

2024 BCWWA Board of Directors Election – Candidate Statement

NAME	Chris Howorth P.Eng.
EMPLOYER	AECOM
TITLE	Client Account Manager
PLACE OF RESIDENCE	Vancouver BC

About Chris

<p>Industry knowledge, contacts, experience</p>	<p>My parents taught me to consider the community’s interests above my own, to ‘give back’. The BCWWA is uniquely placed to deliver progress in our water industry in BC and Yukon. These are the reasons why I want to join the board and build on my prior volunteering involvement (e.g. membership of the Wastewater Management Committee and the Abstracts Review Committee, regular presentations at the annual conference, etc.).</p> <p>My career in the water industry started when I completed my Civil Engineering degree in 1995. Since then I have been fortunate to work in numerous geographies (Canada, Europe, UK, USA) and for a range of organisations (municipal government, engineering consulting, equipment manufacturing) both large and small. I believe this experience will bring useful perspectives and help further the BCWWA’s goals.</p> <p>I have primarily held commercial positions, building expertise in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connecting organisations to their customers and stakeholders, • understanding needs/drivers, • identifying/communicating solutions, and • analysing complex systems, then creating and implementing successful strategic plans. <p>I believe my extensive industry network, listening skills and strategic vision will be valuable in helping the BCWWA continue to progress.</p>
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What is your approach to understanding and representing the interests of all members and stakeholders?

The positions I’ve held since moving to Canada 16 years ago have given me frequent interactions with a wide range of BCWWA’s members, providing opportunities to learn about people’s viewpoints and ideas. I will seek to solicit input whenever possible, especially from the ‘silent majority’ – all voices should be heard, and everyone has the potential to contribute value. My approach to understanding members' interests is founded on open dialogue – seeking honest opinions; and providing space for them to be shared. Mutual respect is also fundamental – approaching relationships with an open mind and desire to learn. I hope this will enable me to identify shared interests and ideas for improvement that align with the association’s goals and/or will benefit our industry. As a strong communicator I believe I will be well placed to represent and advocate for these on the board. I find it easy to be passionate about things that make our industry better!

Describe how you can advance the value of being inclusive in the BCWWA, defined as “we actively work with a diverse water community to provide meaningful opportunities to share skills and expertise.”

I believe in the [wisdom of the crowd](#) – that large, diverse groups make better decisions than individuals. We are stronger together! Learning is one of my core values and I find it primarily comes from listening to others, especially those with the most different perspectives to my own. To this end I strive to foster an environment that is non-judgemental and allows people to bring their whole selves to the conversation. I believe furthering equity, diversity and inclusivity is essential to overcome challenges and achieve the best outcomes for the association, our industry, and the wider society. Having lived, worked and travelled in many countries I have gained a valuable appreciation of diverse cultures and ethnic groups. That said, my best teachers are probably my two daughters – they are truly expert at showing me my blind spots!