

Urban Water TMU - Fall 2025

PFAS Management in Canada Workshop!



On September 16th, Urban Water TMU, in partnership with national organizations, hosted the PFAS Management in Canada Workshop to a full house!

The event combined expert presentations with collaborative roundtable discussions to develop recommendations for government and decision-makers. Participants were placed at **transdisciplinary, trans-sectoral tables** with representatives from federal and provincial governments, municipal utilities, consulting firms, laboratories, PFAS destruction providers, industry, and academia. Together, they explored strategies to **reduce PFAS circulation** in the environment and **enhance removal from wastewater treatment plants** while preserving valuable nutrients.

Read more [here](#)

Urban Water Researchers Publish New Study on Wastewater Surveillance

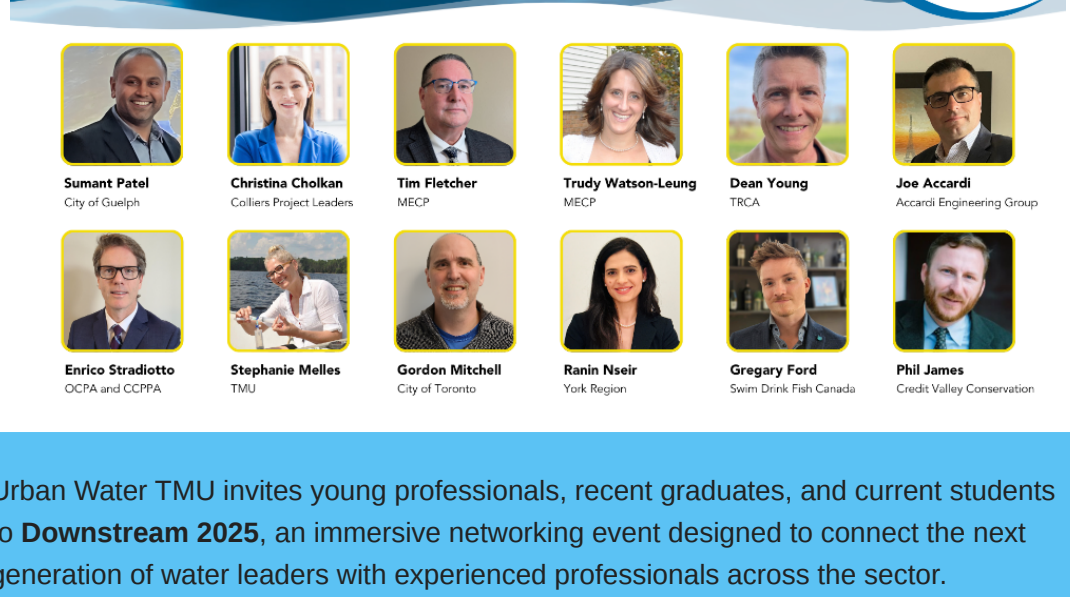


Six Urban Water faculty researchers, Dr. Claire Oswald, Dr. Stéphanie Melles, Dr. Kimberley Gilbride, Dr. Chris Wellen, Dr. James Li and Dr. Steven Liss, have co-authored a [recent collaborative publication](#) advancing wastewater-based surveillance (WBS) for community health monitoring.

In partnership with public health and municipal collaborators, the team analyzed SARS-CoV-2 levels at six community sites in Toronto to determine how **population density, sewer pipe length, and community dependency** influence the relationship between wastewater signals and reported COVID-19 cases. The findings show that both **infrastructure and social factors** can strengthen the design of sentinel WBS sites and improve public health responses.

Congratulations to our Urban Water researchers on this collaborative publication and their continued leadership in developing equitable, data-driven approaches to public health monitoring!

Join us for Downstream 2025: A Networking Event for Emerging Water Professionals!



Urban Water TMU invites young professionals, recent graduates, and current students to **Downstream 2025**, an immersive networking event designed to connect the next generation of water leaders with experienced professionals across the sector.

The event will take place on **Friday, November 21, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at The Sandbox, Student Learning Centre (341 Yonge Street)**.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in small roundtable discussions with [12 water professionals](#) representing a range of organizations, including provincial governments, municipal utilities, engineering firms, environmental clean tech companies, conservation authorities, and nonprofits. Each roundtable will last about 15 minutes before participants rotate to meet a new group of experts.

This event offers a valuable opportunity to ask questions, gain career advice, and build professional connections in a supportive and engaging environment.

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Please Register Here](#)

Recent Publications of Urban Water Researchers

Here are recent publications from Urban Water Faculty. This list is limited to "Full Members" who contribute highly to the Center's programs, "Affiliate Members" are not included for the purposes of brevity.

Abdelrahman, A. M., Abdelrazec, N., AlSayed, A., Kakar, F. L., Muller, C., Bell, K. Y., & **Elbeshbishy, E.** (2025). From process fundamentals to engineering perspectives: A technical review on in-situ biogas upgrading via the hydrogenotrophic methanogenesis pathway. *Biomass and Bioenergy*, 200, 108043. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biombioe.2025.108043>

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Archer, D., Truter, C., Rambau, V., Philani, M., & **Wolfaardt, G.** (2025). *A novel Water Quality Index (WQI) to characterize spatiotemporal pressures in the Cape Flats Aquifer (CFA)*. <https://doi.org/10.22541/au.174890228.83010665v1>

Atkinson, D. (2025a). *In the Mood to Exclude: A Defense of Digital Property Rights Against GenAI Scraping*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5474732>

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Atkinson, D. (2025c). *Putting GenAI on Notice: GenAI Exceptionalism and Contract Law* (Version 1). arXiv. <https://doi.org/10.48550/ARXIV.2504.00961>

Azmi, H., **Melles, S. J., & Laursen, A. E.** (2025). Does selenium offset methylmercury toxicity across trophic levels in a primary producer, *Auxenochlorella pyrenoidosa*, and a detritivore, *Aeolosoma variegatum*? *FACETS*, 10, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1139/facets-2024-0061>

Balaa, D., **Sekercioglu, F., Suehring, R., & Young, I.** (2025). Public perceptions and expert opinions about microplastic and nanoplastic contamination in water. *Environmental Research: Health*, 3(4), 041001. <https://doi.org/10.1088/2752-5309/ae0c2d>

Barghi, M., Fries, E., Chowdhury, R., Provencher, J., Mallory, M. L., Hamilton, B. M., & **Suehring, R.** (2025). Development of a sensitive method for the quantitative analysis of 34 organophosphate esters in seabird eggs, liver, and fish liver tissue. *Frontiers in Environmental Chemistry*, 6, 1549292. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvc.2025.1549292>

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Calabrò, P. S., **Elbeshbishy, E.**, Laqa Kakar, F., & Zema, D. A. (2025). A short bibliographic review concerning biomethane production from wastewater sludge. *Waste Management & Research: The Journal for a Sustainable Circular Economy*, 43(3), 297–305. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0734242X241252406>

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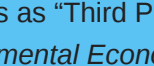
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