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INSIDE:

- ACWWA Award Winners at ACE 2024
- The Cost of Doing Nothing



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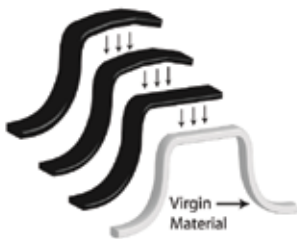
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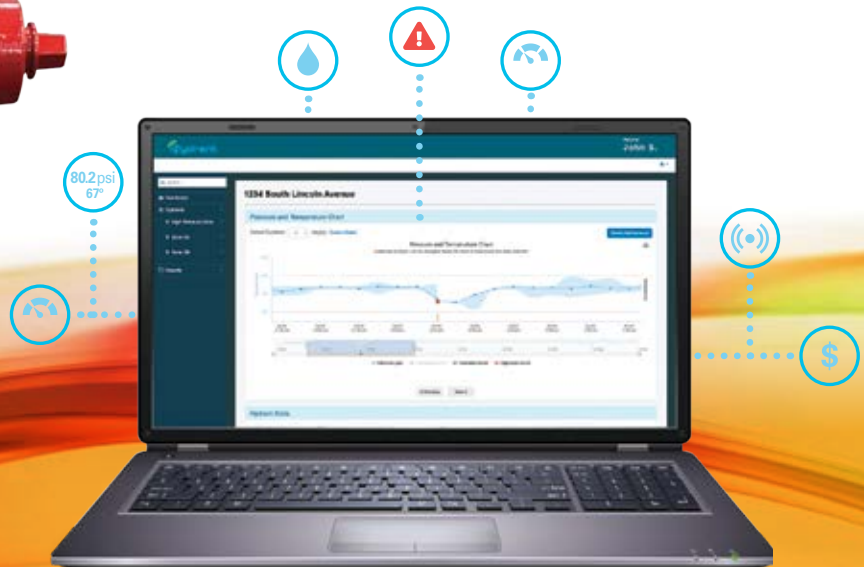


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TABLE of CONTENTS

FEATURES

ACWWA Award Winners at ACE 2024	18
Best Tasting Tap Water in North America Title Stays in Atlantic Canada	19
Update from the Emerging Leaders Committee	21
Thank You ALL!	22
Back to Fundamentals: The Cost of Doing Nothing	29



DEPARTMENTS

Message From the Chair	6
WEF Delegate's Report	8
AWWA Director's Report	10
Government Relations Director's Report	12
Membership Corner	14
ABEA News	16
News & Notes	25
Advertiser Product & Service Centre	30



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On the cover:
View of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, from the sea. | dreamstime.com





Positive changes

I hope that everyone had a great summer and had some time to unwind from work with family and friends and enjoy the beautiful weather. With summer ending, we prepared for this year's ACWWA Annual Conference in Saint John, New Brunswick on September 22 to 24. This was our local association's annual conference and tradeshow, which provides the opportunity to learn about the latest technology and developments in the water and wastewater industry within our region. The conference committee led by Greg McCann assembled a great program incorporating feedback received from last year's conference, to make some changes to improve this year's conference. There were more presentations from municipalities highlighting their knowledge and experience operating their individual water or wastewater systems, which should be of interest to all operators. In addition, the schedule for the technical

"We feel that these changes improved your experience at the conference and maximized knowledge sharing opportunities."

program was developed to group sessions of common themes to avoid movement between rooms and any overlap of similar topics. We feel that these changes improved your experience at the conference and maximized knowledge sharing opportunities.

During the conference, my term as ACWWA Chair ended and John Lam will assume the role of Chair. Since joining the ACWWA Executive Board in 2019, I have seen numerous positive changes to our association that resulted from the COVID pandemic. During this time, we successfully switched to offer more online or virtual course offerings, which expanded our educational opportunities to all operators across the four Atlantic provinces. We also reviewed and updated components of our association's strategic plan, and goals and objectives to align with our future initiatives. While we may have lost some of our momentum and it has taken some time to get back to normal, we emerged from this period in a strong position to support our membership for years to come.

The strength of our association comes from the involvement of our members – which was evident at the 2024 AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) in Anaheim, CA, where three of our members were recognized with awards. Our Executive Director Clara Shea was awarded the Jack Hoffbuhr award for her outstanding performance and accomplishments for an AWWA section. Lindsay Anderson was awarded the 5 Under 35 – Outstanding Young Professional (YP) award for her outstanding service to the section's YP (aka Emerging Leaders) programs. The City of Charlottetown won the Best of the Best water taste test, making it the second year in a row a municipality from Atlantic Canada won this award. I would like to congratulate all the winners for receiving their awards and thank them for their service and dedication to our association.

Finally, I would like to thank Clara Shea and all members of the ACWWA Board for the encouragement and support they offered me during my term as ACWWA Chair. I wish John Lam all the success during his term as ACWWA Chair. 🙏

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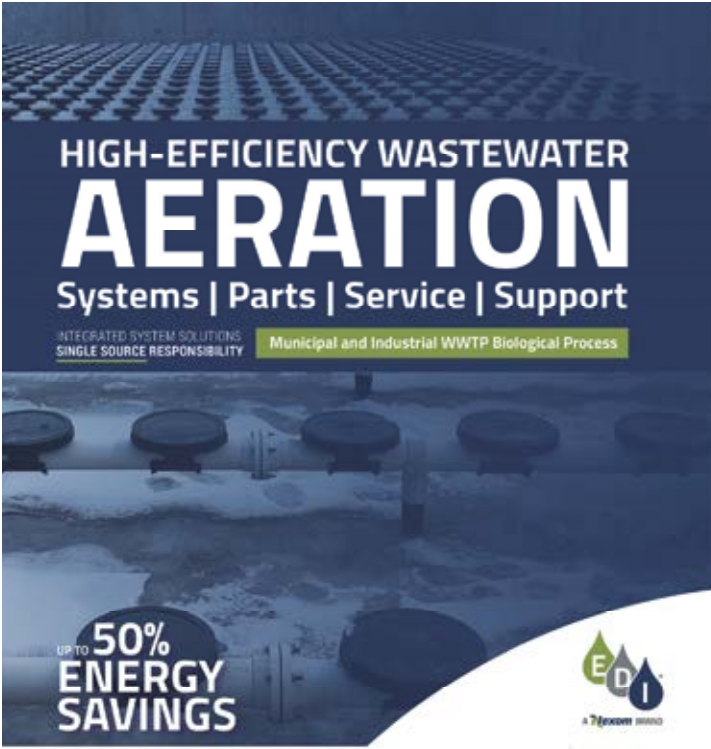
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The WEF community

I look forward to the *Go With The Flow* quarterly magazine landing on my desk. I will grab a coffee and get caught up on all the Directors' reports and all the other interesting topics shared by our membership. Thank you to all the sponsors that provide advertisements to help the ACWWA maintain such a great magazine. I would also like to commend our Magazine Editor, Katherine MacCaull kmaccaull@dillon.ca, for doing such a great job each edition. It is not an easy task keeping all the contributors on schedule to meet the publishing deadline.

And what a great job the ACWWA Conference Committee did hosting it in Fredericton the last week of September. They worked tirelessly to ensure we all had a memorable experience. The line-up of presenters was top notch as usual, the tradeshow distributors, suppliers, and vendors did not disappoint. The booth spaces were quickly sold out again... thanks to the ABEA for always doing an outstanding job organizing this event each year.

I trust you were able to make connections with your colleagues as well as make some new friends and business connections. The Emerging Leaders did a great job with the Water For People fundraisers including the Fun Run/Walk. I trust many of you took time to attend the Emerging Leaders social event – and congratulations to all the award recipients.

By the time you are reading this, you might be on your way to or from WEFTEC in New Orleans. Are you attending the Canadian Ice Breaker with all the other Canadians on October 6? Perhaps we would have the chance to meet there.

Board of Trustees 2023–24

The current WEF Board of Trustees 2023–24 are below. There will be some new faces announced at WEFTEC the week of October 7 in New Orleans. We were fortunate to have Tracy Ekola as our WEF Representative at our ACWWA conference this year.



2023–24 WEF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BACK ROW, L-R: Stephen Sanders, Corey Williams, Diego Rosso, Pat Nichols.
 MIDDLE ROW, L-R: Christine Volkay-Hilditch, Keith L. Hobson, Howard Carter, Janet Hurley Cann.
 FRONT ROW, L-R: Kalpna Solanki, Ifetayo Venner, Aimeé R. Killeen, Tracy Ekola.

WEFMAX 2024 Committee Chair's report

Dave Galbraith



New & improved for 2024:

- Updated Host Responsibilities/Planning Documentation on WEF.org
- WEFMAX Logo (matching the WEF Strategic Plan Colours)
- WEFMAX PPT slide deck
- WEFMAX Pin
- WEFMAX Sticker
- WEFMAX T-Shirt (fundraiser to sponsor Delegates at Large to attend)
- Map of USA & Canada (where are you from?)
- Video Montage of 10 years of Past WEFMAX's (by Lance Manabe)
- PPT: 50 Past Presidents & 17 H.O.D. Speakers (by Leigh Thomas)

“WEFMAX gives us the opportunity to Learn Something New; Make New Friends; Create Some Memories; and Have Some Fun.”

Summary:

- 193 attended (in-person) from 36 MAs
 - 44% were a first-time attendee
 - Evaluations
 - 87 Net Promotor Score
 - Alexandria, VA – April 10–12, Driving Collaboration and Engagement – 62
 - Park City, Utah – May 15–17, Putting the WE in WEF – Investing in the Potential of Your Membership – 70
 - St. Petersburg, Florida – May 29–31, Leadership of the Future, “YPs & Emerging Leaders” – 61
 - Virtual WEFMAX – Aug 1, 2024, “Best of the Best” from Each In-Person Event – 50
- WEFMAX gives us the opportunity to Learn Something New; Make New Friends; Create Some Memories; and Have Some Fun.

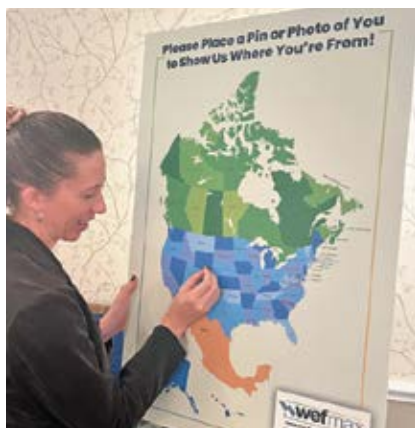
Join a committee!

Finally, if you would like to be more involved, WEF members can join a WEF committee, now known as a WEF “Community.” Join **WEFunity** with your computer, at <https://community.wef.org/page/welcome> or you can download the app on your smartphone. All you need to do is provide a username and a password for WEF. Ask to join a WEF Community, and you are in.

There are many communities under each heading:

- Biosolids Resource Recovery (9)
- Collection Systems and Conveyance (5)
- Global Water Innovation (1)
- Government and Regulatory Affairs (5)

Other information is available at <https://wef.org>.



Y'all came from everywhere, eh!

Alexandria, VA



Park City, UT



St. Petersburg, FL





Connecting through AWWA events

I hope everyone had a great summer and you were able to enjoy time with your family and friends.

ACE24 in Anaheim was a success and exceeded AWWA's attendance goals for the conference. During the conference, Cheryl Porter from the Michigan Section became the next AWWA President at the gavel passing ceremony, succeeding Pat Kerr. Planning is already underway for ACE25 in Denver, Colorado from June 8 to 11, 2025.

In recent years, AWWA had committed to hosting ACE in Canada with the latest event in Toronto in 2023. Due to various factors and feedback received, AWWA made the difficult decision to relocate ACE29 from Toronto to Philadelphia. AWWA remains committed to enhancing value for its Canadian Sections and members, as well as fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing within the larger Canadian water community. Within the next five years, the Water Quality Technology Conference (WQTC) will be hosted in Canada along with the possibility of hosting other smaller specialty conferences.

Fredericton recently hosted the ACWWA Annual Conference from September 22 to 24, 2024. It has been a while since the conference was in Fredericton. As always, this is our Section's premier event. This year, Paul Rush from the New York Section and the current Chair of the Water Research Foundation was our visiting dignitary from AWWA.

As I noted in my previous article in *Go With The Flow*, I am the Canadian Affairs Committee's representative on the *Journal AWWA* Advisory Board and I am always seeking Canadian content for the journal. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, in writing an article for the journal about an interesting project or water-related initiative, please reach out to discuss the process for submitting an article.

Looking ahead, I will be participating in AWWA's Region I Regional Meeting of Section Officers on October 17 and 18, 2024, the AWWA Canadian Affairs Committee Meeting on November 19, and attending the AWWA Winter Board Meeting in mid-January 2025. 🌊



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Acting as your liaison

The role of government relations director includes providing liaison to the ACWWA Board of Directors from both the ACWWA Government Affairs Committee (GAC) and the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Board.

Government Affairs Committee

The Government Affairs Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to promote cooperation between the ACWWA and various levels of government by providing advice to the ACWWA Board and members regarding the status and implications of various legislative and regulatory matters.

In August, the draft objective of 30 nanograms (ng) per litre (L) for the sum of total per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) detected in drinking water was published.

This objective replaces current guidelines that were finalized in 2018 and can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/objective-drinking-water-quality-per-polyfluoroalkyl-substances/objective-for-canadian-drinking-water-quality-en-final.pdf>.

At future meetings, the Committee will be discussing how these objectives will be implemented in our four Atlantic provinces.

CWWA activities

The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) continues to be active keeping members informed on national issues, facilitating national dialogue and information sharing, and advocating for the water and wastewater sector on the national and international scene.

Recent and upcoming events include:

Window on Ottawa – June 19, 26 & July 10, 17

The Window on Ottawa had another successful run offering a spotlight on federal activities related to all aspects of water and wastewater management. Session topics included drinking water, cybersecurity, the Canadian benchmark initiative, and the Canada Infrastructure Bank.

IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 2024 – Toronto, August 11-15

The 2024 IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition (WWCE) took place in the first-class facilities of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This is one of the greatest global water events, and it was hosted here in North America by CWWA and CAWQ, with the support of WEF and AWWA. The IWA WWCE 2024 presented a unique opportunity to profile your organization and showcase your technologies, solutions, and expertise.

National Water and Wastewater Conference 2024 – Winnipeg, November 3-6

This annual conference offers a wide-ranging technical program covering almost all aspects of the municipal water sector, while offering the best networking environment for Canada's water leaders. As the national conference for the water utility sector, this event offers a great opportunity for sponsorship and exhibiting your products and services to Canada's most senior water managers.



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Celebrating 10 years of investing in the water workforce

Did you know that ACWWA/AWWA can help you achieve your training or education goals by providing you a grant through the water equation program with the ONE AWWA Operator scholarship?

AWWA's Water Equation (<https://www.awwa.org/water-equation>) is celebrating 10 years of providing scholarships and leadership funding to water professionals, as well as providing funding to Community Engineering Corps for projects in the USA.

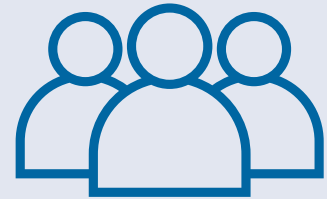
In the past 10 years, the impact of the philanthropy on AWWA members in North America has exceeded our expectations.

- \$300,000 awarded to water and wastewater operators for continuing education.
- \$150,000 to young professionals attending the YP Summit, AWWA YP Leader Day, Water Smart Innovations & Water Quality Technology conferences, and DC Fly-In.

- \$43,000 to 22 STEAM education programs impacting over 1,200 families.
- \$140,000 to Community Engineering Corps for 60 projects in 29 states, impacting over 55,000 people.
- \$1.6 million in academic scholarships to students attending colleges and universities in North America, 98% of whom have remained in the water community. Applications can be found at acwwa.ca/committees/scholarships. 

Welcome to the following new members:

Name	Organization	Membership
David Smith	Agnico Eagle	AWWA
Emalie Hayes	Dalhousie University Library	AWWA
Isa Prevost-Aubin	North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council	AWWA
Brian Burden	Andritz	AWWA
Suchandan Bernal	Halifax Regional Water Commission	AWWA
Ian Fogan	City of Saint John Water & Sewerage Services	AWWA
Josh De Young	Halifax Regional Water Commission	AWWA
Jean-Luc Cormier	Ville De Caraquet	AWWA
Manuela Chavarro	UNB	AWWA
Abigail Reddick	M.U.N.	AWWA
Ellen Fraser	UPEI	AWWA
Aaron Boudreau	Halifax Regional Water Commission	AWWA
Jeff Borden	Town of Berwick	AWWA
Mathieu Aresenault	Town of Beaurivage	AWWA
John (Jack) Campbell	City of Saint John Water & Sewerage Services	AWWA
Anita Larbi	Dalhousie University	AWWA
Emma LeBlanc	Veolia Water Moncton	AWWA
Paul Woodhouse	City of Saint John	WEF
Attiq Rehman	RPC	WEF
Mike Gray	City of Saint John	WEF
Abigail Reddick	Memorial University	WEF
Ellen Fraser	University of Prince Edward Island	WEF
Manuela Chavarro	CBCL	WEF
Ryan Swinamer	Dalhousie University	WEF



As of August 19, 2024

Total AWWA active members: **434**
 Total AWWA late members: **29**
 Total active WEF members: **112**
 Total WEF late members: **16**



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We appreciate you

We want to say Thank You! to all our 66 ABEA members for their continued support – without you we could not support the ACWWA in the manner we do.

The 2024 ACWWA Conference is in the books, and we are pleased to report it was a great success.

The ABEA are large supporters of the ACWWA Conference – hosting the golf tournament, the Monday evening

hospitality venue, and the Tuesday Trade Show.

We hope our many scholarship recipients are back in the swing of things and making good use of their funds.

It is never too early to start planning for your graduates. The ABEA continues to offer four x **\$1,000 academic scholarships** annually to deserving individuals who meet the application criteria (visit www.ABEA.biz).

Education is an ongoing process, and our membership continue to find ways to assist their customers with creative delivery methods to keep them informed of changes in the industry. If you have a need, please feel free to reach out. We are certain that we have something to meet your needs on an individual basis, or we can create a program in conjunction with the ACWWA Education Team.

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ACWWA award winners at ACE 2024

ACWWA was well represented at the awards ceremony as part of the opening session at ACE in Anaheim this past June.

Lindsay Anderson, ACWWA Technical Director, was part of AWWA's 2024 5 Under 35 Award winners. The award recognizes and honours young professional members of AWWA who have demonstrated outstanding service to their Section through leadership and active participation in AWWA YP programs.

Clara Shea, ACWWA Executive Director, was awarded the Jack W. Hoffbuhr Award. The award is to honour the legacy of Jack Hoffbuhr (retired AWWA Executive Director) by recognizing outstanding performance and accomplishments by a Section professional staff member.

The City of Charlottetown was the winner of the "Best of the Best" water taste test. The competition is comprised of the regional AWWA Section winners and a panel of esteemed judges rates each water sample on its flavour characteristics. The City's win brings the trophy back to Atlantic Canada for a second year.

Congratulations to Lindsay, Clara, and the City of Charlottetown! 🍷



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Best tasting tap water in North America title stays in Atlantic Canada

By Richard MacEwen, City of Charlottetown, PEI

Water utilities provide clean drinking water to their residents and look for little more praise and gratitude than an on-time bill payment. Utilities are happy to avoid the spotlight. However, there is one competition that utilities aim to win each year: the 'Best of the Best' Water Taste Test. All utilities recognize that they produce a great product, making it difficult to win the title. Charlottetown had a third-place finish in the Atlantic Competition many years ago, and ever since then, we have been trying to improve. While we cannot be certain of the winning recipe, we would like to thank last year's winner, the City of Miramichi, for providing some insight into their winning strategy. We borrowed from their playbook and completed some internal sampling.

Charlottetown has four wellfields. We liked the idea of considering our supplies similarly to the great distilleries of Scotland with their single malt scotches. We had our operators select the best-tasting wellfield source and submitted a representative sample from the distribution system serviced by that wellfield. On our home turf at the ACWWA Conference in Charlottetown in 2023, we won the 'Best of the Best' Water Taste Test for Atlantic Canada. Charlottetown was on its way to the big leagues. We were going to compete at the AWWA competition in Anaheim, California, with the knowledge that we had defeated last year's champions, the City of Miramichi.

The day of the AWWA competition arrived, and thankfully, enough of our bottles survived the journey to enter the 'Best of the Best' Water Taste Test Competition. The preliminary round finished, and they announced the



top six moving on to the final round. Charlottetown, PEI, Canada, was included in the top six and the only entry from Canada. We were excited, cautiously optimistic, and looked for ways to keep our expectations in check. We recognized that we were at least going home with the self-proclaimed Best Tasting Tap Water in Canada for 2024.

The final round of tasting was completed, and they began by announcing third place, which went to Northeast Sammamish Water District, Washington State. Then, second place went to New Jersey American Water, New Jersey. So, we were either the best in Canada or the winner of the AWWA competition. They announced the winner as the City of Charlottetown, PEI, Canada. We were incredibly excited to win. The Stanley Cup of the Water Industry was headed back to Atlantic Canada once again in 2024. We were very pleased to have won and look forward to competing again amongst all the great-tasting tap water produced in Atlantic Canada.

All the best to those beginning the journey to the title of the Best of the Best this year. Our advice to this year's Section winner is to go above and beyond with wrapping your bottles for the journey to the AWWA competition. We certainly want to see Atlantic Canada represented again at the AWWA Competition in 2025. 🍷

“The Stanley Cup of the Water Industry was headed back to Atlantic Canada once again in 2024.”





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UPDATE FROM THE EMERGING LEADERS COMMITTEE

We hope you were able to join us for the Emerging Leader events at the 2024 ACWWA Conference! All conference attendees were welcome to join us at the Emerging Leaders Networking Event & Mixer at The Joyce. Our fundraising events included the Water For People Fun Run/Walk on September 23, and the Water For People Silent Auction throughout the conference.

2024 Well Tapped event for Water For People

Our most recent fundraising event, the 2024 Well Tapped fundraising event at Garrison Seaport Market, was a success – fundraising a total of \$340 for Water For People! Keep an eye out on ACWWA's social media pages for our next event! [🔗](#)



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THANK YOU ALL!

FROM GREG MCCANN

I can't believe how quickly the past year went. In that time we left the hospitality of Charlottetown and ventured to Fredericton to gather again. "Water" relief to get here.

I have had the opportunity in my life to be a part of some great teams and the organizing committee of the 2024 ACWWA annual conference was one of them. The excitement and ability to make things happen with this group was the cream that rose to the top. Thank you, team! I'm amazed at their detail and drive to plan and organize the ABEA Golf event, ABEA Tradeshow, ABEA Hospitality Night,

Emerging Leaders Social, Think Tank Trivia, tours, Tuesday Night Social, and the second-to-none technical program. I am proud of the work this group was able to do.

Thank you to the sponsors – without their support, this conference would not be viable. The tradeshow at the annual conference is always enlightening and a worthwhile event. Their commitment to our group spurs innovative conversations and problem solving.

Thank you to ACWWA Executive Director Clara Shea and the ACWWA Board for the guidance and attention to detail that has led to the planning

and preparation of an "event of the year" conference.

Lastly, thank you to all the delegates. I truly hope the conference exceeded your expectations and was a valued experience. The work you do is so important and great attendance at the conference was humbling. Rock on, water and wastewater professionals!

There will be more ACWWA Conference highlights to come in the Winter issue of *Go With the Flow* magazine. Thank you for attending; I hope you had a wonderful experience, and I can't wait to see you in St. Johns in 2025. Be well and take care.



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Summary of new objective for PFAS in drinking water

Source: Canadian Water Network, <https://cwn-rce.ca>
September 12, 2024

Health Canada has set a new objective for 25 specific per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water at 30 ng/L. This new objective replaces two previous drinking water guidelines and nine screening values derived for individual PFAS.

The objective of 30 ng/L is based on treatment data and is considered reasonably achievable using common treatment methods such as Granular Activated Carbon (GAC), Anion Exchange (AIX), and Reverse Osmosis (RO). By focusing on a single target value for a group of chemicals, the drinking water sector can manage risks more efficiently.

Unlike traditional health-based approaches, this objective was not derived from health effects due to the rapidly evolving science and lack of consensus on health impacts. Instead, the new objective focuses on the most studied and toxicologically potent PFAS, which are also the most commonly detected in drinking water. These selected PFAS can be measured using validated standardized analytical methods.


Comparisons to international objectives

Different countries have varying guidelines for PFAS in drinking water:

- European Commission, Sweden, and Denmark use a single guideline value for a combination of PFAS, with values ranging from 100 ng/L for the sum of 20 PFAS, 500 ng/L for the sum of all PFAS, to 2 ng/L for the sum of four PFAS.
- S. EPA sets legally enforceable levels for six PFAS, with limits of 4 ng/L and 10 ng/L.




This new objective by Health Canada aligns with international efforts to manage PFAS in drinking water,

providing a more streamlined and effective approach to ensuring water safety. 

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Themes

Overarching Themes

1. AWWA is marking the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act by celebrating the achievements of water professionals and advocating for regulations developed through sound scientific process. (SDWA Anniversary, Fly-In & Toast, Drinking Water Week, ACE24)
2. AWWA is driving innovation and collaboration to achieve the vision set forth through Water 2050. (Water 2050, AWWA 2030 Strategic Plan, Artificial Intelligence, One Water, ACE24)
3. AWWA is building an inclusive water community that sustains a skilled workforce, invests in young leaders, embraces diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. (Diversity Standard, Transformative Water Leadership Academy, Water Equation scholarships, DEIB core principle, accessibility initiatives)
4. AWWA is leading water sector efforts to strengthen resilience against climate risks and cybersecurity threats. (Water Risk and Resilience Organization, AWIA compliance, source water protection, conference sustainability initiative)
5. AWWA shares best practices and knowledge to strengthen public trust, inspire innovation, and advance access to safe water globally. (UN Global Compact, lead/PFAS communications, Innovation Hub, International programs, CE Corps)

Policy-Focused Themes

1. Water consumers are best served by a regulatory framework that scientifically evaluates and prioritizes risks. (Integrity of SDWA process, cost/benefit analysis, emerging contaminants)
2. AWWA is advocating for a permanent low-income assistance program for water services to help those in need and sustain water systems. (Low-Income Customer Water Assistance Program, environmental justice, equity, public health)
3. PFAS contamination must be addressed throughout the water cycle, with cleanup costs absorbed by polluters, not by water systems and consumers. (PFAS regulations, Superfund liability exemption for water systems, affordability)
4. Water professionals are committed to protecting communities from lead in pipes and plumbing while we work for a future when lead is no longer in contact with drinking water. (LCRI, lead communications)
5. AWWA is helping water systems access funding to address water infrastructure and source water protection needs. (WIFIA, SRFs, Farm Bill)


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Katherine MacCaull,
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The cost of doing nothing

By Adam Sketchley, P.Eng., M.A.Sc. – DesignPoint Engineering & Surveying Ltd.

Every infrastructure project and decision comes with a level of risk. Newly installed infrastructure could be oversized or undersized, a new plant could have components that don't easily align with future regulations, infrastructure charges could be set too high or too low, discouraging development or leaving major upgrades underfunded. One risk that is often discounted, however, is the risk associated with delaying action or not acting at all.

Delaying implementation of an infrastructure plan comes at an opportunity cost. Delaying replacement of existing infrastructure may allow additional consideration of future needs and could slightly improve system performance in the far future. The delay also means that existing infrastructure continues to degrade, increasing the risk of failure prior to replacement. In the case of combined sewers poised for separation, the delay means continued overflows and unnecessary operational costs related to pumping and treatment of elevated wet weather flows. Delaying infrastructure extensions may allow more informed projections of future development, but may come at the price of missed development opportunities as prospective developers move on to other regions.

In general, delaying construction projects results in higher construction costs. The increase in construction cost over the last five years highlights this at a large scale due to high inflation, increased demand, and a labour market that does not meet the demand. Many projects now cost two to three times what they were prior to the 2020 construction season. Extending project timelines increases capital cost and impacts future budgeting, taxes, and utility charges.

It is not the case that infrastructure projects should be rushed into without considering future needs at all. There are cases, however, following completion of a reasonable level of consideration, where additional studies and analyses only provide a marginal improvement (if any at all) to a project. If additional studies and consideration only improve the final product by 2% over a two-year timeline for instance, there is an argument to be made that a system owner would be better off having the infrastructure in place two years earlier.

When assessing project risks, risks associated with an extended project timeline should be considered. These are real risks which could significantly impact the performance of any municipal system. Executing a streamlined, intentional project is the best way to mitigate these risks.

Do you have a topic for a future Back to Fundamentals article? Email adam.sketchley@designpoint.ca or contact@acwwa.ca and we will do our best to cover it! ☺

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