

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION ON WATER QUALITY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Canadian Association on Water Quality (CAWQ) is a non-governmental, nonprofit organization for scientists, engineers, technologists, administrators, practitioners, and students engaged in or interested in research on water quality or on the control or treatment of water pollution. The CAWQ was officially incorporated in the province of Ontario in 1992. Federal incorporation as a not-for-profit corporation was completed in 2012.

In 2025, the Association had 94 memberships, representing private, government, and university sectors. These memberships were broken down as follows: 46 CAWQ Young Water Professionals and Students, 12 Joint CAWQ-IWA Young Water Professionals and Students, 10 CAWQ Individual, 20 Joint CAWQ-IWA (our parent organization) Individual, 1 CAWQ Retired, 3 Joint CAWQ-IWA Retired, and 2 Corporate Members (University or Government).

The mission of the Canadian Association on Water Quality (CAWQ) is to foster a nationwide network of individuals dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of water quality through research and development, education, and the dissemination of knowledge.

WATER QUALITY RESEARCH JOURNAL

The Water Quality Research Journal (WQRJ) has been published continuously for over 60 years, making it one of the oldest peer-reviewed journals in the field, publishing in English and French. Starting as proceedings of the annual conference of the CAWQ, the WQRJ has evolved into a quarterly journal that attracts high-level papers from Canada and abroad. In January 2017, the journal's name changed from *Water Quality Research Journal of Canada* to *Water Quality Research Journal*. It is now indexed/abstracted in: Applied Science & Technology Abstracts, Applied Science & Technology Index, ASFA Indexing, BIOSIS, CAB International, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts Services, Current Contents, Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences, ISI, Elsevier GeoAbstracts, Engineering Information Inc., and the International Academy at Santa Barbara. The WQRJ has been published by IWA Publishing (IWAP) since 2011 and is provided to CAWQ members as a membership service. The new publishing arrangements have led to faster turnaround times (review and publication) and wider international exposure. The WQRJ is now well-positioned to serve as the natural publication outlet for all CAWQ-hosted conferences.

Starting in 2021, new articles in this journal are published Open Access with no publication charges. Every researcher and practitioner in every country around the world will be able to read them. This is possible because the journal is moving to an innovative new model called Subscribe to Open (S2O). This has increased the visibility of the papers published in the journal, leading to more citations and a higher impact factor (it moved from about 0.6 before 2020 to 2.3 now), making it more attractive for researchers to submit their research work.

Dr. Peter Vanrolleghem of Université Laval (Québec City) and Dr. Arash Zamyadi of Monash University (Melbourne, Australia, formerly Polytechnique Montréal) are joint Editors of the WQRJ. They are assisted by Emma Gulseven, IWAP, and Andreia Amaral, modelEAU –

Université Laval (Québec City).

The journal scope has now been revised to:

- Impact of current and emerging contaminants on aquatic ecosystems
- Aquatic ecology (ecohydrology and ecohydraulics, invasive species, biodiversity, and aquatic species at risk)
- Conservation and protection of aquatic environments
- Responsible resource development and water quality (mining, forestry, hydropower, oil and gas)
- Drinking water, wastewater and stormwater treatment technologies and strategies
- Impacts and solutions of diffuse pollution (urban and agricultural run-off) on water quality
- Industrial water quality
- Used water: Reuse and resource recovery
- equality (management, remediation, fracking, legacy contaminants)
- Assessment of surface and subsurface water quality
- Regulations, economics, strategies and policies related to water quality
- Social science issues in relation to water quality
- Water quality in remote areas
- Water quality in cold climates

A total of 40 papers in Volume 60 of the WQRJ were published in 2025 and distributed to CAWQ and international members.

The abstracts for each paper published, authors' instructions, and scope of the Journal can be accessed on the Journal's website (<https://iwaponline.com/wqrj>). Full issues and all individual articles published in volumes 1 to 60 can be downloaded for free online from <https://iwaponline.com/wqrj>. For more information about the WQRJ, please refer to the Annual Report produced by the Editors. This report can be viewed on the website at www.cawq.ca.

ORGANIZATION OF SYMPOSIA

CAWQ organizes annual regional symposia on water quality research, providing a venue for presenting recent research results and for exchanging information and networking. Presenters at the symposia are encouraged to submit their work for peer review and publication in the *Water Quality Research Journal*. Some details about these conferences organized in 2025 include:

- The 60th *Central Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research* was held at Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON, on February 23-24, 2025. This symposium was chaired by Dr. Rania Hamza.
- The 11th *Water & Environment Student Talks (WEST)* was held at the University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, on June 12-13, 2025. This Pacific symposium was chaired by Sam Clement and Hung Pham.
- The 12th *Western Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research* was held on June 17, 2025, at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, and chaired by Dr. Bipro Dhar and followed by the 3rd IWA Young Water Professionals (YWP) Canada Conference held at the same location from June 18-20, 2025, chaired by Dr. Hadi Mokarizadeh.

- The *Atlantic Canada Symposium on Water Quality Research* (integrated with PEOPLE 2025 International Conference) was held at the Sheraton Hotel in St. John's, NL, from July 21-25, 2025. The symposium was chaired by Dr. Bing Chen, Memorial University.
- The 38th *Eastern Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research*, chaired by Dr. Chunjiang An and Dr. Maria Elektorowicz, was held on October 16–17, 2025, at Concordia University in Montréal, QC.

These symposia bring together our researchers, young professionals, students, and stakeholders, creating a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and build collaborations to address new water quality challenges.

The CAWQ sponsors a competition for the “best presentation” of a student's research paper at each regional symposium. Historically, only one prize was awarded. Starting in 2012, two awards are presented at each symposium, and Young Professionals (under age 35) are also eligible. The winners receive the Philip H. Jones Award, which was established in honor of a founding member of the association. The Award winners receive a certificate, a cash prize of \$300 for first place and \$200 for second place, a one-year joint membership in CAWQ and IWA, one-year subscriptions to the *Water Quality Research Journal* and *Water 21*, a mention of their name in an issue of the journal and on the website, and a formal invitation to submit their work for peer review and eventual publication in the WQRJ. The following students were presented with Philip H. Jones Award at symposia held in 2025:

Omar Abdelrahman (1st Place)
 Toronto Metropolitan University
 Central Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research, February 23-24, 2025

Omar Mohamed (2nd Place),
 Western University
 Central Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research, February 23-24, 2025

Tae Hyun Calvin Chung (1st Place)
 University of Alberta
 Western Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research, June 17, 2025

Maha Dassouki Dit Tahan (2nd Place)
 Toronto Metropolitan University
 Western Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research, June 17, 2025

Zhonghao Zhang (1st Place)
 University of Victoria
 Atlantic Canada Symposium on Water Quality Research, July 21-25, 2025

Hao Wu (2nd Place)
 Memorial University
 Atlantic Canada Symposium on Water Quality Research, July 21-25, 2025

Athanasios Latinis (1st Place)
 Universite Laval
 Eastern Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research, Oct 16-17, 2025

SUPPORT OF STUDENTS

As part of its mandate, the Association provides assistance and encouragement to students in the fields of water quality and water pollution. Students are encouraged to join CAWQ in the Young Water Professionals (ages 35 and under) membership category. This includes significant reductions in CAWQ membership fees (approximately 68% off the regular fee) and symposia registration fees, as well as the awarding of the Philip H. Jones Awards for the “best student presentations” at each of the regional symposia, as mentioned above.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A joint CAWQ-IWA membership is available to CAWQ members. The joint membership fees represent a saving of up to 25% compared with registering CAWQ and IWA memberships separately. In addition, joint CAWQ-IWA members can obtain a discounted registration fee for all conferences and symposia organized by CAWQ and IWA, access CAWQ and IWA training and networking resources, and may subscribe to IWA journals, available in print or electronic format. Please refer to "IWAP online" for a complete list of online journals and the Water Reference Library for books and reports. These include the following:

- *Water Quality Research Journal* — The journal is a forum for original research dealing with the aquatic environment and should report new and significant findings that advance the understanding of the field. Critical review articles are especially encouraged.
- *Water Science & Technology* — This journal publishes peer-reviewed papers on all aspects of the science and technology of wastewater treatment and water quality management worldwide.
- *Water Practice & Technology* - The journal presents papers on all practical aspects of water and wastewater treatment and management throughout the water cycle.
- *Water Supply* — This journal publishes peer-reviewed papers on all aspects of water supply.
- *Journal of Hydroinformatics* — A peer-reviewed journal devoted to the application of information technology in the widest sense to problems of the aquatic environment. It promotes Hydroinformatics as a cross-disciplinary field of study, combining technological, human-sociological, and broader environmental interests, including an ethical perspective.
- *Aqua - Water infrastructure, Ecosystems and Society* — This journal publishes peer-reviewed scientific and technical, review, and practical papers dealing with research and development in water supply, technology and management covering the complete water cycle.
- *Journal of Water and Health* — A peer-reviewed journal devoted to the dissemination of information on the health implications and control of waterborne microorganisms and chemical substances in the broadest sense for developing and developed countries worldwide.

- *Journal of Water and Climate Change* — This journal publishes novel peer-reviewed research and practitioner papers on all aspects of water science, technology, management and innovation in response to climate change, with emphasis on the reduction of energy usage. Review papers are particularly encouraged.
- *Hydrology Research* — This journal publishes articles within hydrology in its widest sense, with an emphasis on water quantity and quality aspects of the hydrological cycle.
- *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development* — A peer-reviewed journal devoted to the dissemination of high-quality information on the science, policy and practice of drinking-water supply, sanitation and hygiene at local, national and international levels.
- *Water Policy* – This official journal of the World Water Council publishes reviews, research papers and progress reports in, among others, the following areas: financial, diplomatic, organizational, legal, administrative and research; organized by country, region or river basin.
- *Journal of Water Reuse and Desalination (JWRD)* — An international open access journal publishing peer-reviewed papers on the science and technology, policy, regulation, social and economic aspects and applications of sustainable sources of water scarcity, including new sources of non-conventional water
- *H₂Open Journal* - A journal that publishes Open Access original, peer-reviewed, internationally relevant articles covering all aspects of 21st century water research.
- *Blue-Green Systems* – A journal that brings together cutting-edge research on sustainable, energy and efficient water use in cities.
- *Water Reuse* – This journal covers all aspects of the treatment and use of non-conventional water resources.

In association with Elsevier

- *Water Research* — This journal publishes refereed, original research papers on all aspects of the science and technology of water quality and its management worldwide.
- *Water Resources & Economics* - This journal addresses the financial and economic dimensions affecting the use of water resources, be it water extraction, pollution or allocation, across different economic sectors like agriculture, energy, industry and urban water supply, as well as between local, regional and transboundary river basins.
- *Water Resources & Industry* - This journal aims to move research to innovation by focusing on the role industry plays in the exploitation, management and treatment of water resources.

PARTNERSHIP

The IWA was founded in 1998 by the amalgamation of the International Association on Water Quality (IAWQ) and the International Water Services Association (IWSA) to form the new International Water Association (IWA), with interests and responsibilities similar to those of its two founding organizations. Before the merger, the CAWQ served as the Canadian National Committee (CNC) of the IAWQ and represented Canada on the IAWQ Governing Board. From 1998 to 2007, the CAWQ was the sole member of the CNC.

The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) is a national association with members from the water services sector, municipalities and regional organizations. This

association shares with the CAWQ the common objectives of advancing and implementing knowledge to provide safe drinking water and to manage wastewater in an environmentally sound manner. After discussions between the CAWQ and CWWA, the complementary objectives of the two organizations would be enhanced by establishing a framework for their collaboration. As a result, since 2007, the CWWA and the CAWQ have agreed that CNC-IWA operates as a partnership between the CAWQ (research-focused) and the CWWA (utility/industry-focused) to better participate in its activities and promote the IWA.

CNC-IWA serves as the official bridge between the Canadian water sector and the global community represented by the IWA, with three primary functions.

- **National Representation & Governance:** The CNC acts as the "National Member" of the IWA for Canada, with the most critical governance roles including: (i) Governing Board Representation: The committee appoints two Canadian representatives to the IWA Governing Board to ensure Canadian interests are reflected in global water policy and strategy. (ii) Collective Voice: It consolidates the views of Canadian scientists, engineers, and utility managers into a single voice to participate in international decision-making.
- **Global Knowledge Exchange:** The CNC facilitates a "two-way street" for water expertise: (i) Promoting Canadian Innovation: It identifies and promotes Canadian technical competencies and research breakthroughs to the international water community. (ii) International Outreach: It encourages Canadian professionals to participate in IWA Specialist Groups, Task Forces, and international conferences. (iii) Information Distribution: It brings global best practices, standards, and research trends back to Canada to improve local water and wastewater management.
- **Organizational Collaboration:** The CNC serves as the operational framework that enables the CAWQ and CWWA to coordinate their efforts to host events. (i) Event Approval: As the sole national entity authorized to represent Canada within the IWA, CNC reviews and approves all IWA-badged conferences and regional events hosted in Canada. (ii) Event Coordination: It supports, attracts, and promotes international water events in Canada, providing a platform for local professionals to network with global experts.

In 2025, the CNC-IWA has 7 members: Baiyu Helen Zhang, Peter Vanrolleghem, and Elsayed Elbeshbishy from CAWQ, and William Fernandes, Nicole Taylor, Inman Hashemi, and Robert Haller from CWWA. The CNC selected Iman Hashemi (CWWA) to serve as Chair and Baiyu Helen Zhang (CAWQ) to be Vice Chair. The CNC approved and helped promote IWA specialty events in Canada (e.g., the 14th IWA Micropol & Ecohazard Conference, May 31-June 4, 2026, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada). The CNC was also actively involved in representing Canada within the IWA Utility, Leadership, and Indigenous Forums, and forming the new IWA Regional (North America and South America) Cluster to promote networks and sharing expertise.

Other than CNC, on the national front, CAWQ and IWA YWP Canada partnered to deliver events (e.g., the 3rd IWA Young Water Professionals (YWP) Canada Conference held at the University of Alberta from June 18-20, 2025). More information on the IWA YWP Canada chapter can be found on this [link](#). By emailing iwa.canada.ywp@gmail.com, a copy of the IWA-YWP annual report is available.

REVENUE

The financial sustainability of the CAWQ is built upon a diversified revenue model that integrates professional memberships, sponsorship and corporate partnerships, and event-based income. This multi-stream approach ensures the CAWQ can fulfill its mandate of representing Canadian water interests on the global stage while fostering local innovation.

The CAWQ has implemented a policy that requires students, who are by design significant participants in all CAWQ symposia, to become paid members of the CAWQ in the Young Water Professional membership category for the year as part of their symposium registration fee. This is targeted to increase student membership in the CAWQ, with the goal of retaining more of them as members after they graduate, and to get support for establishing their careers in the water field.

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Directors of the CAWQ comprises the Executive Committee and Regional Directors, as shown below. All individuals are volunteers and are appointed to these positions in accordance with the CAWQ Bylaws. These bylaws are available on the CAWQ website.

Ms. Yuanmei Zhang serves as the Administrative Officer of CAWQ, overseeing daily operations. Mr. Brad Cutler is warmly thanked for his service in managing the CAWQ website and membership systems. Financial administrative services are provided by Ms. Marilyn Crawford, who contributes CAWQ in the long run and a significant way. The CAWQ is sincerely grateful to Ms. Yuanmei Zhang, Mr. Cutler and Ms. Crawford for their invaluable assistance and support.

THE CAWQ WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Please visit the CAWQ website at www.cawq.ca or www.acqe.ca to find our mission, news, membership, journal, activities, and information on award winners. Please check our contact (<https://www.cawq.ca/en/contact/>) to access the CAWQ social media channels.

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION ON WATER QUALITY
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2025-2026**

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