

2019 Wind Turbine Technician Survey Report – Summary

The 2019 Wind Turbine Technician Survey Report presents the results of CanWEA's 2019 Wind Technician Workforce Survey. Through a tailored survey, respondents provided key statistics on demographics, recruitment and retention trends at both a moment in time and a leading and lagging three-year time frame.

Initiated by the CanWEA Operations and Maintenance Program's Human Relations Committee, the survey was developed to provide data in support of workforce development initiatives. Survey respondents totalled 19 companies, accounting for 1,018 wind turbine technicians. This reflects a survey representation rate of an estimated 73 per cent of Canada's wind turbine technician workforce, providing a high level of confidence in the accuracy of the findings.

Here are some of the main take-aways from the report:

- Canada's wind turbine technician workforce is estimated at 1,400 workers.
- The majority of technicians are between the ages of 25 and 35 years old and have three to 10 years of experience.
- There are almost no female technicians.
- The workforce is set to grow at an increasing rate, with the addition of 50 per cent more technicians added in the next three years.
- Current sources for new recruits will not be able to maintain this growth without an increase in new employees from one or more sources.
- Employers are finding success with recruitment of new techs over the age of 25 years old.
- Retention of experienced workers is difficult after 10 years of experience has been achieved.

The report outlines a number of recommendations for next steps including further discussion with Canadian wind industry employers to develop a set of action items for the promotion of a skilled, safety-centric workforce.

To learn more about the report, please contact Phil McKay at pmckay@canwea.ca.