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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Alberta Geoscientist, Dr. Ian McIlreath, P.Geol., receives 2011 Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award.**

Vancouver — Geoscientists Canada is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2011 Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award – Dr. Ian McIlreath, P.Geol. of Calgary, Alberta.

The Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award is given to recognize the achievements of an individual, who has made an outstanding contribution to the development and practice of professional geoscience and who has advanced public recognition of the profession in Canada in his or her capacity as a registered professional geoscientist.

To be eligible for the award a nominee must meet a number of specified criteria, which include: a solid career as a professional geoscientist, an outstanding record of voluntary service to the community, and service to Geoscientists Canada or to one of the provincial or territorial professional associations that regulate geoscience in Canada.

The Award, which consists of a labradorite marble sculpture made by a Canadian geoscientist artist, is given to a person in mid-to-late career.

This year's recipient, Dr. Ian McIlreath, P.Geol., is an accomplished and respected professional geologist with over 35 years of experience in oil and gas exploration and development. A particular achievement of Ian's industry career (among many) was his lead role with a multi-discipline geoscience team which discovered a coal bed methane unconventional methane gas resource play in Alberta which has the potential of over 11 trillion cubic feet original gas in place for EnCana. For his part in this discovery Ian received the EnCana President's Award.

Ian McIlreath graduated with a B.Sc. (First Class Honours) in Geological Sciences from Queen's University; he completed a M.Sc. in Geological Engineering also at Queen's. He then completed his PhD in Geology at the University of Calgary and his thesis went on to win a CSPG Best PhD Thesis Award in Sedimentary and Petroleum Geology in Canada.

Beyond his technical achievements, Dr McIlreath has been an active volunteer with and served many technical, learned and professional organizations including the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, the Geological Association of Canada, the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta and the Canadian Geological Foundation.

In recognition of his contributions to the geosciences, Ian has been the recipient of many other prestigious awards such as: the CSPG's Presidents Special Recognition Award for Distinguished Service to Canadian Technical Societies and Professional Organizations (only awarded twice to an individual in the history of CSPG), APEGGA's L.C. Charlesworth Professional Service Summit Award and the GAC's J. Willis Ambrose Medal for Distinguished Service to Earth Sciences in Canada.

In announcing the award the President of Geoscientists Canada, Greg Finn, P.Geol. stated “We are delighted that Ian McIlreath was chosen by our judges to be this year’s award recipient. Ian is very well known to many Canadian geoscientists and geoscience organizations both as a great volunteer and an excellent organizer. Ian is an example to us all in being able to effectively serve geoscience communities extending well beyond the sector he works in, while at the same time pursuing a busy, focused and successful corporate career”.

The citation for the 2011 award, which will be presented to Dr McIlreath, will read as follows:  
*“Presented to Ian McIlreath, P.Geol. ‘In recognition of his outstanding leadership and contributions to the oil and gas industry, his profession and his community’.”*

Nominations for this award are considered annually, although the award will not necessarily be presented each year. Further details on the award criteria and nominations process can be obtained from the Geoscientists Canada website at [www.ccpq.ca](http://www.ccpq.ca) .

The mission of Geoscientists Canada is to develop consistent high standards for licensure and practice of geoscience, to facilitate national and international professional mobility, and to promote recognition of Canadian geoscientists.

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