Derek Martin, Professor at the University of Alberta, has over 30 years of experience in the design and construction of surface and underground rock excavations. His many publications are recognized as forming important contributions to our state of knowledge by clarifying the failure processes of rock masses. This important body of work has led directly to improvements in underground rock excavations. Derek led geomechanics research at AECL’s URL for over 8 years and then was instrumental in establishing the Geomechanics Research Centre at Laurentian University.

Derek Martin is recognized nationally and internationally as a specialist in the area of rock mechanics with a special focus on issues associated with nuclear waste disposal. He has consulted in the area of nuclear waste management and has provided scientific review and advice to programs around the world.

An exceptional educator and lecturer, Derek has also served learned societies in many senior roles. Tonight we recognize him for his many contributions to the world of academe, the engineering profession, and its learned organizations - a most deserving and distinguished recipient of the honour we now confer.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. President, as the Recipient of the John B. Stirling Medal, please welcome Derek Martin.