

2017 Honorary Life Membership

Alfred Poetker, P.Eng., FEC



Alfred Poetker is a Senior Project Consultant with WSP Canada and is a specialist in water and wastewater treatment systems. He first registered with Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba 50 years ago in 1967 and was a member of Council from 1998 to 2002. Alf also served on the Registration Committee for 12 years, the MMA-APEGM Joint Board Committee for one year, the EGAIAR Joint Board Committee for nine years, and the Continuing Competency Committee for three years.

Alf graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1965 with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering and completed his Graduate Studies in Environmental Engineering in 1972. He started his career with the Government of Manitoba, Water Services Board shortly after receiving his undergraduate degree and worked there from 1965 to 1978. From 1968 to 1978 he was the Chief Engineer of the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB).

In 1978, Alf established A.J. Poetker & Associates and in 1981 he partnered with two other engineers to form Poetker Engineering Consultants Ltd. In 1990, the company merged with another firm to form Poetker MacLaren, which later became Cochrane Engineering. Alf was President of Poetker MacLaren/Cochrane Engineering until 1995. In 1995, he stepped down to focus more on his technical projects until his retirement in 2007.

Alf has held leadership positions in other organizations including the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC). He was a Board member of ACEC-Manitoba from 1983 to 1990 and was President from 1988-1989. From 1991 to 1994 he represented Manitoba on the national Board of Consulting Engineers of Canada. In 2007, he was presented with the ACEC Lifetime Achievement Award.

Some of Alf's major achievements include the development of the Cartier Regional Water System and the Pembina Valley Regional Water System. He has been instrumental in facilitating the provision of water treatment for many rural Manitoba communities including the Red River Regional Water Treatment Plant, the Municipality of Macdonald Water Treatment Plant, and the Town of Killarney Water Treatment Plant, to name just a few. He has also helped deliver safe drinking water to several communities in Northwestern Ontario including the Town of Atikokan, Fort Francis, and Fort William First Nation, as well as abroad in Mexico and Venezuela.

On the wastewater side, Alf has provided similar expertise for a number of centres including the City of Brandon and the City of Portage La Prairie. He has also worked on the two largest wastewater treatment plants in the Province of Manitoba: the City of Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC), and the South End Water Pollution Control Centre (SEWPCC).

In addition to the above, Alf has also volunteered as a lecturer at the Manitoba Waste Water Association (MWWA)'s Annual Operators' School, and has been involved in church councils and various church

ministries and committees, school parent committees and fund raising initiatives, a truly fine citizen and professional.

In recognition of his meritorious service to the profession and the Association, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba is pleased to present the 2017 Honorary Life Membership Award to Alfred Poetker, P.Eng., FEC.