



The Engineering Institute of Canada

Fellow Citation - 2003

Mr. Gordon H. Thomson – A Member of the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering

Mr. Thomson graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1964 in Chemical Engineering. He joined Imperial Oil upon graduation and has had an illustrious career with this company and its parent EXXON. His work began, as so many others in the oil industry, in the Sarnia Refinery, where he was one of the inventors of a unique refining process, which was patented. He then undertook roles with increasing scope and responsibility. This included responsibility for refining and supply for the entire company; management of the Cold Lake heavy oil operation in Alberta; and representation for Imperial Oil in the management committee for Syncrude. He subsequently became president of Esso Petroleum Canada, responsible for all of Imperial's Oil refineries and marketing.

Mr. Thomson then moved into the world stage out of New York with the parent company, EXXON, where he had global responsibility for crude oil and petroleum acquisition. This was at a time when crude oil supply was critical because OPEC was adjusting the supply, thereby causing a large increase in crude oil prices. Exciting times for Mr. Thomson, as we all know the importance and impact of OPEC policies on the world markets. In addition to his technical career Mr. Thomson has made major contributions to the CSChE, active in the local chapter and the National Board. He subsequently became president of the society. Later he worked with the parent organization of the CSChE, the Chemical Institute of Canada, where he served as Vice-Chairman and then Chairman. To read the testimonial letters from people that Mr. Thomson was associated with in this endeavours is inspirational. It is clear that his interpersonal and administrative skills were an important part of his success.

For his combined career in the development of the oil industry in Canada, and his dedication to the technical organizations that provide the support for such a career, the Engineering Institute of Canada recognizes Mr. Thomson as Fellow of the EIC.

Mr. President – Mr. Gordon H. Thomson