



The Engineering Institute of Canada

2024 Award Citation

EIC Fellow



Suzanne Powell

Nominated by the Canadian Geotechnical Society

Dr. Suzanne Powell is a Senior Geotechnical Engineer and Principal with Thurber Engineering Ltd in Victoria, BC. Her research work on Bearpaw Shale has had a broad impact on multiple geo-communities.

She developed an experimental method, which was used to correctly measure the pre-consolidation pressure of hard clay shales and she extended fundamental soil mechanics understanding of creep / secondary compression behaviour to hard clay shales, which had not been done before.

At Thurber, she has played a leading technical role on a variety of consulting assignments, with a focus on transportation and infrastructure projects, and has contributed to the development of quality management programs within the firm. She has an exceptional track record of service to professional organizations such as the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS), the Association of Engineering Consulting Companies of British Columbia (ACECBC), and the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique (CFG).

She was VP Technical of the CGS in 2017-18 and is currently the Chair of ACEC-BC and Secretary of the CFG. Suzanne is an enthusiastic mentor and role model who keeps inspiring young professionals, particularly women. She also manages to balance her passion for work with an active lifestyle and an exemplary family life.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Ms. President, please welcome Suzanne Powell as a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada.