



## Continuing the legacy of safety at Pearson International Airport

For more than 15 years, Socrates Furtado has kept safety 'job number one' at the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) cogeneration and central utilities plant. Under Socrates' watch, his team has been responsible for the operation and maintenance of the plant, including heating and cooling to Pearson International Airport terminals. "To be available for any eventuality, we practice supplying power on short notice regularly," Socrates explains. "So, in cases of power outages and blackouts, we're completely prepared to supply the power necessary for the GTAA."

As a certified First Class Engineer, Socrates stays current on all applicable TSSA requirements and expects no less from his team of experts. "I've worked closely with TSSA for a long time, and I believe they play a critical role in ensuring the safety of plant employees and others through requirements and certification," he says.

Socrates is meticulous about planned shutdown work and closely collaborates with all outside contractors to ensure safety and compliance. He credits his discipline to his earlier career as a Commodore and Marine engineer on a naval ship.

Being a proponent and promoter of safety is part of Socrates' DNA. He created many of the health and safety documents used by the team and regularly reviews and updates these documents with lessons learned throughout his career – with a keen eye to the GTAA's and SNC Lavalin's safety policies.

Always one to demonstrate safety leadership, Socrates ensures his team members are well trained and informed of safety measures during daily briefings covering a variety of industry topics aimed at minimizing incidents at the site. This attention to safety details has clearly been instilled in his team, as three of his team members have been recognized with GTAA community safety awards for their ingenuity and forward-thinking. "I really do my best to lead by example," he says.



*Socrates Furtado, Manager, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) (Chief Engineer) SNC Lavalin O&M for the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA)*

Not one to rest on his laurels, Socrates is always looking for ways to raise the bar on maintenance and safety protocols. An example of his initiative includes the installation of a small by-pass pump to save energy and reduce the operations of a large circulating water pump. He was also responsible for the relocation of a gas compressor display unit that allowed for a safer recording of parameters by the operators. Another safety-focused project he orchestrated was the installation of an access ladder for inspection of valves situated at a higher location on a steam condenser.

"There are a lot of things that can go wrong," he explains. "Maintaining a culture of safety and being disciplined about checklists is critical."

Thanks to Socrates and his dedication to safety as 'job one', the GTAA has been free of any major safety incidents under his watch.

TSSA congratulates Socrates on winning TSSA's 2021 Impact Safety Award!