

Marc Lalande, ing.

Meritorious Service Award for Community Service



Promoting engineering as a career choice to the First Nations and Innu communities of Canada has garnered Marc Lalande, ing. recognition from his peers as a leader and ambassador for the profession. It's also sparked an interest in science and technology among young Native Canadians that could ultimately lead them to become professional engineers and agents for improving the quality of life for First Nations and Innu peoples.

Marc knows firsthand how hard it can be for young Canadian aboriginals and Innu to earn the math and science credits necessary to be accepted into an engineering program. A member of the Algonquin Nation, he is one of only a few Canadian aboriginals who have become professional engineers.

Today, Marc can best be described as a well-rounded engineer. He began his career in 1977 with the federal government. From there he went to work in private industry and taught at the University of Ottawa. He returned to the public sector in 1981 as a regional analyst in the Department of Energy Mines and Resources Canada (EMRC), where he undertook annual studies on the Canadian mining industry.

Since 1987 Marc has been a cost engineer with Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC). He has completed annual studies on asset maintenance and the operating costs on reserves, as well as produced statistical analyses for the calculation of the indices used to finance those assets.

Marc is best known for his volunteer work, and his on-going efforts to open the doors of engineering to Native Canadians as a means of helping them improve their quality of life and gain economic self-sufficiency. His personal goal is to develop the engineering human resources to help Canada's aboriginal communities become more autonomous. It's one of the factors that inspired him to co-found the Canadian Aboriginal Science and Engineering Association (CASEA) in 1993. The association's objective is to increase the opportunity for Canadian aboriginal youth to participate and excel in science and engineering careers.

A dedicated volunteer at key career awareness events for Native Canadians, including the Native Science Fair in Pointe-Bleue, Québec, and the Native Aboriginal Careers Symposium in Hull, Mark is also involved in National Engineering Week.

Marc's professional career path and personal commitment to help Native Canadians and Innu benefit from his training both as an engineer and an economist. He has worked in such varied areas as cost engineering, project management, software design, capital project analysis, and analysis of economic, didactic and communications activities. A member of l'Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, Marc is a community leader in every sense of the word.