

Criteria Form

Purpose The Top Public Works Leaders of the Year award seeks to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from both the public and private sectors. The primary focus of the award is on career service to the public works profession rather than on any one single event or project.

Eligibility Candidates with a minimum of 10 years qualifying experience may be nominated from any of the following categories. OPWA membership is required. Members of the OPWA Board of Directors are not eligible during the time they serve on the Board. Individuals are only eligible to receive the Top Public Works Leaders of the Year Award on one occasion.

Public Sector

Public sector candidates may come from any of the three following categories having a minimum of 10 years qualifying experience:

- a) Any non-elected employee of a federal, provincial, or municipal government who is responsible for one or more major departments of a public works agency. Most of the candidate's time and efforts must be devoted to the administration and management of public works
- b) Service in an appointed (non-elected) position on a board or commission charged with the oversight or policy level review of public works or infrastructure issues. Such service may have been at the federal, provincial, or municipal government level dealing with public works. Such positions may typically be represented by the following examples: City Manager, Public Works Commissioner, Roads Commissioner, Highway Commissioner, Transportation Commissioner, Airport Commissioner, Port Authority Commissioner, or other comparable position
- c) Elected officials who have prior qualifying experience from either category above may also be considered as candidates

Private Sector

Private sector public works and/or civil engineering professionals having a minimum of 10 years of involvement in public sector public works activities may be eligible, if their qualifying activities have come from the following areas:

- a) Experience as a contract Director of Public Works/City Engineer or comparable position, which was provided by means of a contract service from a private sector firm to a governmental entity; or
- b) A combination of prior qualifying experience in the public sector and/or service as a consultant engaged in the provision of public works-related services to the public sector.

Nomination Process Nominations of candidates should be made by the managing public agency, private sector entity, or OPWA chapter or branches. Self-nominations are not accepted. For any issues with submission, please contact chapteradmin@ontario.apwa.org

Selection The award recipient will be selected by the OPWA Board

Deadline **March 6, 2026 to be eligible. No exceptions.**

Presentation The winner of this award will be honoured at the annual OPWA Awards Luncheon, taking place on Wednesday May 13, 2026. The event will be held at the Mississauga Grand Banquet & Event Centre.

**OPWA
Webpage** [Awards – APWA Ontario Chapter](#)