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# The Engineers Canada Awards: A 45-Year Tradition of Engineering Achievements

*Celebrating the Role of Nation's Engineering Profession During Canada's Sesquicentennial*

Engineers Canada is the national organization of the provincial and territorial associations that regulate the practice of engineering in Canada and license the country's 290,000 members of the engineering profession.

### **Celebrating the Role of Canada's Engineering Profession**

Since before Confederation, engineers have helped create and build Canada into what it is today. Whether from the early creation of the canal systems and the fortification and building of the national railway, 20<sup>th</sup> Century infrastructure such as hydroelectric stations and the electricity grid, the Trans-Canada highway, bridges, overpasses, and skyscrapers, the development of Canada's natural resource extraction and refinement industries, aeronautics and aerospace, and environmental solutions for clean water, or alternative power sources, telecommunications, technology and artificial intelligence, the achievements of engineers are present from coast to coast to coast.

Eighty-one years ago, the organization that would become Engineers Canada was founded. Since its inception, Engineers Canada and the 12 provincial and territorial associations that regulate the practice of engineering have witnessed great change not only in how engineering is practised but also in how it is taught at academic institutions across Canada. New engineering disciplines and industries have emerged as new technologies have developed.

### **Showcasing Outstanding Achievements**

Presented annually since 1972 to recognize outstanding Canadian engineers, teams of engineers, engineering projects and achievements, and engineering students, the **Engineers Canada Awards** highlight professional excellence, as well as the contributions of engineers to their community, and to the safety and well-being of Canadians.

The process to review and determine the award recipients is lengthy. Engineers Canada forwards the call for award nominations to the provincial and territorial engineering associations, Canadian post-secondary institutions, and the engineering community every fall. Nominees are brought forward and careful consideration is given to



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leadership in the profession and the community, outstanding achievements, and to previous recognition obtained. The nominees are reviewed by the Engineers Canada Awards Committee who, in turn, determine the award recipients.

The awards are presented during an Awards Gala held each year in conjunction with Engineers Canada's Annual General Meeting typically in late May. This year, the Engineers Canada Awards Gala event will be held on May 25, 2017 in St. John's, NL. In 2017, Engineers Canada awards are presented in eight categories:

**Gold Medal Award** – the prestigious Gold Medal Award has been awarded continuously since 1972. The Gold Medal bestows distinction on outstanding engineers and recognizes their exceptional achievements in their chosen field of engineering.

**Young Engineer Achievement Award** bestows distinction on young outstanding engineers and recognizes exceptional achievement in their chosen fields. The nominee must be an engineer 36 years of age or younger as of the end of May in the year the award is presented.

**Meritorious Service Award for Professional Service** recognizes outstanding service and dedication to the Canadian engineering profession through Canadian professional, consulting, or technical associations and societies, and to enhance the role of the associations and societies in the career of the professional engineer.

**Meritorious Service Award for Community Service** recognizes outstanding service and dedication to Canadian society for an individual through voluntary participation in community organizations, government sponsored activities, or humanitarian work.

**Medal for Distinction in Engineering Education** recognizes an exemplary contribution to the teaching and learning of the engineering profession at Canadian universities. This award has the objective of encouraging excellence in the current teaching of engineering.

**National Award for an Engineering Project or Achievement** bestows distinction on a team of engineers or for an outstanding engineering project or achievement that has had a significant positive impact on society and/or industry and/or engineering, and recognizes engineering achievements involving Canadian engineers.

**Award for the Support of Women in the Engineering Profession** recognizes engineers who, through their engineering and career achievements, have demonstrated



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noteworthy support for women in the profession and have established a benchmark of engineering excellence.

**Gold Medal Student Award** bestows distinction on outstanding undergraduate engineering students and recognizes exceptional contributions to societal issues.

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May, 2017