

Purpose Established (2001) to recognize and encourage young OPWA members who have demonstrated an initial commitment to the profession and the association and show potential for future growth within the association. The award promotes the concept that length of career does not necessarily indicate leadership abilities or potential for service.

Eligibility Candidates must be active members of APWA/OPWA and not exceed 35 years of age as of the deadline of the award submission. Please include the candidate's birth date in nomination materials. The candidate must have demonstrated an ability and eagerness to act at the chapter or branch level by serving on committees, as an officer, heading projects, or contributing in general to the well-being of the chapter.
The candidate should have also accomplished one or more of the following:

1. contributed in some significant manner to his/her public agency or company by implementing new ideas, overcoming problems, controlling costs, etc.; and
2. Demonstrated an ongoing commitment to continuing education in the public work field. (i.e. related educational degree (s), attendance at workshops, seminars, or CEU credits etc.).

Nomination Process Nomination must be made by the OPWA chapter, the branches, or individual OPWA members. Original submittal should include nomination from and supporting documentation that clearly addresses the eligibility requirements and candidate's professional work, community contributions, personal awards and education.

For any issues with submission, please contact info@opwa.ca

Selection The Top Leader is selected by the Awards Committee and recommended to the Board of Directors.

Deadline March 6th, 2026 to be eligible.

Presentation The winner is presented with an award and framed certificate at the annual National Public Works Week Event.