

## **William Neil (Bill) Howell, M.A.Sc., P.Eng. Alberta**

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Retired 28Oct2012 from : Science Research Manager at the Mining and Mineral Sciences Laboratories of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) in Ottawa : My most recent responsibility was to manage and build a new Recycling R&D program, and to find cost recovery funding for it. I have experience in corporate and government business development, market research, management and execution of scientific & engineering R&D, projects, and plant operations.  
revised Updated 20Jan2014

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Below is a selective snapshot of my responsibilities up to the end of Oct2012, all of which were actually in effect simultaneously for part of that time. Further details can be found on my wiki site as indicated above.

### **Recycling Technologies Initiative**

- Established a new scientific R&D program to build cost recovery projects with industry in the area of Recycling. Initial efforts focussed on identifying and generating opportunities in selected areas of the market, looking for “incremental” R&D opportunities related to a major Canadian recycling process, and using this process to “train” and develop all program members in this new area.
- Redefined the core mission and vision of the Recycling R&D program most of the way through the first year, based on a realisation of best to combine scientific expertise on hand with big government priorities and immediate cost-recovery potential.

### **Explosives-Free Rock Breakage (EFRB) & Hydrogen Mine Introduction Initiative (HMI)**

- Administered as Secretary two of the largest R&D consortia within our lab, and the only ones that I am aware of that were entirely funded by external companies. In addition to tracking meeting and decisions, responsibilities included development, refinement of contracts (Terms & Conditions), and a completely new (for our lab) provision of third party insurance arrangements to protect project participants and facilities.
- Built and ran a novel “www.eGroupware.com” site to provide communications, reference, status, project management, and knowledge management for the consortia. The site allowed multiple, overlapping, password protected groups (~?40?) with distributed and hierarchical control over access to wiki pages, directories, and individual files (including end-user control over access!). This was far beyond anything else our lab has ever used, with the exception of a Lotus Notes system that I administered (and which was initiated and set up by a mining company for a different consortium).

### **Social Media Initiative - Science-Policy Integration Nexus of Expertise (SPINE)**

- Built creative and novel conceptual foundations for advanced “under the hood” thinking about social media : from what it could be from a “normal user’s” viewpoint (applications-centric for ease of understanding); through a discussion of a wide range of advanced concepts and toolsets for those building social media software; and finally to various discussions of misconception, opportunities, and long-term conceptual challenges. See my wiki site for point form, draft documents.
- Identified user and organizational needs, perceptions, and priorities regarding social media, as part of a core project team. Over 200 people were contacted, of which I was involved in perhaps 20, not including contacts from 3 or 4 workshops. Part of the challenge was to :
  - probe suppliers of social media platforms to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and their visions and directions.
  - get a feel from recent users for their experience with :
    - various software platforms
    - how much in-house development was required
    - what capabilities were missing.

### **Other**

- B.A.Sc Chemical Engineering - U of Calgary 1978, MAsc Chemical Engineering - U of Ottawa 1986
- Member: International Neural Network Society (INNS, ~1990-on), Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers - Computational Intelligence Society (IEEE-CIS, ~2003-on).
- Member : Alberta APEGGA (2007, 2013-), Order of Engineers of Québec (OIQ, ~1980-2010?); Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM, ~1995-2010?)
- Bilingual (federal government levels EEE in French reading, writing, oral).

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