

## The City of Kelowna – First in Fusible™ PVC Certification



**W**ayne Nadasde, City of Kelowna Construction Supervisor, believes in keeping his crew current with the latest equipment and training. “I have a versatile crew and they are willing to learn. I put a lot of focus on training, and maintain an attitude that if I can’t learn something new every day, then I need to retire. I don’t have an endless training budget, so I look for quality training that fills a purpose.”

Nadasde oversees a unique construction program in the City of Kelowna. When he began, like most cities, construction was running silo-style with divisions for water, sewage, drainage, etc. with differing in-house regulations and standards for each division. He had a different vision and helped make changes so that his crews run now as if they work for a

successful construction company meeting the standards and expectations of the consultant/contractor community. “We still tender work, but we do a portion of it ourselves every year. We function just like a contractor and our crews do it all: utilities, power, communications, cable, traffic systems, water, sewer, drainage, road works, curbs, sidewalks--property line to property line. We typically take on the projects that are very sensitive in terms of customer service, where construction causes a lot of closures, or water or power shut-downs. As city employees, our people are very sensitive to the public. We also tackle projects where an outside contractor might have to carry a lot of liability. We assume all the risk and do the project ourselves.”

This forward-thinking attitude, led to Nadasde's decision to have his crews trained to fuse PVC pipes, making Kelowna the first municipality in Canada to train crews in fusible PVC. Technical Sales Representative, Rob Mellander explains

our new QC lab. People usually come here for training and recertification. Wayne had his own fusion machines and also the space for training, so I took the training course to him." The training combines both theory and hands-on

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**Wayne Nadsde**

City of Kelowna Construction Supervisor

experience. “We spend, maybe, a couple of hours on the theory side, and then the rest of it is practical—getting on the machines and fusing the pipe. I’m a hands-on kind of person myself. I learn by doing, so the people I train spend a lot of time fusing.”

that this was a natural next step for the City of Kelowna. “They currently do their own HDPE fusing, and because of the ever-changing market, they want to stay on top of new products and ways to do things.” Though there are no fusible PVC projects in the immediate future for Kelowna, this product has successfully been installed at a creek crossing in Salmon Arm BC, and watermain replacement along an existing highway in ColdStream, B.C. near Vernon and a new install under an existing golf course while the course was in full operation in Armstrong B.C. to supply a new subdivision surrounding the golf course.

“We already had some of the equipment that is compatible with other types of fusion work,” said Nadasde. “There was a little bit of retrofitting required for our equipment to work with fusible PVC, but that was pretty much all we had to do. Rod’s training was excellent. It was very worthwhile and we adapted to it very easily because we were already certified in HDPE. IPEX is very diligent in quality control, using the data logger to produce printouts for fusion time, temperature, etc. to ensure that all the joints are done correctly. I was pleased that the IPEX quality control was the way it was.”

Rodney Johnston, Technical Field Representative for Western Canada, is responsible for fusible PVC training for western Canada. “At the IPEX facility in Edmonton, we have a new training/fusion room with two fusion machines, one large and one small, located in

Nadasde concluded, “We don’t buy exclusively from IPEX, but we’ll always be there to try any of their products. IPEX is a good company, and we have a good working relationship. They build a good product and they’re at the forefront developing new products like Bionax. Why shouldn’t we try it?”