



EOCP VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE

Designed for Operators, by Operators

PROGRAM

14-15 SEPTEMBER 2021

3 LEARNING STREAMS

WATER

WASTEWATER

LEADERSHIP

THEME: PROMOTE, PROTECT, EVOLVE

URBAN SYSTEMS



WELCOME TO OUR 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE!



Chris Lawrence, Chair Kalpna Solanki, President & CEO

PROMOTE, PROTECT, EVOLVE

We started off this year with so many plans thinking that the worst of the pandemic was over. Yet, here we are, still dealing with ramifications of the pandemic, and we have fires to deal with as well. But we've still managed to put together a stellar lineup of speakers and we hope that you will enjoy #EOCP2021:

1.2 CEUs

3 LEARNING
STREAMS

720 MINUTES OF SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT

2 FULL
DAYS

33 INTERACTIVE
SESSIONS

500 DELEGATES

This conference has been designed for Operators and will provide a wide breadth of knowledge.

We look forward to hosting you at EOCP2021!

Chris Lawrence, **Board Chair**
Kalpna Solanki, **President and CEO**

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

PROMOTE, PROTECT, EVOLVE Designed by Operators, for Operators.

#EOCP2021 provides learning opportunities for water and wastewater sector professionals on innovative solutions and new insights to foster the prudent management of water and wastewater in British Columbia and Yukon.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

14th September
9:00 AM



ERIC TERMUENDE

Workplace Culture, Leadership, and the Future of Work

Eric has spent nearly a decade studying workplace culture and the future of work with top companies and associations from around the world. His presentation will provide real-world examples and case studies to enable leaders to make their own one-degree shifts to future-proof their teams.

PLENARY SESSION

15th September
9:00 AM



DR. ANDREW WHELTON

Purdue University

Wildfires and their Effects on Potable Water Systems

Wildfires, chemical spills, and other disasters can chemically contaminate water utility distribution systems and building plumbing. Utility managers, government health officials, and building owners must understand the potential challenges faced. Dr. Whelton's presentation will describe the results of field experience responding to and recovering from disasters.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH

	STREAM 1 - WATER	STREAM 2 - WASTEWATER	STREAM 3 - LEADERSHIP
	COFFEE WITH HEATHER (7:30-8:00 AM)		
8:30 - 10:00	OPENING REMARKS AND KEYNOTE - (8:30-10:00 AM) Indigenous Opening of the Conference - Andrea Menard Keynote: Workplace Culture, Leadership, and the Future of Work - Eric Termuende		
	BREAK #1 (10:00-10:15 AM)		
10:15 - 11:00	Health Updates Geneen Russo & Trish Sterloff - Health	Damage Prevention is a Shared Responsibility Darlene Dyson - BC 1 Call	How to Prepare and Implement your Legislated Crisis Response Requirements Greg Solecki / Ben Morgan - PROEM Ltd.
11:15 - 12:00	So You Have a Main Break... Now what? An emergency repair from a manufacturer's viewpoint Dave Brewer - USC Utility Supply (West) Corp	Online Condition Monitoring: Extending the Value Beyond Maintenance Carl Sheehan - Spartan Controls	Building Water Systems - what have we accomplished after two years? Philip White - City of Vancouver
	LUNCH (12:00-1:00 PM)		
1:00 - 2:45	Facing the Future Brent Williamson - Canada Pipe	The Science of Pipe Cleaning Ken Billingham - KEG GMBH	Courage to Lead David Cory - The Emotional Intelligence Training Company
	BREAK #2 (2:45-3:00 PM)		
3:00 - 3:45	Sustainable Water and Wastewater Treatment, the Future of Treatment Jeff Spencer - BI Pure Water	Legacy Control Systems? How to Plan a Successful Upgrade	Project Planning Breakthroughs Eric Hees - Priority Management - Vancouver
4:00 - 4:45	iHydrant TM Remote Sensors for Water Supply Systems Scott Mills - Clow Canada	Andrew Yick - Spartan Controls	Metro Vancouver's Diversity & Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan Maggie Boak & Carolyn Shears - Metro Vancouver Regional District

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH

	STREAM 1 - WATER	STREAM 2 - WASTEWATER	STREAM 3 - LEADERSHIP
	COFFEE WITH HEATHER (7:30-8:00 AM)		
8:30 – 10:00	OPENING EOC Update (15 min) – Kalpna Solanki & Chris Lawrence Wildfires and their Effects on Potable Water Systems, (45 min) – Dr. Andrew Whelton - Purdue University Operators Without Borders (30 min) – Valerie Jenkinson & Jason Mank		
	BREAK #3 (10:00-10:15 AM)		
10:15 – 11:00	Differences Between DI and PVC Restraints Jeff Phillips - Star Pipe Products	Air Release Valve Chambers Dave Brewer - USC Utility Supply (West) Corp	Under Pressure? Responding to Regulatory Inspections and Investigations Heidi Rolfe - Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
11:15 – 12:00	Ductile Iron Fitting Coating Options Jeff Phillips - Star Pipe Products	Toxic Process Gas in Water and Wastewater Treatment – WorkSafeBC initiative results Andrew McSherry - WorkSafeBC	Developing Consistent Water Management Plans and Programs for Diverse Portfolios Chris Boyd - MARC Strategic Solutions
	LUNCH (12:00-12:30 PM)		
	AWARDS (12:30-1:00 PM)		
1:00 – 2:45	Engineered Hot Taps - Everything you Didn't Think Could be Tapped Brandon Pater - Pacific Flow Control Ltd	Understanding Control System Documentation Zane Spencer - MPE Engineering	Disaster Risk Reduction - Panel and Workshop Kalpna Solanki, Sahar Safaie, Megan Latimer, Benjamin Kineshanko, James Austin, Tara Macrae
	BREAK #4 (2:45-3:00 PM)		
3:00 – 3:45	FAVAD – The Effect Pressure Has on Water Leakage Jamie Eichenberger - IKEN Services Ltd.	Microbiological Monitoring of Bio-P Systems Toni Glymph-Martin - WWMS	Why Frustrated Operators do the Best Asset Management Gracelyn Shannon - Persephone Consulting
4:00 – 4:45	Control System Cyber Security Bart Nelissen - MPE Engineering	Keep your Lagoons and Meet your Targets Chris Howorth - Veolia	How to Give an Effective Presentation - and avoid death by PowerPoint Dave Mercer - BCGWA/Underground Communications



James Austin – City of Abbotsford

Jamie Austin began his career as a Water Supply Operator in 2001 in Ontario, eventually becoming the Director of Utilities with the City of Abbotsford in 2018. He has a Bachelor's Degree and College Diploma in Environmental Sciences, ASCT Designation and holds EOCP Level 2 certification in Water Distribution, Water Treatment, and Wastewater Collection.



Kenneth Billingham – KEG GMBH/KEG Technologies Inc.

Ken Billingham is the International Product Specialist for KEG GMBH a Germany manufacturer of highly efficient pipe cleaning tools and camera systems and KEG Technologies Inc. the North American distributor for these products. His responsibilities include customer and reseller support for all of Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as the Pacific Northwest of the United States. Many years of experience and knowledge of the diverse collections systems throughout his area help him find solutions for the challenges faced daily by users.



Maggie Boak is the Division Manager, Talent Management and Organization Development, with MVRD's Human Resources Department and has been with Metro Vancouver for the past 14 years. Maggie has a Bachelor's degree from Dalhousie University, Post Graduate Diploma from Capilano University and an HR Management Certificate from BCIT. In addition, Maggie is a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR).



Chris Boyd is a Senior Consultant with MARC Strategic Solutions, a public health, safety, and security consultancy. Prior to that he was NYC Health's Assistant Commissioner of Environmental Sciences and Engineering where he was responsible for regulatory oversight of the NYC drinking water supply, recreational water, radiological risk management, environmental outbreak investigations, and the first proactive regulatory frameworks for cooling tower systems in North America. In 2019 he facilitated discussions with 20 public agencies across North America to create consistent electronic cooling tower registration and inspection systems. He now supports global NGOs, U.S. national labs, public agencies, and private sector stakeholders to develop systemic strategies to improve the management of public health and security risks.



Dave Brewer has been involved with the Waterworks industry since 1991 and has worked with manufacturers in the underground water and waste markets in Canada in capacities ranging from inside sales to General Manager. At Utility Supply (West) Corp. he works with companies that include Smith-Blair, H Tec, US Pipe and Copperhead Utility Locating Systems to serve the underground utility markets. These markets include Public Works, Consulting Engineers & Contractors. In the past he participated on AWWA standards committees including AWWA C219 & C226 and served two terms as president of the Municipal Services Association.



David Cory is a coach and leadership development specialist known for his expertise in applying the concept of emotional intelligence to leadership development for individual and organizational performance improvement. In addition to Bachelor's degrees in Kinesiology and Education, David has achieved a Masters degree in Adult Education. He is a Certified Professional Coactive Coach (CPCC) and Certified Master Trainer in the area of Emotional Intelligence (EI) with MHS Inc. and is considered to be an international expert on the integration of emotional intelligence and leadership development and is frequently invited to be a Keynote speaker at conferences world-wide.



Darlene Dyson has been with BC 1 Call since its inception in 1994. Starting as a customer service agent, advancing to Operations Manager and most recently to the Director of Operations & Education has given her the unique opportunity of gaining an excellent understanding of the one call industry. Darlene has been involved in the startup and agent training in a number of one call systems throughout Canada and the US. She is actively involved in the BC Common Ground Alliance organization where she represents BC 1 Call on the alliance Board, sits on the Education and Best Practice committee and participates in the jointly sponsored province wide dig safe seminars. She also travels throughout BC to share the important message of “Call Before You Dig.” She has an extensive career in the communications and cable industry in the fields of safety and damage prevention.



Jamie Eichenberger is the President and owner of IKEN Services Ltd. and lives in Victoria, B.C. In recent years Jamie has aligned himself with key players in the International Water Association group and specifically the Water Loss Control Committee. Implementing the ‘Best Practices’ as adopted by the AWWA has been first and foremost for IKEN Services. He has formed a relationship with the majority of the municipalities in both BC and AB, and particularly in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. He is past-president of the Municipal Services Association in support of Public Works Association of BC, and being a recognized EOCP Instructor keeps Jamie in the forefront of issues surrounding the utility industry relating to communities.



Toni Glymph-Martin is an Environmental Microbiologist specializing in Water and Wastewater Treatment and a Treatment Process Consultant with Wastewater Microbiology Solutions. She provides technical assistance, consulting services and microscopic evaluations for more than 30 Industries and 80 municipalities. Prior to that, Toni served as a senior level supervisor in the Monitoring and Research Division of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and has more than 40 years of water quality related experience. Toni has conducted over 400 technical workshops, and has made numerous presentations at conferences, public meetings, the Great Lakes Commission meeting, and for State Representatives.



Eric Hees – Priority Management - Vancouver
With more than 25 years of facilitating, consulting, and coaching experience, Eric Hees makes the complex easily understood and brings a refreshing approach to helping individuals and teams move from theory to action through practical, readily applied techniques. He has worked with staff at all organizational levels, he regularly interfaces with management including CEOs, Presidents, Vice Presidents and Directors. An excellent problem-solver with strategic and tactical skills, Eric has a reputation for quality and on-time delivery in challenging situations. With a passion for excellence and deep understanding that processes, policies and procedures are integral to corporate excellence and results, Eric has worked with clients to map and improve processes in many industries.



Chris Howorth - Veolia
Chris Howorth is a registered Professional Engineer in BC with 25 years’ experience in water and wastewater treatment. He has worked for both private and public sector organizations, in Europe and in Canada. He is currently responsible for Veolia’s municipal business development in Western Canada.



Valerie Jenkinson is the Chair of Operators Without Borders and has led teams on water utility recovery post disaster. She is part of the WASH group and holds certificates in Disaster coordination. Last year she was named the Focal Point of the Year for Global Water Partners-Caribbean in recognition of her contributions to the water industry in the Caribbean.
Valerie is also the CEO of World Water and Wastewater Solutions LTD. and has worked with national and local governments, the EOCP, the Ministry of Health, and BCWWA primarily undertaking stakeholder consultations and writing strategic and communication planning documents. She spends half her year in the Caribbean working on climate mitigation measures for water utilities, rate analysis, and operations.



Benjamin Kineshanko – District of Squamish
Experienced Operations Manager, Certified Water and Wastewater Operator, Applied Science Technologist and Environmental Professional. Skilled in local government public works operations and administration, environmental compliance, water treatment, wastewater treatment, water quality, environmental awareness, hydrogeology, hydrometeorology and project management.



Tara Macrae is currently the Manager of Water Operations for the City of Surrey. While managing one of the largest water systems in the province of BC, Tara is also a Director on the EOCP Board of Directors, a subject matter expert for the ABC Exam Review and is a member of Metro Vancouver’s REAC Water Sub-Committee. She began her career in utilities in Sun Peaks Resort, 18 years ago. Tara is a Certified Environmental Technologist, Certified Public Works Inspector, and holds certification in both Water Treatment and Distribution. Throughout her career, Tara has worked for the City of Port Moody, Township of Langley, and City of Abbotsford.



Megan Latimer – District of Squamish
Megan is a senior professional programme manager with extensive recent experience in challenging operational and financial climates, including operations, staff, and budget management, as well as major donor fundraising and leading strategy development. She has been deployed in countries including Guatemala, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Angola, Sri Lanka, Colombia, South Sudan, Vietnam, DRC, Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, and Ukraine over the last 15 years.



Jason Mank currently works for the Ontario Clean Water Agency in the Region of Waterloo, where he oversees Operations and Maintenance at six facilities. He completed a three year environmental technology course gaining his Environment Technologist Diploma. He also holds a ticket as a Red Seal Interprovincial Industrial Mechanic Millwright.

Jason was one of the first operators to step up and volunteer for Operators Without Borders. He was deployed to our first disaster assignment in Dominica and then led a team in response to Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas. He also sits on the Deployment Committee.

Jason is also the Spring Director for a non-profit football association within the Region of Waterloo.



Chris Lawrence has been involved with the public sector for 17 years in varying roles from education to local government. The past 7 years have been spent in local government senior management positions with the District of New Hazelton, District of Houston and most recently the Town of Smithers. As the Director of Operations, he oversees utilities, public works, and parks departments, as well as capital projects. Chris enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He is an outdoor enthusiast and an avid mountain biker and downhill skier. He has received more injuries than he would care to admit, but does not plan on slowing down any time soon.



Andrew McSherry: As an Occupational Hygiene Office with WorkSafeBC, Andrew focuses on educating employers and workers in keeping the workplace safe for all workers. Since 2018, Andrew has been one of the officers assigned to WorkSafeBC’s Process Safety Initiative. In addition, Andrew is currently assigned to WorkSafeBC’s Risk Analysis Unit (RAU), as has been assigned to RAU for multiple projects since 2015, including ammonia, chlorine, and explosions and paint manufacturing. Prior to joining the Board, Andrew graduated with a Masters Degree of Science from the University of British Columbia and currently holds two certifications, a Certified Industrial Hygiene (CIH) and a Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP).



Andrea Menard is an accomplished Métis singer/song keeper, speaker, trainer, and founder of the Sacred Feminine Learning Lodge. She is a 5-time Gemini-nominated actress, a 15-time music award winner and ACTRA National's Woman of the Year in 2021. Andrea is dedicated to empowering both the Indigenous and the Feminine voice through song, story, activism, training, and healing. As seen in USA Today, Andrea is an influencer in Feminine leadership and was named one of WXN Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 in 2020. Her TEDx talk called 'Silent No More' had over 127,000 views. Andrea created Sacred Feminine Learning Lodge to help women and all-gendered people reclaim and embody the qualities of the Sacred Feminine. She also authored Seeds from the Sacred Feminine Wisdom Cards. Andrea is a member of the Métis Nation of Canada.



Benjamin Morgan – PROEM Ltd.

Benjamin is one of Canada's leading practitioners in crisis and risk communications and a Principal at the Centre for Crisis and Risk Communications. He served many communities throughout Alberta as an Advanced Life Support Paramedic - many of which was via aircraft to remote and far-away locations as part of the medial crew. He spent several years as the spokesperson for the City of Calgary Emergency Medical Services where he attended multiple tabletop and full-scale exercises hosted by the Calgary Airport Authority. He returned to academic studies, completing a masters degree in Professional Communications with a research focus on the influence of social media on emergency management.



Dave Mercer, PGeo

Dave is a geologist with over 25 years of experience working in groundwater related industries. He has managed groundwater instrumentation projects on a wide variety of sites around the world, and worked over a decade for Schlumberger as a manager of business development, sales and marketing, and product development and integration. Dave launched Underground Communications in 2011 to provide strategic business development, marketing, and communications services to resource-based industries. He is currently also the general manager of the BC Groundwater Association.



Bart Nelissen – MPE Engineering

Bart's career started as a lab tech and plant Operator, followed by a decade of configuration and commissioning of SCADA systems. This experience allowed him to transition into Control System Architecture, Data Management, Business Analysis, Consultation, Project Management, Team Leadership, and Office Management. Still hanging on to his Operator days early in his career, Bart is passionate about bridging the gap between Operational Technology and Information Technology by providing common-sense Control and Automation solutions. Bart started teaching SCADA software courses in 2003 and has taught courses for various SCADA software solutions across Western Canada since. He has presented at many industry events on topics including measurement, data management, and SCADA integration.



Scott Mills – Clow Canada

As the iHydrant™ Product Manager for Clow Canada, Scott Mills, P. Eng. is responsible for their leading-edge remote monitoring Smart Infrastructure technology across Canada. After starting his career at consulting engineering firms in Toronto in the mid-1990s, Scott's focus switched to underground infrastructure. For more than two decades he has been involved with underground pipeline product manufacturing, product distribution, and land development. He has worked throughout the US and lived in Alberta for a decade before returning to London, Ontario in 2015. Since returning to Ontario, Scott has also volunteered in assisting the Ontario Municipal Water Association board in 2020/2021. Scott earned a Bachelor of Engineering Science degree (Civil) from The University of Western Ontario and has been registered as a licensed professional engineer since 2000.



Brandon Pater, Pacific Flow Control

Graduating as a Civil Technologist from BCIT in 2008 and having 15 years' of industry experience as a Field Engineer, Superintendent, Project Manager and now as Co-Owner of Pacific Flow Control; Brandon is the Director of Engineering and Business Development at PFC. He acts as liaison in the design and implementation of standard and specialty hot taps, line stops, valve inserts, freeze plugs and engineered fittings. Brandon brings strong technical and practical knowledge to the world of engineering and construction within live water and sewer infrastructure.



Jeff Phillips, P.Eng., LEED AP Bio

Jeff Phillips has worked in the waterworks industry since graduating from Applied Science at the University of British Columbia over 25 years ago. Mr. Phillips has worked as a consultant, product engineer for pipe and fittings manufacturers and fabrication companies. He has also worked with industry associations and been involved in the writing of standards, bylaws, technical manuals and handbooks.



Sahar Safaie – Sage on Earth Consulting

The founder of Sage on Earth Consulting, Sahar Safaie, has built a trusted network of individuals and institutions with expertise in various elements of disaster and climate risk assessment, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation across the globe. Depending on the project requirements, a dynamic team of experts is created to work closely with the client in solving challenges with innovative solutions.



Heidi Rolfe is an associate in the Environmental, Municipal, Expropriation and Regulatory group in BGL's Vancouver office. She has a wide range of legal experience guiding individuals, companies and government agencies through regulatory processes, administrative and civil proceedings, and quasi-criminal environmental prosecutions relating to natural resource, construction, and other industrial projects. She has also assisted developers and property owners dealing with redeveloping and remediating contaminated properties, including disputes between neighbouring property owners, and navigating environmental clean-up orders. Prior to joining BGL, Heidi clerked at the Federal Court of Canada and practiced in the Vancouver office of an international law firm.



Gracelyn Shannon – Persephone Consulting

Gracelyn's approach to Asset Management is centred around Sustainable Service Delivery and supporting the local government staff who deliver those services every day. Gracelyn created Persephone Consulting Ltd. after working in Asset Management roles across the province in both the private and public sectors. She has spoken across BC, in Alberta, and in South Africa advocating for better Asset Management. Although she completed numerous Asset Management certifications and is a certified civil engineering technologist, she is most proud of her licensed private pilot certification. Gracelyn is pursuing a Master of Arts in Leadership at Royal Roads University because she feels that better leadership and better systems, with more conversations and more integration, is going to be the key to resilient communities of the future.



Geneen Russo – Ministry of Health

Geneen Russo has worked in the field of drinking water and water protection for over twenty-five years. She has had the honour of working for the BC Public Service since 2009. In November 2020, she took on the role of Director of Healthy Community Environments and is grateful to work with a highly talented and dedicated team of science and policy specialists. Her education includes a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Master of Science in Geography.



Carolyn Shears – Metro Vancouver Regional District

Carolyn Shears is the Lead HR Advisor for Organization Development with MVRD's Human Resources Department and has been with Metro Vancouver for the past 7 years. Carolyn has a Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management from Kwantlen Polytechnic University, an Associate Certificate in Leadership and Conflict Resolution from the Justice Institute of BC and is a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR)



Carl Sheehan – Spartan Controls

Carl Sheehan is a Technical Specialist with Spartan Controls, focusing on Digital Transformation technologies. Carl is passionate about improving his customer’s business performance through the application of process automation and reliability solutions and has been solving his customers’ challenges for 25 years. Carl holds an Electrical Engineering Degree from Lakehead University and a Diploma of Technology in Process Control and Instrumentation from BCIT. Away from work, Carl can be found flyfishing, surfing, golfing, or coaching hockey.



Jeff Spencer – BI Pure Water (Canada) Inc.

Jeff Spencer is the technical sales lead at BI Pure Water (Canada) Inc. BI Pure Water is a leading designer and manufacturer of package water treatment plants in Canada with 25 years experience. BIPW has more package plants in the north of Canada than any other company. Jeff has significant experience with water treatment technologies over the last dozen years.



Kalpna Solanki – EOCP

Kalpna Solanki has been President and CEO of the EOCP since 2016. She is passionate about the water and wastewater industry, and feels fortunate to be working with a fabulous team and board of directors.

Kalpna holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science from Simon Fraser University, as well as a Diploma in Environmental Health from the British Columbia Institute of Technology. She also enjoys volunteering – she currently sits on four different boards, and is a policy wonk. In her spare time, you will find Kalpna outdoors paddling, cycling, or hiking with her three dogs, and on the slopes in the winter.



Zane Spencer – MPE Engineering Ltd.

Zane is the Vice President of Instrumentation & Controls with MPE Engineering Ltd. A graduate of the Industrial Instrumentation Technology program at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Zane has over fifteen years of experience in designing, installing and commissioning process control and SCADA systems. Zane utilizes his knowledge and experience to help municipalities across Western Canada as they address challenges related to modernizing and expanding their process control systems.



Greg Solecki – PROEM Ltd.

Greg has over 20 years of senior leadership experience in emergency, continuity, crisis, and risk management. His Emergency Management career followed 15 years of service with the Langley and Calgary Fire Departments.

The focus of his expertise is to ensure leaders and executives are prepared for major business interruptions such as loss of workforce, loss of workplace, or loss of service through site alignment and corporate crisis leadership. Greg provides his expertise for international standards development related to crisis, emergency, and continuity management. He is also the past President of the International Association of Emergency Managers (Canada) and holds a Masters Certificate in Municipal Leadership.



Trish Sterloff – Ministry of Health

Trish Sterloff joined the Ministry of Health as the acting Executive Director of the Health Protection Branch in September of 2020. Trish has been with the provincial government since 2003 and has held positions in a number of ministries, including Transportation and Infrastructure; Olympic Games Secretariat; Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training; the BC Public Service Agency; and the Environmental Assessment Office. Trish has a Bachelor of Business Administration from George Washington University and an MBA from the University of Victoria in entrepreneurship.



Eric Termuende – Keynote Speaker

Eric Termuende is a globally recognized thought leader, author, and keynote speaker on the future of work and building teams that thrive. Eric has surveyed and interviewed thousands of leaders about what it takes to create teams that not only win but enjoy their time at work.

Eric’s actionable and entertaining keynotes don’t just inspire, they equip leaders with tools and takeaways to energize and provoke growth within their teams. Eric brings concrete examples, stories, and case studies to the stage that are relatable, digestible, and downright interesting — all designed to spark action and empowerment.

Recognized as one of the Top 100 Emerging Innovators under 35 by American Express, his ideas have been featured in Forbes, Thrive Global, The Huffington Post, The Globe and Mail, and more.



Andrew Whelton – Purdue University

Andrew Whelton, Ph.D. is a Purdue University professor of civil, environmental, and ecological engineering, and is a nationally recognized environmental engineer with 20 years of experience in the infrastructure, public health, and environment areas. At Purdue, he leads the Healthy Plumbing Consortium and Center for Plumbing Safety, and other initiatives with multiple university and industrial collaborators. In recent years, his teams have unearthed previously undocumented and fatal human health and environmental threats associated with plastic manufacture. His teams have also responded to support communities devastated by wildfires. Over the past two decades, his teams have positively changed how government agencies (EPA, CDC, NRC, NIOSH, NIST), water utilities, non-profit organizations, health departments, state legislatures, and building owners approach their responsibilities.



Phil White is the Manager of Plumbing and Mechanical Inspections and Gas Safety, Development, Buildings and Licensing Department at the City of Vancouver.



Brent Williamson – Canada Pipe

Brent Williamson is the Western Canada technical sales representative for Canada Pipe. He has been with the company for 6 years and specializes in education, and presentations. Brent works with engineers and municipalities daily helping to write specifications or offering creative solutions.



Andrew Yick – Spartan Controls

Andrew Yick (P.Eng, M.Eng) is a senior automation consultant for Spartan Controls, an Emerson Impact Partner in Western Canada with 15 years of industrial automation experience. In addition, Andrew leads system architecture and project development responsibility for client initiatives such as control system upgrades/migrations, networking / cybersecurity assessments, SCADA architecture, advanced process control, alarm management, procedural automation, advanced HMI design and data historian & analytics across a wide variety of industries.