



The Engineering Institute of Canada

2021 Award Citation

EIC Fellow



James Ayrton Blatz

Nominated by the Canadian Geotechnical Society

James Blatz is a Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Manitoba and the President of TREK Geotechnical Inc. With over ninety published papers in top end journals, national and international conferences, he has impacted the way we engineer in Canada. His contributions to emergency flood protection, deep foundations, and the application of risk management to geotechnical infrastructure have resulted in improvements in design, construction, policy, and economics.

Building off his strong academic background, James and two other partners, founded TREK Geotechnical, a company that has grown to 35 employees providing engineering services across western and northern Canada. He gives to his community, to the people surrounding him, to the industry and profession. He has served in a variety of roles with the Canadian Geotechnical Society, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, NSERC, CEAB, the University of Manitoba and others. James is a strong mentor and role model – he is on the Board of the Winnipeg Humane Society, the Mentor Council of North Forge Entrepreneurship Circle.

James' impressive accomplishments have resulted in numerous awards and accolades, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, an Engineers Canada Fellowship, two AG Stermac Awards, the CGS Colloquium Award, and an RM Quigley Award.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. President, please welcome James Ayrton Blatz as a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada.