

2025
**SHOWCASE
- AWARDS -**

**CEA LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR'S AWARD**
FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT



INNOVATOR, COLLABORATOR AND COMMUNITY BUILDER

LEAVING HIS MARK ON THE CITY

JEFF DIBATTISTA'S resumé boasts an impressive collection of building and infrastructure projects, accumulated over a 20+ year professional engineering career. But he is perhaps most proud of the people he's been able to work with and learn from, as well as those whose lives have been positively impacted by the projects he's led.

As the 2025 recipient of the Consulting Engineers of Alberta's Lieutenant Governor's Award for Distinguished Achievement, he recognizes a few key themes that emerged throughout his career, including collaboration, giving back to your community and making the most of opportunities as they arise.

"One of my core beliefs is that you should make big plans and then go do them," he says.

That's exactly what DiBattista did in 1993 after graduating from the University of Waterloo's civil engineering program. He and his wife Traci packed up their lives and moved across the country to Edmonton for a planned two-year stay while he completed a master's degree in structural engineering.

"Neither of us had been to Edmonton before, and this was before the internet so we just thought we'd go on an adventure," he says.

But before long, that plan for adventure evolved into something even bigger. After completing his master's, DiBattista went on to complete his PhD at the University of Alberta, where he met many future colleagues and collaborators.

One of those was Jim Montgomery of DIALOG. The two would go on to work together, with DiBattista joining DIALOG and working on some of Edmonton's biggest infrastructure projects.

The University of Alberta campus served as a backdrop for many important moments in DiBattista's life. And although he didn't know it when he was a graduate student, he would one day leave his own mark on the buildings and classrooms where he spent long hours studying.

Many of the most memorable projects

from DiBattista's career were connected to the University of Alberta. He beams with pride when discussing the design and building process for the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy and the Kaye Edmonton Clinic. Although both projects came with their own challenges, the final results more than made up for it.

"They were big projects — very stressful and intense with a lot of demands," he says. "But it feels really good to know that both of those buildings are serving the health care faculties at the U of A as well as patients."

Those aren't the only buildings at the University of Alberta DiBattista had a hand in shaping. He also served as the structural engineering project manager for the Markin/CNRL Natural Resources Engineering Facility — a building where he would have spent his academic career.

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"Not only was I designing a building for my faculty at my alma mater, but it was actually my department. All of my professors from my master's degree and from my PhD were moving their offices into that building. So let's just say I was feeling a little bit of pressure to do a really great job," he laughs.

But perhaps no other project holds a place in DiBattista's heart like Edmonton's 100th Street Funicular. The project bridged a number of different professional practices, including structural engineering, landscape architecture and transportation design. The idea of collaboration with the different specialties piqued DiBattista's interest from the start.

"That project embraces a lot of what I believe in terms of collaboration," he says. "Is it a structural engineering

project? Or is it an architecture project or a transportation project? Well, it's got a funicular and a bridge and walking paths. It's a very integrated project and it's really just meant to make lives better for people," he says.

The project was the first of its kind in the city, connecting the downtown core with the city's verdant river valley. Its completion changed river valley access for Edmontonians, opening up new opportunities to enjoy natural spaces.

"When it opened at the end of 2018, we had people saying they had never been able to get into the river valley before on their own because of mobility challenges, and now they could do it," he says. "To provide that kind of access felt really special."

In addition to working on these major infrastructure projects, DiBattista has also spent much of his career giving back to the engineering profession, serving terms on both the board of the Consulting Engineers of Alberta (including as president in 2010-2011) and on The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta's Council. He has also remained closely connected to the University of Alberta, most recently by leading the school's Civil Industry Advisory Board. The group bridges industry and academia, providing feedback and guidance to the school, so that the university can enhance its programming and better prepare students for life after graduation.

In a way, the group symbolizes the kinds of collaboration that DiBattista sees as integral to any project's success.

"Many great opportunities are brought about by bringing together people with different experiences, perspectives and expertise," he says.

"It's about collaborating to get things done that we couldn't do on our own, and really trying to make sure that we're providing the best possible service to society."

— LISA CATTERALL