

Name: Barnett Stewart

Board Director Category – Operator Serving a Small Community

Biography

I began my career in 1989 when the Band Office hired BCGEU to train 10 of the band members with the fundamentals on laying pipe and sub-division development.

Little did I know that this course was preparing us for a Sewer Capital Project for the Kispiox Community.

Installation of Wastewater infrastructure, mains, manholes, laterals, lagoons. Installation of water mains infrastructure, hydrants, service lines, saddles, hot tapping, thrust blocks, main valves.

Became an Operator for a short period of time but was laid off due to funding.

I found work with Housing Construction, Road Construction, Youth Rediscovery Camp Counsellor/Bus Driver, Kispiox School Bus Driver, Emergency Operations Centre Director.

After 15 years the opportunity to become an Kispiox Operator came in 2005, started work and training at \$8.00/hr. Received Operator experience and training.

2011, I graduated from the Thompson Rivers University First Nations Water/Wastewater Diploma program.

2015, I changed my career and became a Circuit Rider for JIL Contracting, Jerry Morrison, and enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience with other First Nations

2022-2023, Instructor at the Thompson Rivers University for ISC funded courses (2).

Values Statement

Protect the people.

Protect the Environment.

I have always used this as my guideline throughout my career as an Operator or instructor.

Operators are an asset, especially for small communities, the Operators have the responsibility to their community and administration. We learn this in the training provided.

Communication with your community is key, not saying you must go door to door but accountability of your operations in time of need.

Understanding, improving, training is ongoing, continuous.

Our environment is precious, and we should work towards keeping it that way. For our children and future grandchildren.

Work plan, protection plan, emergency plan, maintenance plan is the Operators' tools for a successful operation.

This will help keep the environment safe for all living organisms.

It may take a few hours or a few years to achieve my goals, but I believe in the Operators and wish them well.

Share knowledge, support each other, continue training.

Those that know it all stop learning, those that want to know it all continue learning.

What interests you about this position as a director on the EOCP Board?

EOCP is a great institution and has made the Operator meet a higher standard through its vision and guidelines.

Working with others is always on my mind, stretching the limits to see how far it can be taken.

My understanding is the Director(s) provide guidance to the training program and uphold certification/classification for all of BC and YK.

Maybe I can be of more of an added support for the Operators as well as being a Circuit Rider.

What are the most important functions of a Director of the EOCP Board?

Not certain as to the function of a director but if I was to compare it to being an Emergency Director, understanding the deliverance of discipline and accountability to the issue.

Having a trained, experienced staff to fulfil their duties.