



**APEGGA**

The Association of  
Professional Engineers, Geologists  
and Geophysicists of Alberta

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**April 24, 2004**

### **Excellence in Engineering and Geoscience Recognized at the 2004 APEGGA Summit Awards® Gala**

**Edmonton** – Over 900 business and community leaders attended the 2004 Summit Awards® Gala, Friday, April 23 at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton. The event, hosted by The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA), acknowledges outstanding individuals and corporate members for their accomplishments in engineering, geology and geophysics.

Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the Summit Awards® honour professional engineers, geologists and geophysicists whose determination, commitment and leadership has a significant and long-term impact on the professions, APEGGA and the communities in which they live. Eleven awards were presented this year celebrating superior leadership, early accomplishment, environmental excellence, technical and educational achievement, professional and community service, project innovation and distinguished service to the Association.

This year's theme, **Making the Circle Stronger**, reflects APEGGA's ongoing changes and initiatives in the area of inclusivity – the concept that there is a place inside the circle for all who practice engineering, geology and geophysics. Making the Circle Stronger also symbolizes the strength of the professional engineer's iron ring and the professional geologist's and geophysicist's earth rings and the important connections that exist within and between the professions.

Established in 1920, APEGGA is responsible for regulating the practice of engineering, geology and geophysics in the province of Alberta. The Association's more than 40,000 members play a significant role in every segment of the economy, and their technical and management expertise ensure Alberta remains at the forefront of technological innovation.

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N.B. a list of the 2004 Summit Awards® recipients is attached.

**For more information, please contact:**

Philip Mulder, APR

Manager Communications, APEGGA

Phone: (780) 426-3990, 1-800-661-7020

Cell: (780) 499-3873

E-mail: [pmulder@apegga.org](mailto:pmulder@apegga.org)



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# **BACKGROUND**

**April 24, 2004**

## **2004 APEGGA Summit Awards® Recipients**

### **The Alberta Ingenuity Fund Research Excellence Award • Dr. C. Michael Oballa, P.Eng., William L. Wong, P.Eng., Chi M. Wong, P.Eng. and Les Benum (Calgary) • for innovative research used to improve economic and social well-being**

NOVA Research & Technology Centre in Calgary embarked on a research program leading to the development of cracking coils that would have inert surfaces, thus limiting the formation and deposition of catalytic coke. The research program was initiated and led by Dr. Oballa, in close collaboration with W. Wong, C. Wong and Benum. This technology represents the most advanced surface science chemistry and is the best product on the market to reduce coke formation and deposition during the steam cracking process.

### **The Centennial Leadership Award • Ronald Triffo, P.Eng. (Edmonton) • for outstanding leadership, an exemplary career and significant contributions to the Profession in Alberta**

Triffo began his career with Stantec in the late 1970s and was appointed President in 1983 and Chairman in 1998. Today, with 4,000 employees, 50 straight years of profitability and having completed more than 40,000 projects in 80 countries, Stantec has a track record of consistently delivering excellence to corporations, global institutions and all levels of government throughout North America and internationally.

### **The Community Service Award • Kathleen E. Sendall, P.Eng. (Calgary) • for outstanding contributions to society**

Sendall has been with Petro-Canada in various positions of increasing responsibility since 1978. She has also devoted significant time and effort to numerous local, provincial and national community and professional groups. Her volunteer work spans involvement in community affairs and technical and educational career development with special assistance to youth in particular.

### **The Early Accomplishment Award • Dr. Jocelyn L.H. Grozic (Calgary) • for exceptional achievement in the early years of a professional career**

In the ten years since receiving her bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Alberta, Dr. Grozic has completed her PhD and been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the Research Council of Norway to undertake research at the prestigious Norwegian Geotechnical Institute. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary. Dr. Grozic is one of only a few researchers in the world studying gas hydrates and gassy soils. Her research to date has made fundamental contributions to the field of soil mechanics.

**The Environmental Excellence Award • Stuart M. Torr, E.I.T. and Christina M. Dingman, E.I.T. (Calgary) • for environmental preservation and practice of sustainable development**

Torr and Dingman lead Komex's Renewable Energy Group with their ongoing research into solar energy technology. Their accomplishments represent a critical step in uniting action on climate change with ongoing economic activity in Alberta. By offering Alberta's industries a versatile, renewable and low-emission power source, they have made significant progress in promoting the efficient and responsible use of energy and natural resources.

**The Excellence in Education Award • Dr. Michael J. Brett, P.Eng. (Edmonton) • for exemplary contributions to teaching and learning**

Dr. Brett has been a faculty member in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta since 1986. His achievements in the classroom were recognized in 1994 with the University's highest teaching award, the Alexander Rutherford Awards. Dr. Brett became Director of Engineering Physics in 1995. He is also very committed to the mentoring of colleagues and junior professors.

**The Excellence in Education Award • Dr. Ronald J. Hugo, P.Eng. (Calgary) • for exemplary contributions to teaching and learning**

Dr. Hugo has been receiving teaching awards and recognition from both students and peers since joining the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Calgary in 1999. Every year since his arrival, he has been selected for his department's Teaching Excellence Award and is also the first and only two-time winner of the Faculty of Engineering's Teaching Excellence Award.

**The Frank Spragins Technical Service Award • Dr. Elizabeth Cannon, P.Eng. (Calgary) • for recognized integrity, expertise and outstanding accomplishments**

Dr. Cannon joined the University of Calgary in 1991 and has had a stellar career in research, teaching and service to the university and professional communities. She has made major and sustained contributions to the development, dissemination and commercialization of satellite-based positioning and navigation technology in Canada and internationally and has played an important role in the successful training of scores of engineering students and professionals.

**Honorary Life Membership • Michael W. Smyth, P.Eng. (Calgary) • for eminent service to the Association**

Completing his term as president, Smyth has been a member of APEGGA since 1983. Smyth has assumed numerous leadership roles with APEGGA, serving on council (1998-2002), as vice-president (2002-2003) and as president (2003-2004). Prior to assuming an executive role on APEGGA's council, Smyth served on numerous committees and was chair of the Calgary branch executive (1993-1994).

**The L.C. Charlesworth Professional Service Award • John D. Boyd,  
P.Geoph. (Calgary) • for diligent service, substantial contributions and  
advancement of professional status**

After spending a number of years in Australia and England, Boyd returned to Calgary and formed Boyd Exploration Consultants (now Boyd PetroSearch) in 1977. The company has evolved into a large group with broad capabilities in resource consulting and is universally trusted for high standards and reputation for integrity. Boyd has also served APEGGA on numerous committees and was a member of council from 1996 to 1999.

**The Project Achievement Award • TELUS Next Generation Network (NGN) Project •  
for substantial technological progress and betterment of society**

The TELUS Next Generation Network (NGN) project is an industry-leading engineering accomplishment involving conception, planning, design and implementation of a carrier-class single IP-based network to carry all forms of communications traffic, including voice, data and video. TELUS' NGN provides the infrastructure required to reduce TELUS' network costs while bringing a variety of enhanced capabilities and services to customers.