

Wallace Stanley Read - nominated by IEEE Canada for the Sir John Kennedy Medal

In senior management positions of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and President of both Lower Churchill Development Corporation and Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation, Wally Read spearheaded the major power development in Labrador and Newfoundland. Through his efforts, he brought the extent of provincial electrification from 50% up to close to 100%. In so doing, Wally Read changed the face of Newfoundland and Labrador by promoting hydro-electric development and establishing appropriate operational methodologies for electric power utilities. Today, thanks to his leadership skills and engineering ability, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro proudly stands as the fourth largest electric utility in Canada in terms of generating capacity.

Wally Read was President of the Canadian Electrical Association for many years before becoming its President in 1985. He promoted the role of electricity to the Canadian Government, and was a strong promoter of the necessity to develop appropriate standards for applications of electricity, not only within Canada, but internationally. His work with the CEA paved the way for the increased cooperation among electric power utilities to provide reliable power. His work with the Standards Council and his other standards activities helped to provide a safe environment for all Canadian users of electricity.

Wally Read's volunteer activities are legendary. He has served the members of IEEE and the profession locally, nationally and internationally for over 30 years. He was Chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador Section of IEEE, Director of IEEE Region 7 (Canada), Vice-President of IEEE Standards Association, Secretary, Treasurer and then President of IEEE in 1996. He was the second of only three elected Presidents of IEEE outside the United States, and while serving in that senior role captured the hearts of some 370,000 members of the organization.

Wally Read's accomplishments have been recognized through numerous awards and honours including the CCPE Gold Medal, EIC's Julian C. Smith Award, the Charles Proteus Steinmetz Award from IEEE, and Member of the Order of Canada. We are honoured this evening to pay homage to this most distinguished engineer and gentleman by conferring on him the highest honour of the Institute.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. President, as the Recipient of the Sir John Kennedy Medal, please welcome Wallace Stanley Read.