Please accept this nomination for Keith Bentley and Scott Boyer for the Outstanding Public Works Employee Award.

Both employees have worked for Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality’s Public Works’ Utility Group (formerly Sun Peaks Utilities Co., Ltd.) for the past decade plus. During their tenure, they have seen the Utility grow from 2 wells and 1 water treatment plant and a wastewater lagoon to a complex well field with 3 treatment plants and a Modified Activated Sludge Wastewater Treatment Facility that includes composting.

Both operators bring excellent skills to their job and have grown through the years. They are the Utility’s ‘Go to Guys’ to get things done. They don’t mind getting dirty, getting in the ditch, or helping residents and guests out. They are willing to do what ever it takes including helping to set up trade shows for Public Works like they did in September 2016 including giving tours to provincial ministers, local politicians and first nations chief and council members.

Keith Bentley, our EOCP Level III wastewater plant and equipment operator, has accomplished many things in his 16 years with the Utility. Over the past three years, a number of key innovations come to mind.

* In 2015 he went way out of his comfort zone to write the justification memo to purchase a roll off truck, and then find one and get it to Sun Peaks all in an effort to speed up our composting process. All with a budget of $35,000 in order to keep the payback under 3 years savings and in order to get senior management to sign off on the project.

Scott Boyer, is our all-around operator with certification in Water Treatment, Distribution and Wastewater Treatment and Collections. Scott has brought his passion for the Utility over 13 years ago from Alberta. He along with Keith form a strong team that other Sun Peaks operators can rely on and learn from.

* On December 26, 2015, the distribution system’s water main developed a leak. While this might not mean much to larger municipalities, at Sun Peaks, it’s a big deal. This water main serves 50% of the resort community and on the busiest check in day of the year, we had to cut water service off to half our customers. To add to the excitement, it was minus 30 and we were experiences a major snow storm that dropped 40 cm of fresh powder. Scott look the lead with our contractor, worked a couple of 20-hour day and was able to get the water on within 36 hours. Yes, the full team was involved in this major outage, but Scott with his work ethic and knowledge allowed this job go much faster than expected in very difficult conditions.

Joint Accomplishments

* In 2016, Keith along with Scott Boyer found a way to fit four In-vessel compost containers into the space where only three should go. It took some creative field design and construction techniques. This has made a real different to our overall compost production.
* In 2017, Scott and Keith oversaw the construction of Bioreactor 4 at the wastewater treatment plant working with engineers and contractors to make changes in the field that allowed us to operate this $2.2m expansion efficiently and within the very short building season at Sun Peaks.

If you are an operator, take some time to talk to either of these guys about how to ‘discuss the practical side of design’ with engineers that may not have ever worked in the field.

Both of these gentleman make me proud to work with them and call them follow operators and a member of the public works team!

