



The Engineering Institute of Canada

2021 Award Citation

Julian C. Smith Medal

(recognizes achievement in the development of Canada)



Wayne Clifton

Nominated by the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering

A recent award citation (Beaubien - ACEC) began, 'In Saskatchewan, the name Wayne Clifton is synonymous with engineering'. This citation offers this amendment: 'In Canada, and particularly Western Canada, the name Wayne Clifton is synonymous with geotechnical engineering'. Wayne's career changed geotechnical practice in Western Canada, enabling the design, construction and management of geohazards along vital transportation corridors.

His commitment to sound geotechnical practice and environmental stewardship guided primary energy/resource development. Communities have trusted him to rehabilitate historic civil treasures, engaging both his innovative technical competence and his ability to align diverse stakeholders. His legacy will be deep and lasting contributions to geotechnical practice in Canada including innovative solutions to the most difficult geotechnical challenges.

An equal contribution has been his generous gifts of time, resources, and creative energy to students and faculty at provincial universities, numerous technical and professional societies, government panels and industry review boards, and to local community associations. These investments have made substantive and lasting changes in our society. The signature mark of Wayne's career has been his passion and commitment to people—not simply mentoring, but by richly investing his resources into the development of young engineers and scientists.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. President, please welcome Wayne Clifton as a recipient of the Julian C Smith Medal of the Engineering Institute of Canada.