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Canadian Federation
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CITATION

John F.H. Thompson has a confidence in geoscience professionals to address many of the problems facing society and industry that has inspired him to invest in people across the corporate and academic communities with incredible effect. His optimism is founded on a long, successful and diverse career in the Earth Sciences. His post-secondary training in geology includes a B.A. from Oxford in 1976, and M.Sc. (1978) and Ph.D. (1982) degrees from the University of Toronto. Following eight years working around the world in mineral exploration, he joined the University of British Columbia in 1992 where he played an instrumental role in establishing the Mineral Deposit Research Unit as a global leader in mineral deposit research and graduate student training. He joined Teck Cominco as Chief Geoscientist in 1998, and subsequently served as Vice President Technology and Development for Teck Resources from 2005 through to 2012. He currently holds the Wold Professor of Environmental Balance and Human Sustainability at Cornell University and is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at UBC. He has served as distinguished lecturer for the Geological Society of America, the Geological Association of Canada, and the Society of Economic Geology, and holds numerous awards for distinction in scholarship and service.

A hallmark of John's career is his effective dedication to mentoring and career development in academic and corporate economic geology. He brings to this role a breadth of knowledge across academia and industry that is unrivalled, the technical and interpersonal skills to provide individually relevant advice and inspire confidence, and a commitment to life-long career development. His unusually broad knowledge of mineralizing processes and mineral project development has allowed him to share a perspective that has been critical to career building and professional training for graduate students and corporate colleagues alike. This has enabled many of the individuals who were mentored by John to rise to senior technical, management or facilitating roles in the minerals industry. His ability to cross disciplines, generations, and hierarchies has inspired colleagues of all ranks and built bridges between corporate and academic geoscience to great effect, strengthening the relationships between these communities and building careers in the process. He engages with his colleagues as individuals, recognizing their inherent strengths and changing priorities as careers evolve. He has served as an inspiration and role model for countless geoscience professionals.

Through these sustained and unselfish efforts, John Thompson has elevated the practice of geoscience and made meaningful and lasting contributions to the economic geology community across Canada and internationally.