This new partnership between GBC and H2O and More Inc, an Ontario-based SME will test claims that H2O’s water conditioning units are more environmentally friendly than traditional units for treating hard water. These products use a bipolar technology that causes the minerals, including limestone, to form nano-crystals that pass through pipes, rather than forming lime deposits and corrosion. The water chemistry is not changed but the properties of the water are, and as trace elements and minerals are not removed it is safe and healthy to drink. This study is to test the efficacy of the product for reducing the scaling and corrosion of pipes.

John Priolo, an employee of H2O, is also a GBC plumbing apprenticeship program alumni so knew our students and faculty would have the skills to deliver a strong project and answer H2O’s product testing needs. He was also keen to bring this exciting learning opportunity to his alma mater.

Product testing is ongoing and already one municipal government and a neighboring university have expressed interest in collaborating on the development of testing protocols and methodology. Priolo hopes that competitors in the industry will follow suit in verifying their products’ performance to ensure consumers know the risks and value that come with the purchase of water conditioning and softening products.

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The project is expected to contribute to the standardization of testing protocols and product quality standards. Water conditioning product manufacturing and sales are largely unregulated industries. The successful marketing of the products following a rigorous testing protocol and verification through laboratory analysis will serve to reinforce government recommendations in regards to best practice and performance of conditioning products.