

DR. SAEED MIRZA

Winner of several awards for outstanding teaching, research and national and international professional contributions, Dr. Saeed Mirza has made many valuable contributions to sustainable infrastructure in Canada and abroad, making Canada's landscape safer and more durable. A professor emeritus of civil engineering at McGill University, he specializes in life-cycle performance and sustainable design of long-life infrastructure assets, such as bridges and buildings. His work has been instrumental in restoring and preventing large-scale urban decay, and in developing long-lasting structures; he has proposed a national infrastructure policy for Canada. He is presently pursuing a research program to design bridges for a service life of more than 200 years.

In June 2006, the Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering published a Special Issue to honour Professor Mirza's many and diverse contributions to the profession of civil engineering in Canada and abroad, through education, research, and professional service. His vision and strong and innovative leadership led to the development and implementation of several new CSCE activities, such as the International Conference on Short and Medium Span Bridges and new technical divisions. As CSCE President, he led the incorporation of the Society.

Dr. Mirza was responsible for introduction of infrastructure engineering courses and related research work at McGill University in the early 1990's. To meet the challenge of urgency of these courses, he developed and enthusiastically delivered four infrastructure courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has also lobbied quite strongly for the renewal of Canada's deteriorating infrastructure, and all related technical, environmental, socio-economic, and financial, management and policy issues.

A generous mentor and volunteer, Dr. Mirza has been deeply involved in educating the public about infrastructure issues through the media. He has contributed generously to the development of civil engineering in Pakistan; he established and led several major technical exchanges, including a major international conference on concrete in developing countries in Lahore in December 1985. He also led two special workshops to establish the needs in the areas of cement and concrete industries.

A tree was planted in 2008 to honor his many contributions to McGill University, including an environmental policy for all McGill campuses. In 2013, he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on infrastructure renewal in Canada. On June 30, 2017, the Governor General of Canada appointed Dr. Mirza to the Order of Canada, recognizing his many and diverse contributions, which have made Canada a better country; this is the highest civilian honour that can be bestowed on a Canadian citizen.