

LEADERSHIP AWARD

W.M. (BILL) MCDERMID, P.ENG.



Mr. McDermid graduated with a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba in 1961. In 1962, after a year with Ontario Hydro as an engineer-in-training, he joined Manitoba Hydro. Bill soon became involved in diagnostic testing of electrical insulation, to assess the condition of electrical apparatus.

For many years he was in charge of the Insulation Test group at Manitoba Hydro, and under his leadership, it grew from a small handful of staff, to a very busy group of over 20 engineers and highly trained technicians. Bill has been an extremely active volunteer for the IEEE, in both the Power Engineering Society and the Dielectrics and Electrical Insulation Society. Bill has authored or coauthored more than 40 IEEE papers during his career.

While Bill is highly respected in the electrical utility industry, for his knowledge, discoveries and hard work, he is being recognized in this award for his vision and long-term planning. There is ample evidence that Bill's career-long goal was to enhance electrical system reliability by the development and application of so many predictive and failure-preventing tests. This vision has benefited Manitoba Hydro and its ratepayers with reduced outages and repair costs.

He is currently the Director of Manitoba Hydro's High Voltage Test Facility. This Facility, now under construction, would not have come to be without his persistence and hard work. By demonstrating how it will benefit Manitoba Hydro, Bill was able to sell this concept to its' Executive and Board. This lab will bring all of Manitoba Hydro's high-voltage testing under one roof, albeit a very tall and wide one, and it will greatly expand Hydro's ability to test equipment before it goes into service.

In recognition of his scientific knowledge and outstanding leadership, applied to benefit Manitobans and utilities world-wide, the Association is pleased to present the Leadership Award to W.M. (Bill) McDermid.

