

## Water and Wastewater Operators

- This is an important issue for municipalities as we have a responsibility to ensure we have properly certified operators working in our facilities.
- I know there have been problems with the process as it has unfolded.
- We have met with the Minister a number of times to discuss this, and have also met at the staff level to help identify where the needs exist.
- We have raised the need to have courses better tailored to the needs of those operators currently working but yet to get their certification. Many of them know how to do their job, and just need help with some specific areas to pass the certification tests.
- I know Red River College is willing to redesign courses if necessary to meet the needs of operators.
- But we have to consider that Red River and the other colleges plan a minimum of one year in advance.
- We are also continuing to raise the need to have training opportunities here in Manitoba.
- We have raised these issues with the Province for years and are growing more concerned every day as those operators originally grandfathered are retiring and conditional licenses are set to expire.

- I know the Manitoba Water and Wastewater Association is equally concerned.
- Just a couple of weeks ago we met with Minister Struthers to discuss this issue.
- The Minister committed to us to look into this issue as it is definitely of great importance.
- The Province has just hired a new Certification Specialist – Donna Garcia who can be reached at 945-8173.
- The Province is willing to work with operators to help them through this process.
- If you have an operator with a license set to expire soon I encourage you to have them contact the Province and get working on this.
- It is important that everyone in this room understand that although the Provincial process has been flawed the requirement for municipalities to have trained people in place is set.
- Municipalities need to meet this requirement and need to plan far in advance as this is a long process to work through.