Mine Water Solutions 2027
May 10-12, 2027 · Vancouver

SHORT COURSE

MINE WATER ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: FROM RAMP-UP THROUGH OPERATIONS TO POST-CLOSURE

Date: May 10, 2026
Location: UBC, Vancouver BC
Duration: 8 hours
Delivery method: in-person only. The course will not be livestreamed or recorded.
*Information provided here is subject to change

Presenters:

- Andrew Watson, Senior Consultant, Stantec
- Ali Naghibi, Principal Water Resources Engineer, Stantec
- Geanna Hovey, Chemical and Process Engineer, Stantec
- Andrew Sinclair, Senior Water Resources Engineer, Stantec
- Claudia Núñez Juliá, Water Resources Team Lead, Stantec
- Sara Wilkins, Manager, Water Resources, Stantec
- Resa Furey, Marketing Manager, Energy & Resources, Stantec

Course summary:

Managing mine water requires sound strategy and tactical implementation, with a healthy dose of curiosity and adaptability. Decisions and actions taken (or not taken) have outcomes that can be anticipated and implications that reach far into the mine's future. The cumulative effect of the mine's water management choices must be reckoned with at closure when water management often remains a major risk and expense. Mitigation and adaptation throughout the lifecycle are key to successfully navigating the various transitions.

This highly participatory *workshop* format encourages participants to focus on mine water management problems they are facing, and to explore mitigation and adaptation strategies that can be implemented at their mine. The day will start with 1) an intro to the water cycle at a mine and then will move to 2) conservation and reuse to minimize water impacts, and 3) the remedy of last resort: water treatment. With these topics as a foundation, participants will form teams to follow water through the life of mine and suggest adaptations and mitigations during the mine life that will set the mine up for success.

Participants responsible for, or engaged in, an actual site, are encouraged to bring their case and work on it as the workshop steps through the mining lifecycle.

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Andrew Watson is a Civil Engineer with 30 years of experience in the design and construction of infrastructure for mines. He has led projects from conception to implementation. His project experience extends through the entire mining lifecycle and includes several mine closure projects.



Dr. Ali Naghibi is a Principal Water Resources Engineer and an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia, with over 23 years of professional and research experience spanning diverse environments in Canada and internationally. His expertise primarily lies in engineering hydrology, mine water balance modelling (GoldSim), water management planning and design, and environmental effects assessment. He also leads projects on hydrologic monitoring and analysis, hydraulic and hydrologic modelling, and instream flow and environmental flow assessments.



Geanna Hovey is a Chemical and Process Engineer with 11 years of experience in process development and design, commissioning, operations support, and process optimization. Over her career she has worked in mine wastewater treatment, where she has contributed across the full project lifecycle. She brings extensive hands-on experience in metals precipitation, membrane separation technologies, sulphate desaturation, ion exchange, electrolysis & electrolytic coagulation, multi-media filtration and coagulation/flocculation processes. She has worked as a process development engineer on industrial decarbonization projects to mitigate GHG emissions.



Andrew Sinclair is a Senior Water Resources Engineer with over 19 years experience working on surface water volume and quality projects across Canada. His hydrologic expertise includes hydrologic modeling, stormwater management, watercourse monitoring, ecosystem restoration, water supply assessment and water balances. Andrew has developed and managed watershed-scale pollution source control studies to identify sources and develop appropriate beneficial management practices to reduce pollutant loading, particularly with respect to nutrient loading.

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Claudia Núñez Juliá is a civil engineer with a specialization in water resources and over 18 years of experience primarily in mining water management across Latin America and Canada. She has a strong background in corporate water strategy, mine planning, and sustainability, with hands-on experience integrating water considerations into complex operational and regulatory environments. Her experience includes corporate strategy development, ESG-aligned water disclosures, and the practical delivery of water solutions in both operational and expansion contexts. Claudia is passionate about applying international best practices to support resilient, sustainable water management in mining and is bilingual in English and Spanish.



Sara Wilkins is a professional Hydrogeologist, and is a specialist in mine water management, groundwater and surface water assessments, and mine closure. She has 20 years of experience in mine water security and planning, closure planning and execution, detailed groundwater and surface water site investigations, carbon capture and sequestration, injection and supply well design and testing programs.



Resa Furey leads market and strategy development for Stantec and has more than 20 years' experience working in the mining industry. She currently leads a corporate initiative focused on mine closure. She has worked with boards and executive teams to develop strategy and resolve operational issues. Her specialty is helping organizations overcome the 'planning gap' by linking strategy to action.
She was named to the 100 Inspirational Women in Mining list in 2018.