



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA

ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES
DE GÉNIE-CONSEIL | CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

François Plourde Honoured for Lifetime Achievement at Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards

(OTTAWA) October 29, 2019 – The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies (ACEC) is pleased to announce François Plourde, P.Eng., President and CEO of CIMA+, as the recipient of the 2019 Beaubien Award. The Beaubien Award recognizes individuals for their lifetime contributions to ACEC and to the advancement of the consulting engineering profession and industry. The award was presented at the 2019 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards gala in Ottawa Tuesday night. The Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards are considered the highest form of recognition for excellence in the consulting engineering industry.

Success is measured by the courage to move beyond the past to make decisions for the future



If asked, François would say he is a builder with a passion for his work. He places great value in genuineness and authenticity, traits he has demonstrated throughout his career. Success, in his opinion, is measured by the courage to move beyond the past to make decisions for the future. These were some of the qualities that stood out to the ACEC Past Chairs Council when selecting François as the recipient of the 2019 Beaubien Award.

After graduating from Concordia University in 1984 with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, François embarked on his career as a bridge and framework engineer at Dessau. He joined Groupeconseils LNR Inc. in 1989 which later that year merged with other consulting engineering firms to become today's CIMA+. Through hard work, determination and a visionary outlook, his star rose within the organization. In 1996 he became a member of the Executive Committee and held the role of Vice-President, Transportation for 14 years, growing the department from 50 to 450 employees across Canada. François has been involved in some of the largest transportation engineering projects in the province of Quebec, including the Turcot Interchange Reconstruction, the replacement of the Champlain Bridge in Montréal, the reconfiguration of the Dorval Interchange, and the completion of Highway 25 between Montréal and Laval. He has placed his mark on some of the largest pieces of infrastructure that thousands of people utilize in their daily lives, and for that, he has made a substantial contribution to lives of Quebecers.

In 2014, he was appointed President and CEO of CIMA+, a role in which he guided the company through challenging times for the consulting engineering industry and its clients. Under his leadership, it developed from a Quebec centric firm to one with a strong presence in Ontario and Western Canada.

For François, the heart and core of CIMA+ is its people. As a leader, he promotes respect and an overall sense of cooperation amongst colleagues. These values are the reason CIMA+ has been recognized as one of Aon Hewitt's Best Employers in Canada since 2011, reaching the exclusive Platinum Status for three

consecutive years. Under his leadership, the firm is one not only recognized for its excellence, but as one where people want work and encourages others to do so.

Throughout his nearly 35-year career, François has been involved in countless industry organizations and associations. He served on the Board of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada (ACEC) as a Director, Vice-Chair and Treasurer. He also chaired the ACEC Task Force on PPP project execution methods. Since 1989, he has been a member of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, where in 2005 he received a fellowship in recognition of his excellence in the field of engineering and services rendered to the profession. François has also been active for the past 15 years in Association québécoise des Transports (AQTr), serving on the Board of Directors and holding the positions of Vice-President and Chairman. He received the prestigious Josef-Hode-Keyser Honorary Award from AQTr in recognition of his contribution to the transportation sector in Quebec.

Aside from his professional commitments, François is also a generous and active member within the community. He serves on the United Way's Greater Montréal Board of Directors and is involved with the Fondation Charles-Bruneau, an organization dedicated to fighting pediatric cancer. He has also been an Advisory Board member at his alma mater Concordia University in the field of Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS). As the recipient of ACEC's 2019 Beaubien Award, François is recognized by his peers for his exemplary service to the association, the consulting engineering industry and the engineering profession.

The Beaubien award was created by ACEC in 1984 in honour of Dr. James de Gaspé Beaubien, who founded ACEC in 1925.

About ACEC

ACEC represents companies in Canada that provide professional engineering services to both public and private sector clients. These services include the planning, design and execution of all types of engineering projects, as well as providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering and engineering-related fields. For more information about ACEC and the 2019 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards, please visit www.acec.ca.

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Multimedia (includes photo and video):

François Plourde [photo](#)

François Plourde, 2019 Beaubien Award Recipient [page](#) on acec.ca

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