



engineers without borders  
ingénieurs sans frontières  
Canada

March 17, 2005

Dear David,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you personally, and on behalf of Engineers Without Borders, for your energizing and thought-provoking session at the EWB National Conference this past January 2005. On extremely short notice of just 1 day, you delivered a session for the top leaders in our organization that challenged and engaged them, and was right on message with what we had hoped.

As you know, the EWB National Conference is the most important gathering of the year for our organization. It is a chance to bring together our most active members, who participate in a conference program that is both personally interesting and rewarding, that helps to set the direction of the organization for the coming year. A critical component of setting this organizational direction is the president's meeting where you presented this year. These individuals are already accomplished leaders within our organization; they have a good understanding of the challenges of leading large groups and projects, and the personal responsibilities that it takes to be successful. Given this experienced audience, there is a risk of an outside speaker being intimidated or simply repeating ideas the audience is already aware of without any new insights. This was certainly not the case with your presentation. Your presentation directly challenged these experienced leaders with new ideas and by revisiting important concepts in a new and engaging way. In particular, your "Four Key Leadership Skills" gave the participants something tangible to walk away with, think about and implement day-to-day.

In addition to leadership skill building, the other goal for this presentation was to inspire these individuals to keep working to make a real difference in the world. Again, your presentation was spot on! You understood the audience of somewhat insecure overachieving engineers, who certainly have the technical skills and overall aptitude to be great leaders, but who need to be inspired to ask tough questions of themselves and feel empowered to continue making a difference.

Our young leaders walked out of the presentation both inspired and thinking about what they personally need to do to become better leaders. The direct result was that this group was able to provide great leadership throughout the rest of our National Conference, and they continue to "act with courage" to this day.

We would very much look forward to working with you again in the future. Thank you so much again.

Sincerely,

George Roter

Co-CEO

Engineers Without Borders Canada