

evaluation during design, so when we got to construction, we were already aware of many of the potential issues and the overall facility conditions. Their efforts upfront had a huge impact on the project’s ultimate success.”

In addition to the repurposing of the tankage, the project also required critical electrical system upgrades that necessitated the facility be shut down for short intervals to complete the work. The required shutdowns were done in the winter months when the demand for water was lowest.

“We conducted detailed planning meetings with the consultant, the contractor, and the Water Treatment Plant staff ahead of time to ensure the risks were mitigated and that there would be no effect to the supply of potable water to residents into the city,” says Bennett. “We planned the work so it would be completed in the early winter, avoiding the spring and summer when demands are typically high. Because of the level of collaboration between all parties, the electrical upgrades were completed without any impact to the level of service we deliver to our customers.”

The work at Lethbridge’s Water Treatment Plant was based on minimizing the impact to the environment, and the reuse and upgrade of the existing facilities was part of the city’s commitment to sustainability.

“This project has breathed new life into the into parts of the facility that weren’t being operated anymore,” says Bennett. “One of the most exciting things was seeing how the engineering firm and contractor were able to overhaul the old, 1956 water treatment plant, rather than tearing it down and building new. It’s been incredible to see the transformation the facility has undergone.”

More information, including videos, on the Water Treatment Plant is available here: <https://www.lethbridge.ca/living-here/water-wastewater/Pages/How-we-treat-our-water.aspx>

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Resilient & Winter-Ready at the 2022 Mid Canada Snow Conference & Trade Show

By Randy Pitz, CMC, President, Manitoba Chapter CPWA

The winter of 2021-22 was one for the record books in most Western Canadian provinces. Historical snowfall amounts combined with low temperatures stressed both snow clearing and ice control efforts across many locations and communities.

According to Wilf Nixon, President of the Professional Snowfighters Association, the two major issues to be concerned about these

days in regard to snow clearing, are personnel and equipment. Between an aging workforce and COVID-19, the current pool of skilled equipment operators is becoming even harder to replace. It can also be very difficult to attract new qualified operators. This is why it is so important to keep our staff healthy and focused on the tasks they perform.

The same goes for equipment. Supply chain issues have affected both new

equipment purchases and parts and supplies for existing equipment. New equipment orders are taking much longer to fill, and existing equipment parts and supplies have also been impacted, which makes it more challenging to keep units on the road while also increasing downtime.

Let's face it, our staff and equipment resources took a beating over the last few years. But there is a way to help get a better handle on both issues by attending the 2022 Mid Canada Snow Conference and Trade Show and become more *Ready and Resilient* – just like the National Public Works Week (NPWW) theme instructed! The 2022 Mid Canada Snow Conference and Trade Show will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba October 27-28 at the Victoria Inn. Sessions will include:


- Weather Forecasting, De-icing;
- Salt SMART;
- Emergency Winter Preparedness;
- Event Management: Mapping & Tracking;
- How Snow & Ice Control Affects Owners Claims & Risk;
- Communicating Snow & Ice Control;
- Shift Work and Personal Health; and
- Panel discussions on Contracts and Equipment.


The Trade Show will have exhibitors showing the latest innovations in equipment, supplies, and technology to assist you in achieving the levels of service your community has come to expect.

Our keynote speaker will be Deri Latimer, an expert in positive possibilities for people. A TEDx Speaker, author, and

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organizational consultant, Deri combines a business degree with over 20 years of experience engaging audiences across every sector. Turning personal tragedy into purposeful action, she transforms research in neuroscience, positive psychology, and human performance to deliver a message that is loaded with simplicity and practical application. One of fewer than 17 per cent of speakers globally who hold the designation of CSP (Certified Speaking

Professional), Deri inspires us all to create happy, healthy, humane places for people to work and live!

Whether it's hosting a client's 101st birthday or MCing a biker initiation, Big Daddy Tazz is one of the most sought-after comedians working today. His unique voice and off-the-cuff style brings the audience together and makes them feel as though they are part of his family sitting around the kitchen table, playing cribbage.

Come down and test your skills at the Rodeo! The Rodeo competition demonstrates accuracy, skill, proficiency, and good sportsmanship in a supportive and relaxed atmosphere. Participants are timed from the starting line of the course until they dismount at the finish line, and then scored on how accurately they negotiated the various obstacles in the course.

The CPWA Manitoba Chapter invites you to attend in October 2022! More information can be found at <http://manitoba.cpwa.net>. ▶

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Compliance, Liability, and Due Diligence: More Than Just Words When Talking Water

By Brian Shul, ATAP Infrastructure Management Ltd.

Compliance, liability, and due diligence are catch phrases for water and wastewater plants because of the responsibility we have in providing safe drinking water and responsible environmental services. But keeping our employees safe and committed is also vital to our industry as it's become essential for retention in this everchanging market for employees. Because of this, ensuring recognized training is needed to meet the OH&S requirements. (Please keep in mind that this article was written to refer to your own Provincial OH&S Regulations).

Whatever your role is, whether a plant manager with several employees or a one-person show, responsibility is part of your duties, both for preventing health dangers to the public but also protecting your employees.

The following are examples of what you need to consider at your facilities.

Preventative maintenance is a matter of necessity, not convenience

If equipment breaks it could be unsafe and your plant may be down for some

time. Setting up a preventative maintenance schedule takes good planning, organization, and commitment. Maintenance must have safety as part of the mix. Ensuring a proper Lock Out/Tag Out program for piping and electrical will help with the process. Also make sure that all guardrails are anchored

and in place to prevent falls. Having non-slip walking surfaces and a slip-resistant footwear requirement will help minimize slips or falls from the same level surface.

There are confined spaces and there are requirements that come with it

What exactly is a confined space? In general terms, it is a place which is substantially enclosed (not completely) and where serious injury can occur from hazardous substances or conditions within the space or nearby (lack of oxygen, hazardous gases, etc.).

You may have seen the articles of workers going to help save a worker in a confined space, where they are also overcome by the poisonous gases. Do you know what to do? Of course, first refer to your OH&S Regulations. All sites need to have determined and labelled confined spaces, tested



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the oxygen or gas levels to know the hazards, received the necessary training, created a plan (watch and rescue), secured the space, used a permit system to control who has access, and have regularly reviewed the program.

Chemical handling is a regular part of the job

Let's first talk about training... is everyone trained in the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)? This type of program is usually offered at decreased cost by many companies, including at provincial safety associations. Take an inventory of all your controlled products at your facility then prepare to do some research to get the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each product. Have a MSDS library at your site, with easy access or online (if everyone has access to the online library). This will help with understanding how to handle it safely and use the required PPE, emergency procedures, spill kits, disposal requirements, etc.

Make sure everyone is covered

External contractors have an obligation to carry Liability Insurance and provide a WCB Clearance letter from their respective province. Confirm these documents to ensure that your contractors have the proper coverage.

Hearing conservation is a program that may be forgotten about

Check in your province if a hearing conservation program is mandatory. Has noise monitoring been conducted at your operations? Have your workers had a regular audiometric test? Implement safety controls and conduct and document training. Workers around loud environments, who may have sustained hearing loss, can be a compensable claim.

Have a plan in place

An Emergency Response Plan is required for safe evacuation, or relocation to safety, when an emergency takes place such as a fire, explosion, severe weather, utility failure, etc. Are all workers accounted for? Have all evacuated safely? What is the emergency procedure for the specific event that took place? This must be part of any plant, and part of onboarding new workers and regular training.

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Whatever your role is, whether a plant manager with several employees or a one-person show, responsibility is part of your duties, both for preventing health dangers to the public but also protecting your employees.

Inspect your surroundings

Regular site inspections are important to determine gaps and show that corrective actions have taken place. Have a regular schedule and various workers to participate with fresh eyes. When possible, informal inspections should take place routinely and issues fixed immediately. Scheduled inspections that are documented and are part of your safety program help to establish and build a culture of safety.


These are just some highlights to be aware of, and there are many more. Reach out to ensure that you are compliant, to reduce your liability, and feel good that you did your due diligence!

Stay well and be safe! ▶

Brian Shul, NCSO OHSP, is the Training Manager at ATAP Infrastructure Management Ltd. He has an extensive history in compliance, training, OHS, and is a COR instructor and auditor.

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WinterFlex is the perfect candidate for a blade that safely removes snow from decorative pavement, and they are highly effective in slushy or light, fluffy snow.

Clearing the Roads With WinterFlex

By Nate Kallay, Winter Equipment Company

Keeping the roadways clear of ice and snow is an important job for Canada's Public Works Department to ensure driver safety on the roads. Relying on inefficient snowplow blades leads to longer snowplowing times and having blades that will ultimately fail. Not only do snowplow drivers have an important role in snow removal efforts, but the snowplow and its blades play a critical role in the process. With frequent use, the blades can wear down quickly and often require replacement.

It's important to ensure that your rubber blades have a durometer level of at least 60 and a PSI (pounds per square inch) of at least 2,000. For reference, car tires typically have a durometer of 70. If your rubber blades don't meet those requirements, premature wear, breakage, and roll-under is inevitable.

Winter Equipment is a leader in premium cutting edges and innovative wear parts for the snow removal and road maintenance equipment industry and has 30 years of experience in providing solutions to the industry. Winter has designed a product that makes changing rubber blades easier and provides longer wear,

reduces downtime, and provides value with longer life.

The WinterFlex Rubber Blade System is a patented product developed by Winter Equipment to make installation easier. The unique, reversible design of the WinterFlex rubber cutting edges provides two positive wear edges for extending blade usage, which reduces material waste. The flat cutting-edge design eliminates the need for the blade to 'relax' for better performance.

Rubber snowplow blades have many advantages. Their flexibility makes them the perfect candidate for a blade that safely removes snow from decorative pavement, and they are highly effective in slushy or light, fluffy snow.

The WinterFlex system features a unique backer/adaptor blade that directly bolts to the plow's moldboard with a line of bushing welded across the bottom of it. The rubber blade is punched



WinterFlex rubber cutting edge material features three layers of styrene-butadiene rubber, vulcanized with two layers of high-performance synthetic fabric sheets for extended wear, strength and durability.

to hang on those bushings, then the rubber blade is secured to the adapter blade with a clamp bar that is bolted to the adapter blade through the bushing. When the rubber blade is worn down, the driver will hear the back blade touching the road, which means it's time to reverse the blade. Simply, take the plow back to the garage and remove the bolts holding the clamp bar over the rubber blade. Then, you can either flip over the existing rubber edge and use the opposite end to continue plowing or you can hang a new piece of rubber over the bushings. Lastly, re-secure the clamp bar to hold the rubber on the bushings and off you go.

This installation process only requires one person to safely accomplish the task.

The rubber edges are segmented in four, five, and six-inch lengths so that they are easier to handle than traditional full-length blades. They can come pre-punched or slotted so that you can custom-fit to the application you desire.

WinterFlex rubber cutting edge material features three layers of styrene-butadiene rubber, vulcanized with two layers of high-performance synthetic fabric sheets for extended wear, strength and durability. The material is available at 1.5-inches thick and either 8-inches or 10-inches wide. Rubber cutting edges are available in full length or sectional length options ranging from two to six-feet for easy installation. The lengths can be punched or slotted, if required, to fit a variety of equipment and to provide simple adjustments.

With the challenges of snow removal in western Canada, you want a hassle-free winter and equipment you can rely on. That's why purchasing the right tools for the job is important, especially when it comes to the blades on your snowplow. If you don't have the right tools for the job, you risk damaging the road surfaces and you will need to replace your blades frequently. ▀

Nate Kallay is the director of sales and marketing for Winter Equipment, a trusted company with over 30 years of experience providing solutions to the industry. With more than 14 years of sales, operations, and marketing experience for Winter, Kallay works on day-to-day leadership of the sales and marketing team.

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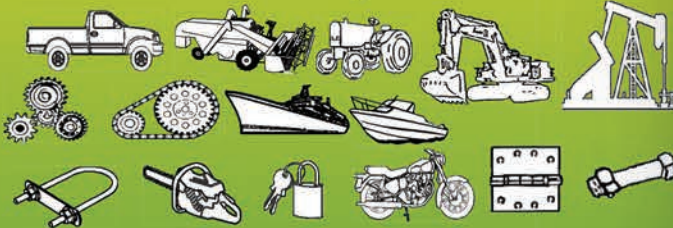
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RUST DESTROYER is a **PATENTED** primer engineered to be applied directly over rusted metal, rusted painted metal, bare metal, galvanized metal, aluminum, tin and core tan steel. It converts active rust to a passive form on contact. An absorbing action in the primer film simultaneously raises the rust from the surface and envelops all converted crystals in the primer, eliminating exposure to oxygen and moisture, which will prevent further rusting. It forms a tough shield that adheres to all paints and provides a continuous protective layer.

- Heat resistant up to **427°C (800°F)**
- Apply directly over rust • No sand blasting
- No scraping to bare metal • Works with any top coat paint
- No washing before or after application
- No sanding glossy finishes to improve adhesion



Approx. Can Coverage

Stock #	Size	Can Coverage
73013	340 g Aerosol (6 / cs.)	- 15 sq. ft.
73005	18.9 L Pail Qty. 1	- 1500 sq. ft.



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