

David W. Devenny - nominated by the Canadian Geotechnical Society for the Julian C. Smith Medal

David Devenny has continuously distinguished himself in the engineering profession for several decades. He has been a vigorous leader on oil sands mining development since the early 1970's, leading innovative open pit mine evolution that encountered difficult geologic anomalies. His contributions to the success of oil sands development are numerous and were developed with uncompromising dedication. David was a leader on a large board of internationally distinguished experts that included Arthur Casagrande, Robert M. Hardy and Karl V. Taylor. As a result, Syncrude Canada was able to mine the ore body using extremely large excavators advancing along steep, high-wall slopes applying innovative, technically sound, safe and cost-effective excavation and materials handling processes. His excellence was admired by all.

The development and application of these innovative processes at Syncrude was critical to the start-up of its oil sands facility near Fort McMurray in the 1970's. Virtually all of the open pit oil sands mine developments in northern Alberta, one of the key industries fundamental to the future of Canada, apply the mining processes advanced under David Devenny's engineering leadership and expertise. His leadership and persistence in advancing and demonstrating the feasibility of solidifying tailings sludge resulted in a smaller "environmental footprint" for open pit oil sands development. His advice to owners and investors regarding the true life-cycle costs and impacts on the physical environment have reaped significant benefits to Canada for current and future generations.

David Devenny was the first President of CGS and of APEGGA registered as both a professional engineer and a professional geologist. He has been the recipient of several awards and honours including being named a Fellow of the EIC and the Canadian Academy of Engineering. Tonight, we are delighted to show our appreciation for all Dave has done for Canada as a distinguished engineer and geologist.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. President, as the Recipient of the Julian C. Smith Medal, please welcome David Devenny.