

ROBERT M. (BOB) QUIGLEY (1934-1995)



Dr. Bob Quigley was a distinguished Canadian geo-technical and geo-environmental engineer and founding director of the Geotechnical Research Centre at Western University, formerly the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario.

He obtained BAsC (1955) and MASc (1956) degrees in Geological Engineering from the University of Toronto and a PhD in Soil Mechanics from MIT in 1961. In 1963, he joined Western University as a professor in a new program of geotechnical engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering.

Dr. Quigley was a leading proponent of the need for universities to be relevant to industry. As a mechanism for developing these links he was responsible for the formation of the Geotechnical Research Centre and led its development to become one of the strongest in Canada. He served as Director of the Centre until his early death in 1995 at age 61.

Dr. Quigley was a leading figure in geotechnical engineering for over thirty years in Canada and internationally. He made many seminal contributions to geotechnical engineering and the new discipline of geo-environmental engineering. For example, he led the multidisciplinary team that identified the role of bacteria in the biochemical alteration of black shale, which had caused movements and damage to buildings in Ottawa. His studies of landfill sites in the early 1970s demonstrated the significance of molecular diffusion as the dominant contaminant transport mechanism from waste disposal facilities through intact clayey soils. His work on the chemical interaction of contaminants on clays gained worldwide recognition.

Bob Quigley was an active supporter of the Canadian Geotechnical Society, perhaps most notably as Editor of the Canadian Geotechnical Journal from 1981 to 1984, and in presenting Cross Canada Lecture Tours in 1969 and 1990.

His many awards included the Excellence in Research Award from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment; awards for the best paper published in the Canadian Geotechnical Journal in 1981, 1988, and 1994; election to the Canadian Academy of Engineering in 1993; Fellowship in the Engineering Institute of Canada (FEIC) in 1991; and the Legget Award (now the Legget Medal) of the Canadian Geotechnical Society in 1991.

Dr. Quigley's strengths as a leader included the ability to identify outstanding individuals and provide an environment in which they could develop. He was always ready to listen to and

consider the views of others. He provided sound advice and good guidance to many young geotechnical engineers, including his many former graduate students and young faculty members, both at Western and at other universities. He published extensively, authoring or co-authoring more than 100 conference and journal papers and co-authoring a book on Clayey Barrier Systems for Waste Disposal Facilities.

Professor Quigley was an outstanding Canadian teacher, researcher, and engineer who had an impact on all those with whom he had dealings. He is remembered by the R.M. Quigley Award at the Geotechnical Research Centre at Western University, and annually by the R.M. Quigley Award of the Canadian Geotechnical Society for the best paper published in the Canadian Geotechnical Journal.

Dr. Quigley was devoted family man whose passing left behind his wife Marian, and three sons Steve (deceased), James and Peter, and a number of grandchildren.