

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **CPWA Honours Two Members Named to 2015 Top Ten Public Works Leaders List**

**OTTAWA, ONTARIO** – The Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA) announced today that two members were recently named as Top Ten Public Works Leaders 2015 in North America in recognition of their career excellence and dedication to public works. The two CPWA members, Darwin K. Durnie, RET, PWLF, Director of Business Development at Stantec Consulting Ltd. in Red Deer, Alberta; and Paul Smeltzer, P.Eng., Director of Water and Wastewater Services of the Niagara Region in Thorold, Ontario; will receive the prestigious American Public Works Association (APWA) Top Ten Public Works Leader awards at the upcoming APWA 2015 International Public Works Congress and Exposition in Phoenix, Arizona during August 30 - September 2, 2015. Both Durnie and Smeltzer will also receive the awards at presentations in their local regions during May, 2015.



Darwin Durnie, RET, PWLF



Paul Smeltzer, P.Eng.

The APWA Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year program honours excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from the US and Canada in both the public and private sectors.

“It is with great honour that CPWA recognizes Darwin Durnie and Paul Smeltzer on their selection for the Top Ten Public Works Leaders of 2015. This prestigious award is based on their long-standing commitment to excellence in Public Works,” said CPWA President Kealy Dedman, City of Guelph, Ontario. “These two gentlemen have distinguished themselves as leaders in their professional lives, and have also advanced the public works profession. Both have served in leadership roles throughout the CPWA organization and network, in their own provincial chapters and on the national CPWA Board of Directors, and have also volunteered as leaders, mentors, and advocates, who have reached out to serve

on committees and task forces with a dedication and commitment to the profession, and an understanding of how important the role of public works is to ensuring our country's quality of life. They are outstanding public works professionals, and are well-deserving of the Top Ten Public Works Leader award," Dedman said.

During his thirty year career, Durnie has held significant emergency management roles and has often been selected to assist with response and recovery of Alberta communities. Nationally, he has held leadership roles in two G8 and one G20 Summits for the government of Canada. With Stantec Consulting, as the Director of Business Development for the Red Deer, Alberta office, he leads the delivery of services in municipal operations, administration and legislation in Alberta. For the past 12 years, he has managed large scale capital projects to completion, and has organized infrastructure development and building improvements for existing communities. Durnie also introduced the use of GIS and GPS on large-scale regional water projects occurring in dozens of participating municipalities.

Durnie also directed the development of a web-based virtual as-built system and automated recording and reporting system attached to SCADA, which has become the state of practice for the regional water commissions that have been developed in the past decade. He continues to deliver training and education of staff, elected officials and peers, and his support of programs such as the Emerging Leaders and Young Professionals at the APWA/CPWA national and chapter levels. Durnie also is recognized for his creation of the Alberta Public Works Supervisors Program, his work on the APWA National Education Committee, and being named the first Chair of the APWA Certification Commission.

Smeltzer has 35 years of industry experience. In his position as the Director of Water and Wastewater Services for the Niagara Region, Thorold, Ontario, he is accountable for general management and leadership in the engineering, operations and maintenance working groups, and compliance of delivery of water and wastewater services. Prior to his role with the Niagara Region, he served as a Principle Consultant with AMEC Wheeler Foster, and was responsible for operations of the municipal infrastructure group. Together with his support team, Smeltzer was responsible for municipal infrastructure design projects, as well as tender documents, contract administration and construction inspection. He was the project manager for the design and construction of a 3.6 km four-lane cross section and water main installation, which is near completion in 2015. This project was a cornerstone of expansion in the town.

Smeltzer has been active in sharing his knowledge and experience, and leading others through presentations and training programs for engineering students at Ontario universities. He has also presented multiple times on the qualities of leaders and the value of mentoring, as well as being a Technical Professional. He also was instrumental in developing and administering a training program at Niagara College for water and wastewater operations, now a full-time diploma program in environmental technology, and also led a training program for Ontario Good Roads Association on Storm Sewer Design. Smeltzer also has served in key leadership roles for the Canadian Public Works Association and the Ontario Public Works Association for two decades. He served as a key organizer and host for the 2014 APWA International Congress & Exhibition in Toronto last August.

For more information about the Top Ten Public Works Leaders, or media information about CPWA, contact Laura Bynum at [lbynum@apwa.net](mailto:lbynum@apwa.net), or by phone at 202.218.6736.

#### **About CPWA**

*The Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA), or Association Canadienne des Travaux Publics, was founded in 1986 to enhance the services of APWA to the Canadian public works community and to improve the quality of public works products and services to Canadian citizens. CPWA's 2200 members in Canada, plan, build, operate, maintain and sustain the public works and infrastructure that improve our quality of community life.*

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