

Yonatan Yohannes - Biography



My name is Yonatan Yohannes. I am the Water Operations Manager for the City of Surrey. My 21 years of experience in the environmental industry has instilled in me the qualities and skills required to meet the rigor of the demanding profession in the water industry.

I am a highly motivated, well organized, fiscally responsible manager. My personal work philosophy mirrors EOCP's strategic goals in Service and Organizational excellence. My educational and work experience has enabled me to successfully implement many strategic goals.

I lead a large team, providing direction and vision to deliver high-quality, sustainable and efficient environmental services to our community. I have provided this strong leadership through major process and organizational changes. Ascertaining need for improvement as well as successes in processes and staffing, I provide recommendations and implement changes. This challenging environment has led me to take up several projects in optimization and enhancement of procedures.

My previous experience and responsibilities included working closely with the Ministry of the Environment in all aspects of environmental regulations. I oversee the operations and maintenance related to water, as well as the training and accreditation requirements for the operators.

In my previous role as an executive board member for the South Central Ontario Water Works Association (SCOWWA), I revamped the organization by recognizing the role it can play in developing environmental professionals then by setting and implementing goals to achieve this. This includes organizing twice-yearly conferences with CEU credits, hands-on workshops, panel discussions, peer to peer communications in resolving problems and a bursary program. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in membership, strengthening it financially and leading to it being recognized as a vibrant resource to its members and the municipalities they belong to.

As an instructor accredited by the Ministry of Environment to teach water and wastewater treatment operators through OWOTC, I am recognized as a highly effective communicator, adept at presenting key thoughts and ideas to a diverse audience—from managers to front line operators.

The high quality work I delivered outside of work hours: at SCOWWA, teaching operators and through OWWA translated to and enhanced my knowledge in the water industry.

I am an accredited professional that carries a C.E.T. and ASCT accreditation. I also have achieved my Masters Certificate in Municipal Leadership.

1. What are your top two reasons for joining our Board?

1. In order to share the knowledge and experience that I have gained in my 21 years working in the water industry.

2. To serve the needs of EOCP members in any capacity including enhancing and improving the certification process that is currently in place

2. What do you feel are the most important function of the Board?

To promote the importance of operators certifications and system classifications in order to meet high quality standards in the water and wastewater industry.

3. What will you bring to the Board in experience and accomplishments?

I would bring dedication, energy and enthusiasm to the board. In my previous role as an executive board member for the South Central Ontario Water Works Association (SCOWWA), I revamped the organization by recognizing the role it can play in developing environmental professionals then by setting and implementing goals to achieve this. This includes organizing twice-yearly conferences with CEU credits, hands-on workshops, panel discussions, peer to peer communications in resolving problems and a bursary program. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in membership, strengthening it financially and leading to it being recognized as a vibrant resource to its members and the municipalities they belong to.