

## [President's Award](#)

for Outstanding Service by a CEGA Member

The President's Award is CEGA's most prestigious form of volunteer recognition. It is presented by the CEGA President at the end of their term to a recipient who has provided exemplary leadership in a variety of roles and capacities that the contributions to association programs and events such that this award often provides a milestone in a distinguished career of sustained, exemplary membership.

The 2023 President's Award recipient is Benjamin (Ben) J. McKenzie.

Ben joined the CSPG as a member in 1982 and has served our organization through to the present day in numerous roles. In 1992, on behalf of the CSPG, he began compiling and arranging to publish a series of detailed correlation charts for Alberta. In 1993, in response to one of the industry's downturns, he and a group of other CSPG members produced a consultant directory as a way to advertise members' expertise. In the mid-90s to mid-2000s, he worked with the Canadian Gas Potential Committee (which began as a CSPG committee) in a variety of data management, GIS, technical writing, and editorial roles for each of their three reports.

In 2003 Ben became the Technical Editor of the *Reservoir* magazine. At that time, there was debate over the viability of the *Reservoir*. For over a decade, Ben rose to the challenge of editing, coordinating publication efforts and volunteers, and contributing numerous technical articles. Under his guidance the *Reservoir* flourished to become the pre-eminent method by which the CSPG communicated with its members.

Ben also took on the position of Committee Chair for the Digital Atlas Committee in 2009. Working closely with ESRI and other committee members, Ben developed a 'proof of concept' web-based geological atlas. A harbinger of things to come, a demonstration of this product was presented during the GeoCanada 2010 convention. Ben passed the reins of the *Reservoir* off in 2013 but didn't rest on his laurels as he stepped up to be one of the contributors to and editors of the CSPG's "Go Take a Hike", a series of short geologically focused day hikes in memory of Dr. Cynthia (Cindy) Riediger. The volume was published in 2019 and remains one of CSPG's bestselling books.

In 2020, Ben and several other volunteers recognized the need to update and expand the seminal "Geological Atlas of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin", which was originally published in 1994. Like the original Atlas, this version involves the efforts of over 200 volunteers. Ben plays a key role as chair for the Technical Services Committee, whose mandate is to oversee all aspects of the mapping processes, data management, and publication design and production needed to produce the Atlas by mid-2027. Ben is also on the Atlas Steering Committee, which provides high-level direction to other committees throughout the planning, execution, and delivery of the Atlas 2027 publication.



# CEGA

Canadian Energy Geoscience Association

Ben exemplifies the best qualities and personal demeanor of a CEGA volunteer. Respectful, helpful, diligent, and with a strong sense of duty and humor, he is a consummate gentleman and professional. Ben is one of the “quiet volunteers” who operates out of the limelight, but whose long-term sustained efforts have significantly strengthened our organization.