

## Event recap: AWWOA 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Water Week Conference



Conference delegates at the Thursday morning/afternoon Trade Show.

For three days in November, water and wastewater professionals from across Alberta gathered at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in West Edmonton to learn about new trends and technologies within the water industry. The event, held on November 13-15, 2019 served as an opportunity for operators to stay informed about current practices within the province while also engaging with fellow operators, government officials, consultants and suppliers.

Over 200 delegates and 67 suppliers participated in the Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators Association's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Water Week Conference. Attendees came from major city centers including Edmonton and Red

Deer to smaller towns and villages including the Town of Provost and the Village of Heisler.

Pre-Conference Workshops kicked off the week on Wednesday morning with topics ranging from operator training to source water protection and pipe cleaning. All three were well-attended with *The Science of Pipe Cleaning*, presented by Ken Billingham of KEG Technologies Inc. as the most popular.

The official conference opening began with a Wednesday morning session from John Vann Ham of Alberta Innovates on the [Water Innovation Program](#). He focused specifically on projects of interest to Alberta's water and wastewater operators.

One of the most well-attended sessions of the week was a presentation from Alberta Environment and Parks on the [Lead Guidance Document](#). After a change from Health Canada, the maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) for lead was lowered and the point of compliance for lead was changed to the customer's tap. The presentation discussed how these changes would affect water facility owners and operators. Delegates were also given the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session.



Lyndon Gyurek and Debra Long from Alberta Environment & Parks outlining the new Lead Guidance Document.

Technical sessions ran on Wednesday and Thursday with topics including industrial source control, water sampling, media filtration and water distribution systems.

### **A small sample of sessions included:**

- *EPCOR's Industrial Source Control Program* – Dave Johnston & Brandy McKay, EPCOR Water Services Inc.
- *Operations Problem Solving: Experiences and Lessons Learned* – Harry Chan, Capital H2O Systems and Abu Chowdhury, Lac La Biche County

- *On-Site Rapid Testing of Water Samples for E. Coli and Total Coliform* – Amirreza Sohrabi, Roshan Water Solutions

The Trade Show took place on Thursday morning and afternoon where delegates were able to interact with 67 exhibitors. Prizes were also awarded to participants of a Trade Show Game. Richard Hammond from EPCOR was the winner of the grand prize: a one-night stay at the Double Tree and dinner theatre tickets courtesy of the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel.



Conference delegates participating in the Friday Source Water Protection Workshop.

The week concluded on Friday morning with another well-attended session, *The Value of Source Water – Alberta Perspectives*.

Presenters included:

- Phil Boehme, Alberta Environment & Parks
- Mike Christensen, EPCOR
- Harpreet Sandhu, The City of Calgary
- Adam Norris from, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
- Leah Kongsrude, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

#### Networking Events & Conference Sponsors:

A special thank you to the sponsors. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Water Week Conference would not have been possible without their support.

- Young Professionals Pub Night: [Algae Control Canada](#)
- Casino Night: [Biomaxx Environmental](#)
- Principal Partner: [AEC Industrial Solutions Ltd.](#)
- Lunch & Coffee Break Sponsor: [EPCOR](#)

The AWWOA will be hosting the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Operators Seminar in Banff, AB on March 9-13, 2020. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Water Week Conference will be moving to November 18-20, 2020.

#### About the AWWOA



AWWOA Staff and Executive Board members.

The [Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association](#) is a member-run source for expert information and training based in Edmonton, Alberta that provides the essentials in education, networking, promotion and the ongoing support that operators need to proudly supply Alberta communities with safe drinking water and a protected environment.

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