

Dedicated Services Award – Nominee

JEFF WELCH

As the staff of the Roads and Drainage section at the City of Surrey, we are proudly nominating Jeff Welch, our manager, for the Dedicated Services Award.

Jeff Welch has been involved in public works since 1979, when he started with the City of Surrey's construction crew as a skilled labourer. He was a quick study and hard worker. With these attributes, Jeff started his progression through the ranks, which lead to him being promoted to Roads & Drainage Manager in 1995.



Outside of Jeff's role as the City's Roads & Drainage Manager, he has positively contributed towards improving employee safety and wellness. Being a member of the City's joint Health and Safety committee and Employee Wellness Committee Jeff has been involved in the development and implementation of processes and procedures designed to reduce work place safety incidents and improve overall employee health and wellness. Through these efforts, employee injuries at the City have dropped from 42 time loss incidents per year to 10 per year. At a technical level Jeff is very competent. This is demonstrated by his adeptness in responding effectively to emergency situations. As a recent example, in 2013 the City was adversely impacted by a road washout following a major storm. Jeff's leadership was instrumental in ensuring public safety, while directing an effective approach to efficiently dealing with the impacts.

Jeff's achievements have led him to be well respected in the public works community. At a local level Jeff chairs the Lower Mainland Municipal Operations Manager group and has routinely presented on various public works related programs since the late 2000's. He has been a member of PWABC since the early 2000's and attended most annual conferences since then, including numerous snow and ice conferences hosted by APWA.

Jeff has been a vigorous supporter of public works education. For the past 16 years, Jeff has supported the annual "Take Your Kids to Work Days and the "Door's Open" events. These events help promote public works as a career option and serve to raise public awareness of the many facets of public works related services. Outside of these venues, and on an ongoing basis, Jeff has mentored and trained hundreds of staff on leadership fundamentals and the importance of public works role within the community.

Perhaps Jeff's capstone and greatest contributions have been through his leadership fundraising for charitable benefactors. Coming from a disadvantaged family upbringing, Jeff relied on contributions from the community to sustain his single mom and siblings. Jeff has always been grateful for the many caring members of our community members that had selflessly supported him. Without their support, Jeff would not have likely succeeded in becoming a well-respected leader within his career, a beloved father and husband, and an altruistic individual. Getting involved with charitable events has been his way of giving back to the community which he had once relied on. For the past 20 years Jeff has been the City of Surrey Employee Campaign Chair with the United Way as well as leading the City's support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Over the course of his tenure with the United Way and the Heart and Stroke Foundation, he has helped fundraise over \$ 3.3 million.

The above summary is a small snap shot of Jeff's impact on the City of Surrey through his contributions towards delivering public works services and fundraising. 2016 will be Jeff's final year with the City of Surrey as he will be retiring at the end of December. Jeff has touched an unmeasurable number of individuals at the City of Surrey and in the community and will be truly missed. We hope that Jeff is awarded the Dedicated Services Award as we know it will be a personal highlight of his career.