



## **GEOTECHNICAL RESEARCH BOARD**

### **Summary Report, September 2008**

By Dieter Stolle (Chair) with help of Michel Aubertin (Past Chair)

#### **Membership**

The membership of the Board was reviewed and suggestions for new members were solicited by the incoming Chair. A decision was made to wait until the Fall Board meeting before adding new members to the Board. The only names removed were those who had served more than 6 years (Lee Barbour, Richard Bathurst, Serge Leroueil, Ian Moore and Dave Segó). Their contributions to the Board are very much appreciated.

Remaining executive members of the Geotechnical Research Board (GRB): Michel Aubertin (Past Chair), James Blatz, Bruno Bussière, Murray Grabinsky, Bruce Kjartanson, Craig Lake, René Therrien, Jamie VanGulck, and Arun Valsangkar.

Dieter Stolle became Chair of the GRB on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

This report is divided into two sections, the first consisting of activities of Past Chair and those of New Chair

#### **List of activities (Past Chair)**

##### *GRB session at the CGC'07*

A specialty session was organised during the annual conference in Ottawa. This session took place on Oct. 24, 2007 (in the afternoon), and was planned in conjunction with the Canadian Young Geotechnical Engineers and Geoscientists Conference, which was held Oct. 25-27, 2007. The session focused on issues related to means available for attracting funding to a developing research program. The session also addressed research needs in our community. A particular attention was paid to NSERC funding; two representatives of NSERC attended the session and made a presentation on their policies and procedures. A copy of the 6 presentations can be found on the GRB page of the Society's web site.

##### *Colloquium*

Four candidates have been nominated for the 2009 Colloquium. The selection committee, presided by the GRB Chair, reviewed the different proposals following the

rules adopted by the Society. The selection was made by a committee comprising the Technical Division Chairs, the Editor of the CGJ, and 4 other members of the Society active on the GRB (including the GRB Chair for 2007-2008). The final result was transmitted to the new GRB Chair, who will inform the selected candidate and the executive of CGS. An announcement will be made at the upcoming conference in Edmonton.

The 2008 Colloquium will be presented during the Edmonton conference by Professor Jocelyn Grozic from the University of Calgary.

There will be a follow up with the past Colloquium speakers to ensure that they submit their manuscript in a timely manner.

#### *Web site*

There is a need to continue to update the GRB web page.

#### *Last remarks*

Discussions have been initiated by the new GRB Chair with the past-Chair and with other executives of CGS to identify potential new members for the GRB.

### **List of activities (Chair)**

#### *Survey of membership*

The term for a member of the Board (Executive), which can be renewed once, is 3 years. A survey was completed to determine how long current members had served. The exercise indicated that the starting dates were not clearly defined. While there should be flexibility on this matter, this item will be briefly addressed at the Fall Board meeting to reach a consensus on guidelines for starting dates.

#### *Survey on proposed GRB activities*

The members of the Board were asked for ideas/suggestions with regard to projects that the GRB should tackle. The following suggestions were made:

- Look at how GRB and CGS represent the interests of the geotechnical research community
- Identify the geosciences/geotechnical community's role with regard to climate change
- Identify research priorities for the CGS community
- Develop a review committee for (new) academic members of CGS with the aim of providing support in the form of mentorship.
- Become more active in making the government and public aware of the CGS and its community

- Take a more active role in public policy and provide support with regard to national initiatives and for appointments to public committees.

With regard to the last suggestion a meeting took place on June 3<sup>rd</sup> between J. Blatz (member of NSERC) and the Chair.

*Prepare summary of presentations of “Special Session on Funding Research Programs”*  
The special session organized by the GRB may be considered a major initiative that provides wisdom that should be recorded for future reference. An edited summary of information on the slides is appended to the report.