

Pre-Conference Workshop: Hydropower Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Essentials - Workshop presented by Hatch and Sunbird Power Academy - \$85.00 + HST

This interactive workshop provides a practical overview of modern hydropower Operations & Maintenance for operators, maintainers, engineers, asset managers, and new entrants. Led by **Babar Khan** and **Marc Mantha**, and supported by additional experienced O&M professionals, the session explores workforce development, training and competency needs, and leading practices in maintenance strategy, inspection planning, and asset reliability. Participants will gain actionable insights they can apply directly within their facilities, with a strong focus on safety, operational excellence, and long-term asset performance.

As a special offering, five workshop registrants will receive complimentary access to the full Sunbird Power Academy training bundle (valued at \$1,000).

Detailed Overview

This 3+ hour Operator Workshop, jointly presented by Hatch and Sunbird Power Academy, brings together real-world perspectives from seasoned hydropower professionals, including Babar Khan and Marc Mantha. The workshop is organized into two focused modules and is designed for individuals involved in day-to-day plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and asset management.

Part 1 — Training Requirements & Capacity Building

This module examines the evolving workforce needs within hydropower operations, including:

- *Knowledge-transfer risks as senior operators and maintainers retire*
- *Competency and training requirements for the next generation of O&M professionals*
- *Expanding pathways and opportunities for women in technical roles*
- *The growing importance of First Nations capacity building as communities take on greater operational and ownership responsibilities*

Participants will explore practical, industry-aligned approaches to skill development, onboarding, and operational readiness. Modern digital training tools—such as the Sunbird Power Academy platform—will be highlighted as part of the discussion.

Part 2 — Maintenance Strategy & Leading Practices

This module focuses on the foundational elements of effective hydropower maintenance programs, including:

- *Preventive, predictive, and condition-based maintenance*
- *Structured inspection planning and risk-based prioritization*
- *Leading practices from Canadian and international hydropower operations*
- *How modern maintenance strategies support safety, reliability, and lifecycle asset performance*

Content is reinforced through operator-driven insights, real-world examples, and leading practices.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will gain:

- *Practical, applicable insights to support daily operations and maintenance*
- *A strong foundation in modern O&M expectations and best practices*
- *Improved understanding of training, workforce development, and maintenance planning that strengthens long-term asset performance*