

Ron Larson for Meritorious Service Award 17-October-2022

Dear CSEG awards nominations committee,

It is my great pleasure to nominate Ron Larson for the award of Meritorious Service. Throughout his busy career Ron has always taken time to give back, to stand up when asked and to push for change when he sees a need. Aside from the formal roles, he has been available to those following behind after him. Ron clearly demonstrates the characteristics of meritorious service and will be deserving of this award.

Ron Larson graduated from University of Calgary in 1983 with a BSc Geophysics. He was asked to attend graduate school by both the Geophysics and the English Literature departments but declined both and went directly on to a career as a professional geophysicist (APEGA P.Geoph.). His 37 years were almost equally split between consulting companies and oil & gas companies. The O&G company roles were entirely exploration & new ventures, including executing a ~CAD\$1B capital project in 20 months as part of a 4- person team. Service company roles included acting at VP / Sr. VP level for both small private firms and publicly listed firms with capex of ~ USD\$1B. Ron once also served as the C.O.O. of a data software/processing company with offices in Calgary and Lagos.

Through his career, including his time as a senior executive, Ron has volunteered with technical societies and their foundation. Notably he served the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (CSEG) on executive committees under Presidents Doug Uffen and Peter Cary, and later as Vice President, President & Past President (2012-2015), and as CSEG Foundation Chair in ~2017/18. In an earlier role on the CSEG Board, Ron was part of discussions that set up the CSEG Foundation, due in part to a secondary role on the CSEG Scholarship committee. Ron was the CSEG President during successful negotiations between the CSEG, CSPG and CWLS (Canadian Well Logging Society) to establish a permanent partnership to operate an annual joint Convention, now GeoConvention. As CSEG representative to the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES), Ron volunteered to sit on an interim CFES executive board in ~2013. These summary role descriptions only speak to his participation at the highest level. In each role Ron spent time managing expectations, people and fires, helped with the development of new processes, and gave his time freely while helping others in their roles at the same time. He is willing to roll up his shirt sleeves and dive right in.

He worked on, and signed, the first MOU with the Geophysical Society of Houston in 2013. As CSEG President Ron's President's Columns were always full of information for the membership, drawing attention to CSEG successes and opportunities, as well as those of associated organizations. Ron, along with Lee Hunt, was the one George Fairs bounced the idea of Value of Integrated Geophysics (VIG) with, again speaking to his role supporting others who volunteer. In 2006 Ron was a speaker at the Junior Geophysicists Forum (JGF) and I remember it clearly. He was inspiring, promoted geophysics wholeheartedly and recommended finding a mentor and building your network. His advice over the years has guided some of my own action, including the call to volunteer with professional and technical societies. So aside from his own meritorious service, he has created a network of others that also serve.

Most recently, Ron has stepped up to volunteer on two associated boards, the Canada Prize Foundation and Canada Prize Awards Foundation. His recent note to the CP Foundations reads *"Further to the discussion yesterday, this note is to confirm that I would be willing to have my name stand as a member of the Canada Prize Foundations and stand for election as director of each Foundation to serve for the next 2-3 years in order to help facilitate the*

transition of this worthy CFES initiative towards an achievable and sustainable ES award scheme. I have also indicated willingness to serve as President/Chair.” Ron Larson. That says it all. Ron Larson is willing to serve, and as such I strongly feel that he should be recognized by the CSEG with the Meritorious Service Award.

Dr. Rachel Newrick.
rachel@racian.ca
403-464-3224