

History of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique: Part 1

(From *CGS News* in *Geotechnical News*, December 2015, pages 21 to 23)

The **Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique** (CFG) is a registered charitable organization which funds the awards, prizes and distinguished lectures of the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS), and supports other activities that recognize geotechnical excellence.

In this first article, we review the origins of the CFG and of the many awards and prizes it supports. We also attempt to recognize a number of individuals who have contributed to this initiative over the years, with apologies for any errors and omissions. The focus is on the two predecessor organizations of the CFG, namely the Canadian Geotechnical Fund (CGF) and Geo Contributions (GC). The period covered spans from 1965 to 2000.

The Canadian Geotechnical Fund

In the 1960s, the Associate Committee on Geotechnical Research (ACGR) of the National Research Council of Canada (NRCC) acted as the Canadian National Committee of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (ISSMFE). In 1965, Canada hosted the Sixth International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering in Montreal. **Dr. R.F. Legget**, then Director of the Division of Building Research of the NRCC and Chairman of the ACGR, was the Chair of the Organizing Committee for the Conference.

Following this landmark event, the ACGR recommended that profits from the conference and sales of the proceedings be deposited in a special trust account, and interest income from those deposits be used to promote and support geotechnical engineering and research in Canada. Out of this recommendation, which was endorsed by the NRCC and by **Dr. R.B. Peck**, then President the ISSMFE, the ACGR established the Canadian Geotechnical Fund (CGF) in September 1970.

A board of trustees was established to direct the investments, along with a subcommittee to advise on the use of the generated income, composed of one representative from the ACGR, one from the CGS, and the ACGR's Research Advisor. The initial signing officers of the CGF were **Mr. C.B. Crawford** (NRCC), and **Professor S.R. Sinclair** (University of Alberta).

Several of the ACGR chairmen and technical advisors from across the years are pictured below.

The ACGR managed the CGF from 1970 to 1989, during which time several projects were initiated with the goal of promoting and developing geotechnique in Canada. In 1970, in co-operation with the CGS, the **R.F. Legget Award** (for significant lifelong contributions to the geotechnical field) and the **Canadian Geotechnical Society Prize** (for the best paper published in the Canadian Geotechnical Journal during the preceding year) were established. Starting in 1973, recipients of both awards were also given an honorarium of \$250 (increased to \$500 in 1983).

In 1976, the CGF began funding travel costs for prominent Canadian or international geotechnical engineers to present two annual **Cross-Canada Lecture Tours** (CCLTs). The CCLTs had actually began in 1965, but until 1976 were funded by the ACGR.

The **Canadian Geotechnical Colloquium** was also established in 1976. It was awarded annually to a “young” engineer to present a paper on a selected topic at the annual CGS Conference, and included an honorarium of \$2,500 as well as publication in the Canadian Geotechnical Journal. The CGF also participated in other initiatives, such as contributing to the publication of the book *Muskeg and the Northern Environment in Canada* in exchange for royalties from the University of Toronto Press, and contributing \$1,500 to support a lecture by **Dr. A. Schofield** from Cambridge University at the CGS Conference in Vancouver.

*(ACGR Chairmen and Technical Advisors honoured at a special dinner hosted by Golder Associates Ltd. on August 23, 1991, at the Rideau Club in Ottawa. From left to right, with years of ACGR involvement for each: **Mr. C.B. Crawford** (1966-76), **Mr. V. Milligan** (1983-88), **Dr. R.F. Legget** (1945-66), **Mr. W.J. Eden** (1951-85), **Dr. M. Bozozuk** (1985-91), **Dr. D.H. Shields** (1988-91), and **Dr. L.W. Gold** (1976-83; 1988)).*

Geo Contributions

In the late 1980s, the NRCC decided to phase out the ACGR, placing the CGF in danger of disappearing. In an attempt to preserve it, the CGF trustees decided to transfer the fund to the CGS, and in 1987, **Mr. A.G. Stermac** (Director General, CGS) successfully applied to federally incorporate the CGF's successor: Geo Contributions (GC). The following year, GC received tax-exempt status as a registered charity, under the condition that it was to operate at “arms length” from the CGS.

GC's first annual general meeting took place in 1989. The board of trustees and officers consisted of **Mr. J.L. Seychuk, Dr. M. Bozozuk, Dr. R.J. Mitchell, Mr. R.P. Northwood, and Ms. A. Poschmann**. As the years passed, the board expanded to 15 members who met annually in conjunction with the CGS conference. In addition to the awards and programs previously supported by the Canadian Geotechnical Fund, GeoContributions established and funded several others, listed below.

- **R.F. Legget Award**; established by the CGS and the CGF in 1970 and described previously.
- **Canadian Geotechnical Society Prize**; established by the CGS in 1973 and described previously. In 1995 this prize was renamed the R.M. Quigley Award to honour the memory of this distinguished Canadian geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineer.
- **Cross Canada Lecture Tour**; established by the ACGR in 1965 and described previously. GC assumed funding the travel costs in 1976.
- **Canadian Geotechnical Colloquium**; established by the CGS in 1976 and described previously.
- **Thomas Roy Award**; established in 1982 by the Engineering Geology Division of the CGS.
- **Roger J.E. Brown Award**; established by the CGS in 1986 to honour the memory of this renowned Canadian Scientist in Permafrost.
- **R.M. Hardy Keynote Address**; established by the CGS 1987 to honour the memory of Dr. R.M. Hardy.
- **Undergraduate Student Report Awards**; established by the CGS in 1987 to recognize and reward excellence in the preparation of a geotechnical thesis by a full-time undergraduate student.
- **Graduate Student Presentation Award**; established by the CGS in 1988 to encourage geotechnical graduate students to prepare papers and presentations for the annual CGS Conferences.
- **G. Geoffrey Meyerhof Award**; established by the Soil Mechanics Division of the CGS in 1993 to honour the first President of the Canadian Geotechnical Society.

- **John A. Franklin Award**; established by the Rock Mechanics Division of the CGS in 1993, to honour the past President of the International Society for Rock Mechanics.
- **A.G. Stermac Award**; established by the CGS in 1999 to mark the retirement in 1998 of the former President and Director General of CGS, This award was previously called the CGS Service Plaques.

Throughout the 1990s, interest rates fell affecting earnings from investments, and GC financial resources consequently dwindled. GC trustees had to make many difficult decisions during those years, including eliminating the honoraria associated with several of the awards, and directing the savings towards supporting the two student awards. It also became necessary to cancel some of the CrossCanada Lecture Tours.

By the late 1990s, concerned that other core activities might also have to be cancelled, GC established an investment committee (chaired by **Dr. R. Benson**) and a fund-raising committee (chaired by **Dr. J.I. Clark**) to seek corporate sponsorships and build up GC funds. Initial response was strong, with about \$60,000 raised by 2000. The number of donors was small, however, and many people felt that the name “Geo-Contributions” should be changed to something that more obviously suggested the promotion of the geotechnical community.

The photo below shows the presidents of Geo Contributions from its inception in 1989 to 2000 (**Mr. J.L. Seychuk** (1989-90), **Dr. T.C. Kenny** (1991-92), **Mr. M. Devata** (1993-98); **Dr. M. Bozozuk** (1999-2000)), when its name was changed to the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique (CFG). In addition to these individuals, and to Drs. Benson and Clark, GC Officers who worked hard through this difficult period to continue to “recognize and foster excellence in the geotechnical field in Canada” included **Dr. K.T. Law** (Vice President, 2000), **Mr. R.P. Northwood** (Treasurer, 1989- 1997), **Ms. E. Partsis** (Treasurer, 1998-2000), **Ms. A. S. Poschmann** (Secretary, 1989-1997) and **Mr. A.J. Walker** (Secretary, 1999-2000).

This is the first article of a two-part series. It is based on an article prepared by Dr. Michael Bozozuk and originally published in Geotechnical News in December 2007. The original article was edited by Drs. Heinrich Heinz and Dennis Becker to fit CGS News Publication requirements.

History of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique: Part 2

(From CGS News in *Geotechnical News*, June 2016 , pages 16 and 17)

Introduction

In Part 1 of this series, published in the December 2015 issue of *Geotechnical News*, the focus was on the two predecessor organizations of the Foundation, namely the Canadian Geotechnical Fund (CGF) and Geo-Contributions (GC). This second article focuses on the period spanning from 2000, when the Foundation was established, to the present date.

The **Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique** (CFG), also known as “the Foundation”, is a registered charitable organization that funds the awards, prizes and distinguished lectures of the **Canadian Geotechnical Society** (CGS), and supports other activities that recognize geotechnical excellence. Over the past three years, the Foundation has disbursed over \$30,000 yearly for various awards, prizes and scholarships, and has sponsored the Cross Canada Lecture Tours (CCLTs) together with industry partners.

The Foundation has fostered and recognized excellence in the Canadian geotechnical community for many years, and one could easily take for granted that it will always do so. No organization, however, stands the test of time without the hard work and dedication of a number of individuals. An attempt to recognize them, as well as to highlight major initiatives over the years, is made herein. We apologize for any errors and omissions.

Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique

The **Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique** was the new name proposed to replace **Geo-Contributions** (GC). The name was approved by the GC Board of Trustees at the Annual General Meeting in October 2000, and accepted by Industry Canada in December 2000 as a charitable organization.

Similar to its predecessors, the Canadian Geotechnical Fund (CGF) and GC, the Foundation's purpose was "To recognize and foster excellence in the geotechnical field in Canada". When registered in 2000 it had the same Officers and Board of Trustees as GC.

The Foundation, by maintaining an adequate funding base through investments and soliciting donations from individuals, local geotechnical groups and corporations, had the following objectives:

- Fund the awards and prizes recommended by the CGS.
- Support the Geotechnical Research Board (GRB) through an annual award provided to the presenter of the Canadian Geotechnical Colloquium.
- Fund the travel costs of the Cross Canada Lecture Tours. • Establish funding for geotechnical scholarships.
- Support other activities that recognize geotechnical excellence.

As described in Part 1 of this article, the awards and programs established prior to 2000 and currently funded by the Foundation are:

- R.F. Legget Award
- R.M. Quigley Award
- Cross Canada Lecture Tours
- Canadian Geotechnical Colloquium
- R.M. Hardy Keynote Address
- Thomas Roy Award
- Roger J.E. Brown Award
- G. Geoffrey Meyerhof Award
- John A. Franklin Award
- A.G. Stermac Award
- Undergraduate Student Report Awards
- Graduate Student Presentation Award

The CGS subsequently established the following additional awards that the Foundation also now supports:

- Geosynthetics Award; established by the CGS in 2000 to recognize an individual or individuals in the application of geosynthetics in civil, geotechnical or geoenvironmental engineering.
- Geoenvironmental Award; established by the CGS in 2000 to recognize outstanding geoenvironmental engineering.

As a millennium project in 2000, **Dr. M. Bozozuk**, President of the Foundation designed the Legget Medal to replace the R.F. Legget Award. It is made of sterling silver by the Royal Canadian Mint and was presented for the first time to **Dr. D H. Shields** at the CGS Annual Conference in Montreal in October 2000. Past winners of the R.F. Legget Award were also given the opportunity to receive the Medal.

In 2001, the Foundation agreed to contribute \$1,500 annually towards the cost of preparing the certificates and plaques awarded by the CGS. In 2003, the CGS and the Foundation increased the honoraria for two Graduate Student Presentation Awards and four Undergraduate Student Report Awards (for individual and group submissions) to a total of \$3,750. In 2005 the Foundation contributed, for the first time, \$1,000 to support two CGS members to participate in **Young Geotechnical Engineers Conferences**. This amount currently stands at \$4,000 and the Foundation is preparing to support two young members to attend the 2017 Conference in Seoul, Korea.

Over the past several years, the Foundation has received generous and excellent support from corporate sponsors to provide travel costs for the Cross Canada Lecture Tours. In 2005, the Foundation established a Cross Canada Lecture Tour Reserve Fund to manage and report on activities related to fund raising revenues and expenditures for the Cross Canada Lecture Tour. The Reserve Fund was “capped” at \$20,000, and any additional amounts are allocated to support the general activities of the Foundation.

The Foundation has also received loans or donations from some of the Local Sections of the CGS and the Local Organizing Committees of the annual CGS Conferences.

In 2007, the Foundation launched its CFG-FCG Website www.cfg-fcg.ca and established the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique **National Graduate Scholarship**. This scholarship, with a value of \$5,000, is awarded annually to a deserving student entering into, or continuing in, a Masters or PhD program at a Canadian University in any identified field of geotechnique. Also in 2007, the Foundation increased the honorarium associated with the Canadian Geotechnical Colloquium to \$5,000.

In April of 2014, the National Graduate Scholarship was renamed as the **Michael Bozozuk National Graduate Scholarship** to honour and to recognize the 43 years of service, dedication and passion that **Dr. Michael Bozozuk** provided to the Foundation, and to the overall geotechnical community in Canada. The inaugural presentation of this scholarship was made in October 2014 at the annual CGS Conference in Regina, SK.

In the fall of 2008, the Foundation established a **Legacy Donor** program to honour individuals who have donated, or who donate, more than \$25,000 to the Foundation. To date our Legacy Donors are **Dr. Jack Mollard, Mr. Charlie Ripley** and **Dr. Ben Torchinsky**.

In the spring of 2011, the Foundation established a **Legacy Corporate Sponsor** program similar to the Legacy Donor program. The Legacy Corporate Sponsor program honours those corporations that have contributed \$30,000 or more to the Foundation to fund the Cross Canada Lecture Tours. Currently, Legacy Corporate Sponsors are **AMEC Environment and Infrastructure, Stantec/Jacques Whitford, Reinforced Earth (Canada), Tetra Tech EBA, BGC Engineering** and **Golder Associates Ltd.**

The photo below shows the four presidents of the Foundation from its inception in 2000 (**Dr. M. Bozozuk** (2000–2004), **Dr. K.T. Law** (2004-2008), **Mr. D. VanDine** (2008-2013), **Dr. D. Becker** (2014-Present)). A number of other individuals have served in various positions of the Foundation's Board of Directors, including **Ms. E.S. Partsis, Mr. M. Bleakney, Mr. D. Harding, Mr. H. Baker,** and **Dr. R. Benson.**

The current Board of Directors consists of **Dennis Becker** (President), **Kevin Biggar** (Vice-President), **Harry Oussoren** (Treasurer), **Sai Vanapalli** (Secretary), and **Heinrich Heinz** and **Ryan Phillips** as Members at Large. Other Members (formerly Trustees) include **Robert Chapuis, Jean Hutchinson, Suzanne Lacasse Høeg, Jorn Landva, Bob Patrick, Lynden Penner, Siva Sivathayalan, Brian Taylor, Jean-Pierre Tournier,** and **Gerry Webb.**

Acknowledgements

The Foundation is deeply grateful to the individuals, organizations and corporations associated with the Canadian geotechnical community for their generous support, which in turn promotes excellence in Canadian geotechnique. To learn more about the Foundation and how you can contribute, please visit our website www.cfg-fcg.ca

This is the second article of a two-part series based on an article prepared by Dr. Michael Bozozuk and originally published in Geotechnical News in December, 2007. The original article was edited by Drs. Heinrich Heinz and Dennis Becker to fit CGS News publication requirements.