

2024 BCWWA Board of Directors Election – Candidate Statement

NAME	Siobhan Robinson
EMPLOYER	Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd.
TITLE	Sector Leader – Water Supply & Treatment
PLACE OF RESIDENCE	Vancouver BC

About Siobhan

<p>Industry knowledge, contacts, experience</p>	<p>With more than 10 years of BCWWA volunteer experience, Siobhan understands the vision, value and operation of the association. Her experience includes leadership roles on various committees including the Young Professionals (YP) Committee, Elections Committee, Student Design Competition Committee and the Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee (DW TAC). She has also been involved in the Reconciliation Committee since its inception. As co-lead of the DW TAC, she has worked to align volunteer interests with committee and association goals through strategic planning sessions and has developed organizational tools to simplify committee operations and make it easy for staff to support the group’s activities. She has also acted as a director for the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies (BC and Canada) which provided her an awareness of how a Board operates and interfaces with staff. In her position at KWL, Siobhan leads a team of 18 which has given her human resources experience, financial responsibility, and a team building focus. Based on this combined experience, she will bring the following to the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BCWWA knowledge, experience & relationships ○ Strategic thinking ○ Governance experience ○ Leadership / team building skills ○ Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) and reconciliation focus <p>The BCWWA has been central in Siobhan’s development as a professional in the water sector. She first landed in the YP committee after relocating from Ontario without any contacts and, 13 years later, has an incredible network of co-volunteers and others she met through the association. She has benefited greatly from her involvement with the BCWWA and now wants to contribute to making the water sector a great place for others to build their career.</p> <p>With more than a decade of BCWWA volunteering, thirteen years of engineering, two years of volunteer Board experience with ACEC, and one year in a leadership role at KWL, Siobhan has the skills and experience to be an effective member of the BCWWA Board.</p>
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What is your approach to understanding and representing the interests of all members and stakeholders?

I recognize that we have a diverse membership including owners, consultants, suppliers/manufacturers, operators, cross connection control specialists, young professionals, and those who are new to the water industry; this is what makes the association so special. We have not only diversity in technical background and experience, but also diversity in geography with members across the BC and Yukon in both rural and urban environments. This makes us strong.

We need to recognize that the needs of all members are not the same and that, to provide value for all, we must understand these needs and target the use of association resources to balance benefits. To understand member needs, I believe that it is important to always be open to feedback and indeed request it. Once feedback is provided, we need to carefully consider how feedback can be addressed in a manner that provides benefits to all members. It is then incredibly important to follow up with the parties who provided feedback to show how their input has been incorporated.

We did this with the strategic planning session for the DW TAC this year. This involved collecting feedback from members about committee operations, adjusting our tools and processes then walking the committee through what we heard and how we incorporated what was shared.

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 look for opportunities to keep inclusion front of mind and work intentionally to create safe spaces where individuals from all backgrounds are welcomed. This is easy to say, but hard to do. As an example, within the DW TAC, we have added a ‘DEI & Reconciliation Moment’ near the beginning of all our meetings that is intended to be analogous to a safety share. My co-lead and I come prepared with content but open the floor for anyone in the committee to share their thoughts and experience. We have also instituted a meeting evaluation form to self-reflect as a group about how well we are running our meetings to be inclusive and achieve overall objectives. My objective with this work is to make the committee more safe and welcoming.

I would like to apply similar approaches at the Board level (i.e., focusing on opportunities to make the conference less intimidating for newcomers) to help us increase membership and broaden our impact.