



**Eric Jackson**  
Stepping Down  
From EOCB  
Board of Directors

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John Halfnights

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NOVEMBER 2013 • NUMBER 126

# BRITISH COLUMBIA OPERATORS Digest



## Reminder:

*The 2014 Dues Renewal  
form has been sent.  
Please check the status  
of your C.E.R. at  
[www.search.eocp.ca/](http://www.search.eocp.ca/)*

## 2013 EOCB Annual General Meeting

**T**he 2013 Annual General Meeting of the EOCB was held on September 17th at the Public Works Association of BC Annual Technical Conference. The PWABC Conference featured a full technical program that provided the opportunity for Operators to earn CEU's and a tradeshow to learn what is new in the industry.

Twenty-one Operators participated in our AGM. The AGM is your chance to find out what is happening in the EOCB and provide your input.

President Mike Gosselin, gave an overview of the past year, and Treasurer Brian Thorburn, provided the annual financial report to all the membership which can also be seen on **page 6** in this edition's newsletter.

The EOCB election results were announced with Mike Gosselin being re-elected & Jeff Phillips being elected to the Board as Operator Representatives. The Government Representative Tim Lambert, and the Consultant Representative Shawn Sanders, were both re-elected by acclamation.

Two proposals, both of which were available for viewing on the EOCB website were put forward for by-law changes to the Operators. The first proposed by-law change allows electronic ballots to be sent to Operators for EOCB Board elections and other voting situations as online

voting would allow a larger percentage of Operators to participate as very low numbers in voting have occurred in past elections.

The second proposed by-law change would extend the term limits for Directors from two years to three years, with three Directors up for election each year.

Votes were taken with both proposed changes accepted. For more information on the AGM, the by-laws and the changes, please visit the EOCB website at <http://www.eocp.ca/about-us/annual-general-meeting/>.

There was a question and answer period before the meeting was adjourned.

Thank you to those Operators who attended the AGM.



*EOCB President Mike Gosselin presenting the year in review.*

## Environmental Operators Certification Program

The BC Operators Digest is the official newsletter of the Environmental Operators Certification Program. Submissions for publication in the Digest are welcome. Please email the editor Brian Thorburn at [bthorburn@epcor.com](mailto:bthorburn@epcor.com). Changes of address, annual dues, Continuing Education Requirements, exam applications, as well as general inquiries about the program should be addressed to:

### ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATORS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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### EOCP OFFICE STAFF

**Kim Eames** Office Manager  
**Stephanie Hall** Office Assistant  
**Heather Wallace** Office Assistant

The Environmental Operators Certification Program is a charter member of the Association of Boards of Certification and is a registered society with more than 3,700 active members.

### ERIC JACKSON

#### EOCP Board Director 2012–2013



Eric Jackson has made the decision to step down from the EOCP Board to concentrate on instructing at Okanagan College. The EOCP would like to thank Eric for all his hard work. This was Eric's third term as

Director for the EOCP. He was previously on the Board from 1981–1989 and 1990–2005.

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### EOCP Elections

The EOCP Board elections took place over the summer months. The results were announced at the AGM on September 17, 2013 in Nanaimo. Two positions on the Board were elected by acclamation, while four Operators ran for two Director positions.

Directors elected by acclamation were:

Government  
Representative: **Tim Lambert**

Consultant  
Representative: **Shawn Sanders**

The results of the EOCP election are as follows:

<b>Mike Gosselin</b>	111 Votes
<b>Jeff Phillips</b>	74 Votes
<b>Brian Thorburn</b>	72 Votes
<b>Willard Kimble</b>	53 Votes

The elected Operators for 2013-2014 are **Mike Gosselin**, and **Jeff Phillips**.



### Meet Jeff Phillips, the New EOCP Board Member

Jeff Phillips has been working with municipal infrastructure for nearly his entire career. He has been a certified EOCP Operator since 2011.

Jeff is employed with the City of Nelson as a Utility Operator and considers himself very lucky to call Nelson home. He lives with his wife Lisa, 5 year old Son and 2 year old daughter. When not working, Jeff enjoys a wide variety of outdoor activities such as biking, skiing, and sailing.

### Digest Advertising Opportunities

Business card-sized ads are available for \$75 per issue or \$250 for four issues, GST included. For ads of other sizes, please contact the EOCP office.

# Training Registry SME Thank You Lunch Held

**T**he EOCP held a thank you lunch for the Training Registry Subject Matter Experts (TR-SME's) on October 21, 2013. It was held to thank these valuable volunteers for their effort and involvement with the Training Registry. Without the TR-SME's, the Training Registry would not have reached the high level of success and validity that it has. The details of this program, spearheaded by the involvement of the TR-SME's is leading the industry in providing Operators accessibility to sound training and trainers, and provides different options for that training to be received.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a subject matter expert, please contact the EOCP office at [eocp@eocp.ca](mailto:eocp@eocp.ca).

## EDITORIAL

### The Multi-Utility Path for Certification



OPERATORS working in smaller utilities (less than 10,000 customers) are often involved in all aspects of water and wastewater and not typically just one field although there are exceptions. When the Multi-Utility certification was rolled out in 2008, it was done to show the various related training and experience these multi utility Operators had.

Discussions with all stakeholders including government representatives along with the EOCP decided that there should be some means to recognize the valuable cross training involved in looking after a smaller utility. Basically, a pump is a pump regardless if it's used for wastewater treatment or collection or water treatment or distribution. Also, in some other jurisdictions, an Operator is able to write all 4 certification levels in they work in a smaller utility after one year of experience. In the new ABC Model Standards for Certification Programs, related experience is allowed now for writing your level 1 and level 2 exams. Six months of related experience is allowed for level 1 certification and 18 months or related experience is allowed for a level 2 certification.

As a large portion of utilities in the province are smaller utilities of less than 10,000 customers, many more Operators have this chance to write their certification levels much faster than the past way of waiting 1 year for each field. EOCP's Multi-Utility Certification requires an education component as well as field experience. To date though, only 35 Operators have taken their Multi-Utility Certification.

Operators, do you want to write your certification levels faster and be recognized by EOCP and the various

government regulators as either a Level 1 or Level 2 multi-utility Operator? It's quite a simple process to get your multi utility certification through EOCP. If you work full time in more than 1 utility and have 500 hours in a specific field (WWT, WWC, WT, or WD) along with related experience in another certification field, you are eligible to write your level 1 multi utility certification after 1 calendar year of experience. Like, for level 2 certification in Multi utility, you require 1500 hours in a specific field along with related experience and 3 calendar years total experience to be able to sit for you exam. Why not write your certification exams earlier than waiting for the 1 and 3 years' experience in a specific field like has been done in the past.

Advancement in the water and wastewater profession is available now through this alternate pathway of becoming a Level 1 or Level 2 Operator. Both the Multi Utility Level 1 and 2 are recognized as a Level 1 or 2 Operator and helps to show that these Operators bring more to the field then just one type of experience. Many Operators that have started out taking their Multi Utility 1 and 2 exams have now progressed to the higher levels of certification and have advanced within the field. With the Multi Utility Certification available to people starting out in the field, it's never been a better time to be an Operator. For more information, give the EOCP office a call or check out the website at [www.eocp.ca](http://www.eocp.ca)



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#### Water and Wastewater Operator Training

- Training at your location
- Training designed for your operators
- Training applicable to your systems
- Accredited for EOCP CEUs

# Church Road Transfer Station

## Project Background

The Regional District of Nanaimo introduced the green bin program to handle all compostable material that is picked up from its customers. The green bin program handles all food wastes generated from households and composts this material keeping in line with the RDN's Zero Waste Program.

To handle this, the RDN upgraded its Church Road transfer station near Parksville, BC. The upgrade included expanding the existing transfer building along with construction of a new building to handle commercial and source separated organic wastes



*Influent wet well*



*Influent wastewater*

along with the recycle material and curbside garbage pick-up. This is intended to allow the facility to handle waste products well into the future. This also enhances the environmental performance of the facility through the adaptation of improved wastewater management and water conservation measures, green building strategies and other sustainability measures. The package membrane bioreactor wastewater treatment plant is part of the transfer station upgrades.

## Overview

The MBR plant is completely housed in a modified 40 foot shipping container. Its main function is to treat the water that is used to clean the floors of organic waste when the trucks have off-loaded. The wastewater first goes through an oil and grease separator and then into a wet well. It is then



*Aeration Tank*

# Wastewater Treatment Plant – Parksville BC

pumped through a strainer and into a primary settling tank. After this, it goes to an aerated equalization tank. After aeration it enters into an anoxic tank. After leaving the anoxic tank it flows into another aeration tank and then through the membranes. The membranes are 0.04 micron and do not allow any bacteria or viruses through but it still goes onto further processing. This effluent is then disinfected with UV disinfection and then is stored and reused for floor washing as needed. No effluent is discharged into the environment



Anoxic Tank



Membrane Tanks

making this a closed loop system. The waste sludge produced is then trucked to the French Creek Pollution Control Center for further processing. Rain water is also collected from the roofs of the transfer station to ensure an adequate water supply for hosing purposes.

Thanks to Chris Brown and Ben Routledge for the Profile.



UV Disinfection

### Analytical Data

Design Flow: 3m/day  
Average Flow: 1.3m/day (max was 3509L on Aug. 8, 2013)  
Average  
Retention Time: 8 hrs.

### Design Influent Range

BOD mg/L: 160–450  
TSS mg/L: 115–450  
COD mg/L: 350–1000  
FOG mg/L: 50

### Influent Values

	Average	Maximum
BOD mg/L:	2307	6200
TSS mg/L:	565	19270
COD mg/L:	3546	227000
FOG mg/L:	99.8	1410

### Effluent Values

	Effluent
BOD mg/L:	<5
Turbidity NTU:	<1
pH:	6 to 9
Fecal Coliform:	<2.2/100 ml
FOG mg/L:	<1

## Operator Profile

Ben Routledge

Born and raised in the Nanaimo area, **Ben Routledge** has worked for the Regional District of Nanaimo since June 2010. He has been involved with the WWTP at the Church Road Transfer Station since June 2011 and has filled the position of WWTP Tech/Maintenance operator since March 2013. Having studied from TRU he is currently working towards his Level 1 Certification from the EOCP. As a closed loop system Ben enjoys the challenges that each day brings at the Church Road Transfer Station.



## Financial Report Presented at the 2013 AGM

Description	Year to Date 2012	Budget F 2012	Budget F 2011	Budget F 2010
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Program Operating Revenue</b>				
Certification Dues	\$ 280,603	\$ 275,500	\$ 261,500	\$ 231,500
Course Assessments and CEU Tracking	30,323	27,250	21,000	31,000
Operator Exam Fees	122,015	130,500	120,500	120,500
Facility Classification Fees	38,200	51,300	38,800	39,650
Other Operating Income	11,066	9,800	7,300	11,000
Interest Income	1,642			
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$483,849</b>	<b>\$494,350</b>	<b>\$449,100</b>	<b>\$433,650</b>
<b>Project Revenue</b>				
Grants	150,000		205,375	190,910
Transfer From Project Reserves		110,000		
<b>Total Project Revenue</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$633,849</b>	<b>\$604,350</b>	<b>\$654,475</b>	<b>\$613,560</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
ABC Expenses	\$ 25,937	\$ 25,800	\$ 23,200	\$ 25,460
AGM (EOCP) and Election	2,469	4,280	4,280	3,980
Bank and Interest Charges	11,903	8,955	8,955	5,955
Board Meeting Expenses	16,586	19,125	29,525	13,754
Canadian Certification Initiative		2,060	2,060	2,060
Computer System Expenses	9,455	18,000	16,500	16,500
Conferences	2,993	11,250	13,725	6,058
CEU Committee Expenses		4,360	5,060	5,060
Exam Expenses	5,913	8,550	9,300	9,300
Facility Classification Expenses	3,370	4,050	4,050	3,850
Management Committee Expenses		2,720	4,790	3,470
Office and General Expenses	30,662	35,700	35,700	36,600
Office Occupancy Expenses	32,508	31,344	31,344	30,744
Operator Digest Expenses	8,731	12,800	12,800	21,000
Other Board Expenses	1,439	3,500	4,000	2,500
Professional Fees	7,800	15,701	20,791	26,100
Salaries and Benefits	228,840	261,518	256,425	250,158
Scholarship and Gifts Expenses	4,185	4,000	5,500	4,500
Staff Expenses	1,926	1,850	2,350	2,350
Insurance Expenses	2,600	2,800	2,800	2,800
Contingency	5,962	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$403,281</b>	<b>\$490,888</b>	<b>\$507,855</b>	<b>\$480,759</b>
<b>Project Expenses</b>				
Business Plan Tasks	\$ 50,419	\$ 46,500	\$ 76,001	\$ 58,502
Training Registry Program Development & Operation	37,111	28,965	34,600	39,650
Training Registry Travelling Roadshow	843	21,700	39,500	47,100
TR - SME Training & Coordination	3,488	10,050	10,550	35,600
TR Advisory Committee	8,140	4,350		
TR-VIHA Project	11,022			
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$111,022</b>	<b>\$111,565</b>	<b>\$160,651</b>	<b>\$180,852</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$514,303</b>	<b>\$602,453</b>	<b>\$668,506</b>	<b>\$661,611</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$119,545</b>	<b>\$ 1,897</b>	<b>-\$ 14,031</b>	<b>-\$ 48,051</b>

## *John Halfnights is the 2013 Operator of the Year*

The 2013 Operator of the year award is being presented to John Halfnights from the City of Williams Lake. John was first certified in 1982, and became a Lifetime EOCP member in 2012. John holds Water Distribution III, Wastewater Collection III & Wastewater Treatment I certifications. He has been an Operator with the City of Williams Lake for over 40 years, and is currently the Water/ Sewer Foreman. John is greatly respected by the Operators who work with him in Williams Lake, and they can see the dedication he has to the utility systems, the crew and the City.

The Operators at Williams Lake consider John a mentor, with experience in so many aspects of the field. They feel being trained by & working with John creates a better Operator. They get to see & work with a true and dedicated professional. John is a problem solver and enjoys the technical aspects of the job.

*John Halfnights accepting award from  
EOCP President Mike Gosselin.*



## *Bert Caine Award*

The EOCP Board presented Mike Gosselin with the Bert Caine Award at the September 18, 2013 Board meeting. They wished to acknowledge Mike's continued hard work and dedication to the Board.

The Bert Caine Award is presented by the Environmental Operators Certification Program in recognition of outstanding, long term service to the certification program. The award is named in honour of Mr. B. D. Caine, the first secretary/treasurer of the program. Bert served in that capacity for twenty-four years, and at times almost singlehandedly carried the program forward. He was instrumental in bringing the certification program from an ad-hoc group of concerned individuals, through to a formally constituted body recognized throughout B.C. and across North America. Bert also served as the program representative when the Board became a charter member of the Associations of Boards of Certification and for many years served on the Canadian Committee on Certification and Training.

Bert's efforts and determination resulted in a program which is now able to stand on its own and provide the assurance to everyone concerned of the competence of our Operators.



*EOCP President Mike Gosselin receives award from  
Vice President Pat Miller.*

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# Gosselin Elected Vice President for Association Serving Environmental Certification Programs Internationally

**ANKENY, Iowa** – (Oct. 10, 2013)

The Association of Boards of Certification (ABC), an organization dedicated to advancing the quality and integrity of environmental certification programs, announces Mike Gosselin, British Columbia Environmental Operators Certification Program, British Columbia, Canada has been elected Vice President. Gosselin's four-year tenure will begin Jan. 1, 2014 and progress to President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past-President.

Gosselin is currently the Utilities Operations Manager for the City of Kelowna, British Columbia and has more than 20 years in the water and wastewater industry with 15 of those years working as an operator. He brings a wealth of experience in operator certification and its everyday impact and importance to operators to the ABC Board. "ABC is privileged to have a Board composed of the best executive leadership for advancing the quality and integrity of environmental certification programs," said ABC CEO Paul Bishop. "Mike Gosselin understands the everyday impact that operators face and brings to the Board a passion for innovation and service excellence, both of which will strengthen ABC's impact in attaining its mission."

As an active ABC member, Gosselin's Association involvement has included serving on the Wastewater Treatment Validation & Examination Committee and the Conference Committee. He is currently serving on the Bylaws/Policies & Procedures Committee.

ABC, a non-profit organization established in 1972, is comprised of almost 100 certifying authorities, representing more than 40 states, 10 Canadian provinces and territories, as well as several international programs. ABC is governed by the Board who is uniquely positioned

to listen to the membership and shape the future direction of the organization through visionary leadership and the empowerment of its many volunteers.

*The Association of Boards of Certification is dedicated to advancing the quality and integrity of environmental certification programs through innovative technical support services, effective information exchange, professional and cost-effective examination services, and other progressive services for members. For more information on ABC, visit [www.abccert.org](http://www.abccert.org).*

## 7th Canadian Biosolids & Residuals Conference

**DATE:** June 5 - 6, 2014

**LOCATION:** Sheraton Wall Centre,  
Vancouver, BC

The 7th Canadian Biosolids and Residuals Conference, hosted by BC Water & Waste Association, provides an excellent opportunity to present case studies, technological advances, research and best practices on a host of subjects related to municipal wastewater biosolids, industrial residuals, drinking/industrial water treatment residuals, ash, and other residuals. Submit your abstract now – the deadline to submit is **November 29, 2013**.

This event is organized by BCWWA, in collaboration with Réseau Environnement, Atlantic Canada Water & Wastewater Association, Western Canada Water Environment Association, and the Water Environment Association of Ontario. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.bcwwa.org/component/bcwwa/?task=eventregister&event=3120&Itemid=3>



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# Top-Ops Contest at AANDC Conference

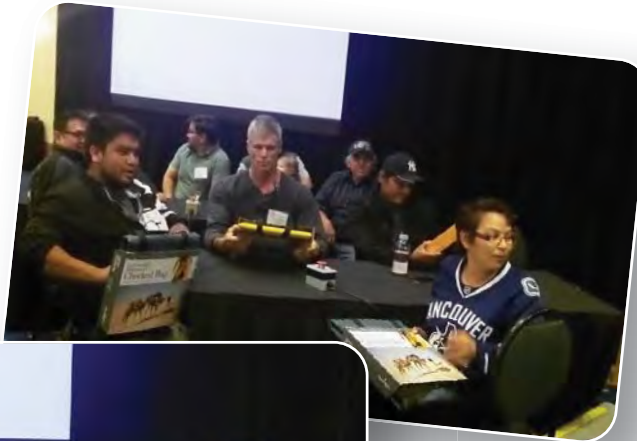
The EOCP held a Top-Ops contest at the AANDC (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada) Conference on October 4, 2013.

A brand new set of Top-Ops questions were used to test the Operators knowledge.

The EOCP would like to thank Satwinder Paul from Thompson Rivers University and Scott Jameson from Jameson Water Services for judging the contest along with Kim Eames from the EOCP. Shawn Sanders, as always, was the very entertaining moderator of the contest.

Thank you to Marie James from MTS Inc. for providing photos of the competition.

**1st Place:  
Team Green**



**2nd Place:  
Team Yellow**



**3rd Place:  
Team White**



**4th Place:  
Team Red**



## Top-Ops Winners

### 1st Place: Team Green

- Angus McDonald
- Ted Gotfriedson
- Leonard Robinson
- Vonna Hall

### 2nd Place: Team Yellow

- Warren Brown
- Richard Inskster
- Allan Hackett
- Leonard Moore
- Jim Brown

### 3rd Place: Team White

- Paul Tyee McNabb
- Edward Johnson
- Dawn McGrath
- Luma Dumont
- Lou Sabas

### 4th Place: Team Red

- Keith West
- Mel Paul
- Floyd Naziel
- Justin Clayton

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

*As of November 1, 2013,  
the EOCP has held  
110 exam sessions in  
BC and the Yukon.*

# Classification Model Project

The Environmental Operators Certification Program (EOCP), Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Environment (MOE) are working together to develop a new system for classifying drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities/systems, and a new approach to operator responsibilities related to "direct responsible charge" (DRC). The concept for the new system is to expand the ability of operators to earn 'DRC' by allowing more than one operator to earn DRC credit at the same time. This approach will address the need for more senior operators in the system, provide a 'career path' for operators and allow communities to plan more effectively.

The proposed new classification approach will base facility/system classifications on their 'technical' characteristics. The approach will consider all steps in the entire process: for drinking water – from the 'watershed to tap' and, correspondingly, for wastewater – from the 'sinks to the watershed'. Operator responsibilities, particularly DRC, will be mapped to each of the process steps. In connecting DRC to processes, the new approach will expand the assignment of DRC to additional operators and will provide greater clarity on how operators have earned DRC.

The project's Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the three sponsoring bodies, noted above, and the Committee is receiving advice and assistance from a team of industry Key Advisors. At this point in the project, the Steering Committee and Key Advisors are testing the new design for system classification on their respective utility operations in the province. The Steering Committee hopes to engage in broader industry consultation in the coming months.

## *Lifetime Operators*

In 2013, five Operators became lifetime members of the EOCP.

The EOCP was a voluntary certification program when they were first certified in 1983. They have been active Operators for 30 years!

The EOCP would like to thank these Operators for their years of service and participation in the EOCP program.

Brent Edge

James McQuarrie

James Elliot

Rick Van Leersum

Rod Harmon

Calgary • Edmonton • Vancouver • Montreal



**NEIL TRANBERG**

INDEPENDENT AREA REPRESENTATIVE

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<http://www.eocp.ca/program-info/forms/>



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- ✓ Live Backflow Assembly Repair & Maintenance
- ✓ 13,628 Litre (3600 gallon) 3 compartment reservoir
- ✓ A variety of repair couplings & restraints (various manufacturers)
- ✓ Dozens of various manufacturer's backflow preventers from ½" to 3"



- ✓ Live Hydrants and standpipes
- ✓ Waste water collection manhole
- ✓ Various buried distribution control valves
- ✓ Repair chambers / Shoring samples
- ✓ 200 meters of various types of buried distribution pipe



- ✓ Several Manholes
- ✓ Lift Station Simulator
- ✓ Reservoirs



- ✓ Life size live ground water well simulator
- ✓ Operational 3 phase VFD pump control panel
- ✓ 220 / 3 phase / water connections available for portable equipment training



- ✓ Lift Station Simulator
- ✓ High hazard training in a low risk environment



- ✓ Chlorine puck dispenser
- ✓ Gas chlorination - 150lb cylinders and tonner
- ✓ Variety of hypo chlorinators (various manufacturers)



- ✓ Climate Controlled
- ✓ Fully equipped classroom
- ✓ Live 6" pipe gallery with control valves
- ✓ 6 Station Backflow Assembly Testing Bench
- ✓ Colilert presence/absence incubation system
- ✓ SCADA and data monitoring systems



- ✓ Full multimedia equipped
- ✓ Climate Controlled



## Theoretical Training With A Hands On Approach

## NEW OPERATORS AND OPERATOR UPGRADES!

Check out the newest and latest upgrades on Operator status. Go to the EOCP website and click on the **Operator Tab**, then click on **New Operators** for an up to date list.

### OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TO NOVEMBER 4, 2013 – C-2013 TO PRESENT

Classification	IV	III	II	MUII	I	MUI	OIT	Total
WD	54	173	773	6	861	7	62	1936
WT	33	52	138	2	209	4	45	483
WWC	7	54	401	4	656	12	40	1174
MWWT	94	127	233	6	289	5	54	808
IWWT		4	13		20			37
BWD								44
SWS								812
SWWS						L 106	M 141	261
Total								5555

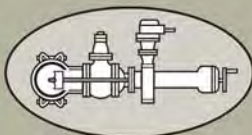
### EOCP Operators Have Been Busy!

*EOCP Operators have been working hard to obtain their CEUs. There have been an amazing 13,492 CEU entries for Operators in 2012 and 2013. Way to go, keep up the good work!*

## 2012 – 2013 C.E.R. REPORTING PERIOD COMING TO AN END

We are nearing the end of the current CER (Continuing Education Requirement) reporting period. Some of you may not have submitted your course completion certificates, transcripts, or course confirmation forms to the EOCP. Please make sure you will be in good standing as of December 31, 2013 by checking your status at <http://www.eocpsearch.org/>

*You can fax or email your paperwork to us at (604)874-4794 or [eocp@eocp.ca](mailto:eocp@eocp.ca).*



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