

# **Brief History of the Canadian Geotechnical Society to 2025**

**by the CGS Heritage Committee**

Note: This brief history is based on a number of earlier documents including “Canadian Geotechnical Society”, an article by W.J. (Bill) Eden in *Geotechnical News*, June 1985. Eden’s original article was revised and updated by A.G. (Tony) Stermac in 1998, by Jim Graham in 2007 and by Heinrich Heinz and Doug VanDine in 2016. This update is based somewhat on, and has been updated from, Doug VanDine’s presentation on the “History of the CGS” at GeoCalgary 2022, available on the CGS website, <cgs.ca>.

## **Introduction**

With approximately 1,500 Canadian and international members (in 2025), the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) is a large and thriving not-for-profit technical society that has served the needs and interests of a wide range of Canadian geotechnical professionals for more than 50 years. Newer members might assume that this has always been the case but, in fact, the CGS has evolved and grown over many years from its small and humble beginning in 1972.

This brief history is presented in three parts: the roots of the CGS from 1945 to 1972; the formation of the CGS in 1972; and the evolution of the CGS since 1972. Many of the details that make up this history can be found on the on the CGS website “cgs.ca”, under <Resource Centre>, <Canadian Geotechnical Virtual Archives>.

## **1) Roots of the CGS (1945-1972)**

The roots of the CGS date back to 1945, when the National Research Council Canada (NRC)<sup>1</sup> established the Associate Committee on Soil and Snow Mechanics (ACSSM). The first Chair of the ACSSM was Robert Legget, who at that time was an Associate Professor of civil engineering at the University of Toronto.

In April 1947, Legget, with assistance from the ACSSM, convened the first Canadian “Civilian Soil Mechanics Conference” that was held in Ottawa and attended by some 40 individuals. This conference marked the beginning of the enduring annual Canadian Geotechnical Conference (referred to by various names over the years) and the beginning of organized geotechnical activity in Canada. At this conference, a national “Subcommittee on Soil Mechanics” was established, consisting of a chairman, Legget, and six regional representatives.

The 1947 subcommittee consisted of the following individuals, the regions they represented and their affiliations at that time:

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<sup>1</sup> The NRC was formed in 1916 “to help support Canada’s war effort and to advise the Canadian government on matters of science and industrial research”.

- Chair, Robert Legget (University of Toronto)
- Prairie Provinces, Robert Peterson (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration—PFRA), Saskatoon
- Toronto Area, Dan Watt (Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, Toronto)
- Ottawa Area, Gordon McRostie (N.B. McRostie Consulting Engineers, Ottawa)
- Montreal and Quebec City, Jacques Hurtubise, École Polytechnique, Montreal)
- Maritime Provinces, Spencer Ball, Nova Scotia Technical College, Halifax)
- BC (No representative from BC attended this first conference, but the position was later filled by John Kenrick, BC Water Rights Branch, Victoria)

Later in 1947, the NRC established the Division of Building Research (DBR) and hired Legget to be the founding director. Shortly thereafter, the ACSSM was moved under the umbrella of the DBR.

Also in 1947, Karl Terzaghi<sup>2</sup>, the President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (ISSMFE)<sup>3</sup>, asked Legget to organize a Canadian Section of the ISSMFE. Legget volunteered the ACSSM to be the nucleus of Canadian Section. Terzaghi also asked Legget to represent the Canadian Section at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Meeting of the ISSMFE in Rotterdam in 1948, held in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (ICSMFE).

Geotechnical activity in Canada increased steadily in the late 1940s and throughout the 1950s as a result of relatively rapid post-WWII development. The ACSSM continued to organize the Canadian Geotechnical Conference each year. By 1960, the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC)<sup>4</sup> had established a Geotechnical Engineering Division (GED) that worked closely with the ACSSM, and in 1963 that division took over organization of the annual Canadian Geotechnical Conference.

In 1963, a group of geotechnical practitioners from the Toronto, under the leadership of Victor Milligan, began to publish the peer-reviewed *Canadian Geotechnical Journal/Revue canadienne de Géotechnique (CGJ)*. Its name was purposely chosen to include English and French and to deliberately include all fields of the geotechnical profession, not solely engineering. The journal was initially published by the University of Toronto Press, with Milligan serving as Editor for the first five years. In 1969, the NRC took over publication of the *CGJ*, but the editorial positions remained with members of the EIC-GED.

Also in 1963, an informal newsletter edited by Bill Eden, was established to help members of the Canadian Section of the ISSMFE communicate and plan for the 6<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Legget met Terzaghi at the 1<sup>st</sup> ICSMFE at Harvard University in 1936.

<sup>3</sup> In 1997, the ISSMFE changed its name to the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering—ISSMGE.

<sup>4</sup> The EIC was formed in 1887, with the name Canadian Society of Civil Engineers was formed (not to be confused with the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering). That society was so named to distinguish “civil” from “military” engineers. In 1918 the CSCE changed its name to the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC), to better represent all branches of engineering.

ICSMFE, to be held in Montreal in 1965.

Legget was the chair of that conference, which attracted approximately 1,150 delegates representing Canada and 52 other countries. It was highly successful and demonstrated to the world that Canadian geotechnique had come of age. This is the only year, since the first Canadian Geotechnical Conference in 1947, that a stand-alone Canadian annual conference was not held.

In the same year as the 1965 conference, the ACSSM was renamed the Associate Committee on Geotechnical Research (ACGR). The ACGR continued to be the focus of the Canadian Section of the ISSMFE.

(The 1991 photo below shows seven individuals who were actively involved in the early endeavours of the ACSSM/ACGR. Many of these individuals are mentioned in this article.)



ACSSM/ACGR chairmen and advisor. From left to right, with years of ACGR involvement for each: Carl Crawford (Chair 1969-76), Victor Milligan (Chair 1983-88), Robert Legget (Chair 1945-69), Bill Eden (Advisor 1951-85), Michael Bozozuk (Chair 1985-91), Don Shields (Chair 1988-91), and Lorne Gold (Chair 1976-83; 1988).

From the profits of the Montreal international conference, the ACGR initiated the tradition of the Cross Canada Lecture Tour (CCLT), with Ivan Rosenqvist (University of Oslo, Norway) presenting the first CCLT in the fall of 1965<sup>5</sup>.

Also, using interest from the profits from the 6<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE, in 1970, the ACGR established the Canadian Geotechnical Fund (now known as the Canadian Foundation

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<sup>5</sup> A list of all CCLT speakers (1965-present) is available on the CGS website, under <Membership>, <CGS> Awards>.

for Geotechnique). The purpose of the fund was to help promote and support the geotechnical profession in Canada<sup>6</sup>.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, geotechnical professionals in some of the larger cities in Canada, such as Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Vancouver had formed their own local groups. In the late 1960s, the ACGR encouraged other larger Canadian cities to also organize local geotechnical groups. Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton were among those cities to do so.

In 1969, Legget retired as Director of NRC's DBR and as Chair of the ACGR. To recognize his contributions to the profession over almost 25 years, an award was established in his honour. That award was the first geotechnical award in Canada. At the 1970 Canadian Geotechnical Conference in Banff, AB, the first Robert F. Legget Award, was presented posthumously to Bob Peterson of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration for his significant lifelong contribution to the geotechnical field in Canada. The Banff conference was the first conference where the names "Canadian Geotechnical Society" and "Canadian Geotechnical Conference" were used.

## **2) Formation of the CGS**

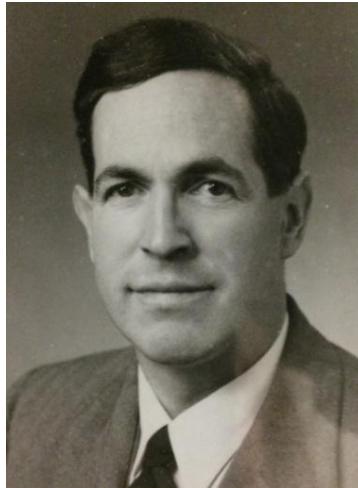
Starting in 1969, there was a move, under the leadership of David Townsend, a professor at Queen's University and an active EIC-GED member, to create a self-governing geotechnical society, separate from the EIC. This move was completed in 1972, when the "Canadian Geotechnical Society/La société canadienne de géotechnique" was formally established as a somewhat separate constituent society of the Engineering Institute of Canada. It replaced the EIC-GED. As with the CGJ, the name of the society was purposely chosen to include English and French and to include all geotechnical professions, not solely engineering. Geoffrey Meyerhof, from the Technical University of Nova Scotia (now part of Dalhousie University), became the first President.

When formed, the CGS assumed from the EIC-GED and the NRC's ACGR some of their responsibilities including: publication and distribution of the geotechnical newsletter; organization of the annual Canadian Geotechnical Conference; selecting the lecturers for the Cross Country Lecture Tours; providing editorial support to the CGJ; awarding the Robert F. Legget Medal; and representing Canada in the ISSMFE.

In 1972, a logo was selected for the newly formed society. It was the same logo that had been used on the cover of the 1965 6<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE conference proceedings, showing a beaver on top of an engineered dam with a map of Canada in the background. The logo stayed the same until 2017, when "CGS.ca" was added, so that the CGS would not be confused with the Canadian Dam Association.

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<sup>6</sup> The history of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique is available on the CGS website, under <Resource Centre>, <Canadian Geotechnical Virtual Archives>.



Geoffrey Meyerhof, the first President of the CGS, date of photo unknown

### 3) Evolution of the CGS

#### **3.1 Constitution, Bylaws, Mission Statement**

Since 1972, the constitution and bylaws of the CGS have evolved. In 1985, the CGS entirely severed its constitutional ties with the Engineering Institute of Canada and became a federally incorporated, financially independent and self-governing technical society. Although independent, the CGS has remained an active constituent society of the EIC, currently one of 14 such engineering associations.

The bylaws have been amended and updated several times since; in 1998, 2012 and 2018.

The wording of CGS mission statement has changed somewhat over the years, but its purpose has stayed the same as the current mission statement “To initiate and pursue efforts leading to the technical competence and excellence of Canadian geotechnical engineering and related geoscience professionals”.

#### **3.2 Officers**

Since Geoffrey Meyerhof, who served from 1972-1974, the following individuals have served as CGS Presidents for two-year terms:

Cameron Kenney (1975-76)  
Don Shields (1977-78)  
Jack Clark (1979-80)  
John Adams (1981-82)  
Tony Stermac (1983-84)  
David Devenny (1985-86)  
Michael Bozozuk (1987-88)  
Norbert Morgenstern (1989-90)  
François Tavenas (1991-92)  
John Seychuk (1993-94)

Jim Laing (1995-96)  
Jim Graham (1997-98)  
Guy Lefebvre (1999-2000)  
Kerry Rowe (2001-02)  
Suzanne Lacasse (2003-04)  
Dennis Becker (2005-06)  
Peter Wu (2007-08)  
Michel Aubertin (2009-10)  
Bryan Watts (2011-12)  
Richard Bathurst (2013-14)

Doug VanDine (2015-16)  
 Dharma Wijewickreme (2017-18)  
 Mario Ruel (2019-20)

Ian Moore (2021-22)  
 Robert Kenyon (2023-24)  
 Craig Lake (2025-present)

Until the early 1980s, the President, a Vice President and a Secretary, ran the society along with several regional representatives. In 1983, the role of the Vice President was split into two: a VP Technical and a VP Finance. This was the beginning of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. In the early 2000s, a VP Communications was added. In 2016, VP Communications was expanded to VP Communications and Member Services.

In 2007, the Executive Committee was enlarged to include a Divisions Representative and a Sections Representative. In 2015, a Young Professional Representative was added. In 2021, the role of the Divisions Representative was expanded to include the Divisions, Committees and the Geotechnical Research Board (GRB).

Currently the Board of Directors includes the Executive Committee, all Division Chairs, Committee Chairs, Chair of the GRB, Section Directors, a Co-editor of the *CGJ*, the Editor of *CGS News*, the Past President (in odd years) and the President-elect (in even years). The members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors are all volunteer positions<sup>7</sup>.

### **3.3 Paid Staff**

In 1986, the first paid position, that of a part-time Director General, was established. The name of that position changed to Secretary General in 1999 and to Executive Director in 2015.

Tony Stermac was the first Director General (1986-1998), followed by Secretary Generals Jim Graham (1999-2007) and Victor Sowa (2008 to 2014) and Executive Directors Michel Aubertin (2015-2024) and Ian Moore (2025-present).

In 1994, a second paid position was added, a part-time Secretary. As the workload increased, in 2008-2009 that position was replaced by two part-time positions, known as Administrators, and in 2016 those positions were better defined. Currently they are referred to as Director, Communications and Society Operations and Coordinator, Communications and Member Services.

### **3.4 Membership**

The strong and steady membership is a testament to the value of the Canadian Geotechnical Society within the Canadian geotechnical community. The chart below shows CGS membership numbers, at five-year intervals, including the pre-CGS years, 1950-1970.

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<sup>7</sup> Lists of many of the past Executive Committees, and the current, Executive Committee and Board of Directors, are on the CGS website, under <About the CGS>.



Number of members in the CGS and its predecessor, 1950-2025

The CGS is a very active technical society, run for the most part by volunteers. It is estimated that approximately 15% of the membership volunteers with the society, in one or more capacity. This is a relatively high percentage for a volunteer organization.

The CGS is a bilingual society that is inclusive of all fields of geotechnique. It has always encouraged both academic and non-academic geotechnical professionals to join and get involved, regardless of their education (BSc, MSc or PhD), regardless of whether they are Canadian-born or non-Canadian-born and regardless of where they live and work in Canada or abroad.

Although the profession was male dominated until the mid-1960s, as the number of women in the profession grew, more females have joined and become involved in the CGS. For example, in 1973, a year after the society formed, Anna Burwash became the first female regional Director, representing Atlantic Region. Suzanne Lacasse, a Canadian who lives and works in Norway, became the first female Cross Canada Lecturer (1994), CGS President (2003-2004) and Robert F. Legget Medalist (2007).

The CGS has also always strived to be attractive to students and young professionals. Starting in 1977 with the CGS Colloquium, the society has created specific awards and conferences specifically directed towards students and young professionals. In 2016, a Young Professional Representative was added to the CGS Executive. In 2021, a Young Professionals Committee was formed. In 2023 that committee, among other activities, established the first formal mentoring program within the CGS.

In 2023, the CGS Executive formed an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force.

### **3.5 CGS Divisions, Committees, GRB and Sections**

When formed in 1972, the CGS recognized that the geotechnical profession encompasses many different fields. In response, in 1975 the CGS, under the leadership of Owen White, a professor at University of Waterloo and CGS member, created its first division, the Engineering Geology Division, to create a forum for engineering geologists and geological engineers. This marked the beginning of an evolution that would eventually produce an all-encompassing “geotechnical” society.

Currently, the CGS includes a division for each of the following seven disciplines, listed by year of formation:

- Engineering Geology (1975)
- Rock Mechanics (1983)
- Cold Regions Geotechnology (1986)
- Soil Mechanics and Foundations (~1988)
- Geoenvironmental (~1990)
- Geosynthetics (1993)
- Groundwater, previously known as Hydrogeology (1995).

To address issues of importance and/or interest to all members, the CGS has also established a number of committees. Currently there are nine active committees, listed roughly by year of formation (where known):

- Membership
- Education
- Heritage (2002)
- Geohazards, previously known as Landslides
- Professional Practice
- Transportation Geotechnique
- Mining Geotechnique (2010)
- Sustainable Geotechnics (2016)
- Young Professionals (2021).

When the ACGR was disbanded in the late 1980s/early 1990s, the CGS formed the Geotechnical Research Board (GRB) in 1991. It became the “spokesperson” for the Canadian geotechnical research community. The GRB is neither a division nor a committee.

The concept of regions within the Canadian geotechnical community was introduced at the first Canadian Geotechnical Conference in 1947, with local groups in the larger centres emerging from the late 1940s to the 1960s. Until 2015, overlapping regions and local groups co-existed. Starting in 2015, CGS Regions were phased out and CGS Sections, based in the larger centres but also representing the regions they are located in, have been phased in. There are currently 20 sections, listed generally from west to east, with the larger centres in brackets:



- Vancouver Island British Columbia (Victoria)
- Southern British Columbia (Vancouver)
- Northern British Columbia (Prince George)
- Interior British Columbia (Kelowna)
- Southern Alberta (Calgary)
- Northern Alberta, Yukon, Northwest Territories and western Nunavut (Edmonton)
- Northern Saskatchewan (Saskatoon)
- Southern Saskatchewan (Regina)
- Manitoba (Winnipeg)
- Northwestern Ontario (Thunder Bay)
- Northeastern Ontario (Sudbury)
- Southwestern Ontario (London)
- Southern Ontario (Toronto)
- Southeastern Ontario (Kingston)
- Eastern Ontario (Ottawa)
- Western Québec (Montréal)
- Eastern Québec (Québec)
- New Brunswick (Fredericton)
- Nova Scotia (Halifax)
- Newfoundland and Labrador (St. John's)

Many of these sections have, and have for many years been their own society, somewhat independent of the CGS. Many of the sections are quite active, some less so.

### **3.6 Communications**

As noted previously, an informal newsletter was established to help members of the Canadian Section of the ISSMFE communicate and plan for the 6<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE in Montreal in 1965. After 1972, when the CGS assumed responsibility for that newsletter, it became issued on a more regular basis.

Prior to 1976, the newsletters were mimeographed, stapled and mailed out. In 1976, it became a printed, bound and mailed out document. In 1983, the *CGS News*, as it became known, became a regular section in the quarterly publication *Geotechnical News*, a North American-wide geotechnical professional and trade magazine that was founded and published, separate from the CGS, by CGS member John Gadsby and his company BiTech Publishers Ltd. In 2020, BiTech ceased operation and *Geotechnical News* ceased publication<sup>8</sup>.

*Geotechnical News* was replaced by *Canadian Geotechnique/Géotechnique canadienne*, published by Karma-Link Management Services Ltd., with Lisa (McJunkin) Reny as Managing Editor. *Canadian Geotechnique/Géotechnique canadienne* is published specifically for the CGS members and is referred to as "The CGS Magazine/Le périodique de la SCG. Besides the *CGS News*, the magazine includes

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<sup>8</sup> Digital copies of *Geotechnical News* from 2010-2019 are available on the CGS website, under <Resource Centre>.

technical, historical and human-interest articles<sup>9</sup>. The Editor, Contributing Editors and Editorial Advisory Board are all CGS volunteer members.

In 1996, the CGS launched its first website. Since then, the website “www.cgs.ca” has been continually added to, evolved and has undergone major revisions in 2010 and in 2016.

In 2015, the CGS *E-News* was introduced and since then has been emailed to CGS members 10 months each year. Also beginning in 2015, the CGS has joined several social media platforms to help communicate with its membership.

The CGS prepares an Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements each year. Digital versions of these two documents have been available on the CGS website since 2010<sup>10</sup>.

### **3.7 Conferences**

The CGS has continued the tradition of organizing and hosting an annual Canadian Geotechnical Conference, which started in 1947. It is longest-running national geotechnical conference in the world. In 1972, the CGS held the 25<sup>th</sup> Canadian Geotechnical Conference in Ottawa. In 1997, the CGS celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Canadian Geotechnical Conference, also in Ottawa. The 75<sup>th</sup> Canadian Geotechnical Conference was held in Calgary in 2022.<sup>11</sup>

As an integral part of each annual Canadian Geotechnical Conference, the CGS currently supports three plenary keynote lectures: the Robert M. Hardy Lecture<sup>12</sup>, given by a senior CGS member (initiated in 1987), the CGS Colloquium, given by a younger member to present the results of their work (initiated in 1977), and the Graduate Student Presentation, with the presenter being selected in a national competition (initiated in 2002).

Since 1982, several CGS annual conferences have been held jointly with other organizations such as the International Association of Hydrogeologists-Canadian National Chapter, the Canadian National Committee-International Permafrost Association, the (US) Association of Engineering Geologists, the International Symposium on Landslides and the Pan-Am section of the ISSMGE.

In addition to its annual conferences, the CGS has organized or co-organized a number of different specialty conferences on topics such as marine geotechnical engineering (1979, 1982, 1986, and 1993), geotextiles (1980 and 1985), and computers in

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<sup>9</sup> All past issues (2020-present) are available to CGS members, through the Members Section (MyCGS Login) of the CGS website, under <Geotechnical Publications>.

<sup>10</sup> These documents are available on the CGS website, under <About the CGS>, <Annual Reports>

<sup>11</sup> The proceedings of almost all of these conferences, dating back to 1947, are available on the CGS website, through the Members Section (MyCGS Login), <Member Resources>.

<sup>12</sup> Videos of many of the Robert M. Hardy lectures from 2010-present are available on the CGS website, through the Members Section (MyCGS Login), <Member Resources>.

geotechnique (1987 and 2002). The CGS has also organized regular GeoHazards Workshops<sup>13</sup>, starting in 1992, and regular Young Professional Conferences, starting in 2004.

Besides the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the ISSMFE held in Montreal in 1965, the CGS has also acted as a host of several other international conferences<sup>14</sup>.

### **3.8 Awards, Honours and Recognitions**

As mentioned previously the Cross Canada Lecture Tour was established in 1965 and the Robert F. Legget Award was first presented in 1970. In 1972, the CGS assumed responsibility for selecting lecturers for the tours and the recipients of the Robert F. Legget Awards.

Other awards, honours and recognitions have been established by the CGS. The list of the current CGS awards, honours and recognitions, and the dates they were established and/or first awarded, are listed chronologically below<sup>15</sup>:

Year	Award, Honour or Recognition
	<b>Established by ACGR, assumed by CGS</b>
1965	Cross Canada Lecture Tour; typically one or two each year
1970	Robert F. Legget Award (in 2000 re-named the Robert F Legget Medal); the most prestigious CGS award
1973	CGS Prize; for best paper in the CGJ (in 1995 re-named the R.M. Quigley award)
	<b>Established by CGS</b>
1977	Colloquium; specifically for younger CGS members
1982	Thomas Roy Award; presented by the Engineering Geology Division
1986	Roger J.E. Brown Award; presented by the Cold Regions Geotechnology Division
1987	Robert M. Hardy Lecture; presented by a senior CGS members
1988	Undergraduate Students Awards; individual and group
1989	Graduate Students Awards
1994	John A. Franklin Award; presented by the Rock Mechanics Division
1995	G. Geoffrey Meyerhof Award; presented by the Soil Mechanics and Foundations Division
1997	CGS Service Plaque; in 1999 re-named the A.G. Stermac Award
2000	Awards of Geosynthetics and Geoenvironmental divisions
2000	Hydrogeology Award; in 2002 renamed the Robert N. Farvolden Award; presented jointly by CGS Groundwater Division and the International Association of Hydrogeologists, Canadian National Chapter
2001	CGS Certificates of Appreciation

<sup>13</sup> The proceedings of all the GeoHazards Workshops are on the CGS website, under <Internal Groups>, <Geohazards>.

<sup>14</sup> List of many of the conferences organized or co-organized by the CGS are available on the CGS website, under <About the CGS>, <Past Annual Conferences>.

<sup>15</sup> More details on the history of the awards, honours and recognitions, the selection criteria, and past recipients are on the CGS website, under <Membership>, <CGS Awards>.

2007	Robert Schuster Medal; presented jointly by the CGS Geohazards Committee and the (US) Association of Engineering and Environmental Geologists
2015	Honorary Life Member
2016	Best Case History and Best Student authored Canadian Geotechnical Conference paper awards; presented by the Canadian Geotechnical Conference local organizing committee
2016	Colloquium Lecture Series Award; provides funds for the Colloquium lecturer to present the Colloquium lecture at other locations across Canada
2019	Early Achievement Award; presented to a younger member
2022	CARMA Award for the Best Paper in Rock Mechanics or Rock Engineering presented at the Canadian Geotechnical Conference; presented jointly by the Rock Mechanics Division and the conference local organizing committee
(date unknown)	CGS International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference Travel Award; presented jointly with the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique

Many of the awards, honours and recognitions are presented during the annual Canadian Geotechnical Conference. Some are accompanied by a financial honorarium provided by the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique. Starting in 2008, there has been a tradition of making these presentations at a gala banquet, held one evening of the conference.

### **3.9 Canadian Foundation Engineering Manual**

In 1975, the National Research Council published a draft edition of the *Canadian Foundation Engineering Manual (CFEM)* (then known as the *Canadian Manual on Foundation Engineering*). In 1976, the CGS assumed responsibility for the *CFEM*, and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition was published in 1978. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition was published in English in 1985. In 1989, the French edition of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, *Manuel canadien d'ingénierie des fondations (MCIF)*, was published. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition was published in English 1992 and following year, this edition was published in French. In 2006, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, was published with the French version published in 2013. In 2023, a totally updated and digital-only version of the *CFEM* was published. A French version is currently being translated.

The *CFEM* is referenced in both the *National Building Code of Canada* and the *CSA Canadian Bridge Code*, and is used as a reference document by many geotechnical professionals around the world<sup>16</sup>.

### **3.10 Canadian and International Affiliate Organizations**

Since it was formed in 1972, the CGS has represented the Canadian geotechnical profession nationally as a constituent society of the EIC and of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (until 2006, the federation was known as the Canadian Geoscience Council). The CGS is also selects a representative to attend the Canadian Society for Civil Engineers executive meeting. In addition, the society currently has formal and

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<sup>16</sup> The history of the *CFEM/MCIF* up to 2019 is on the CGS website, under <Resources Centre>, <Canadian Geotechnical Virtual Archives>.

informal affiliations with other Canadian organizations that are related to the geotechnical profession, such as the Canadian Dam Association, Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Canadian National Chapter-the International Association of Hydrogeologists, Canadian National Committee-International Permafrost Association, Canadian Rock Mechanics Association and the Tunnelling Association of Canada.

Over the years, the CGS has become formally or informally affiliated with a number of US geotechnical-related learned societies and trade organizations, including the Association of Environmental and Engineering and Geologists, Association of GeoHazard Professionals; Deep Foundations Institute; Geo-Institute of ASCE, Geoprofessional Business Association and North American Geosynthetics Society.

In addition to the affiliation with the ISSMGE, the CGS has fostered formal affiliations with the international societies associated with engineering geology, hydrogeology, geosynthetics, rock mechanics, and permafrost, and the Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies (FedIGS).

### ***3.11 1980 Heritage Book Project and Canadian Geotechnical Virtual Archives***

The 1980 Heritage Book Project and the Canadian Geotechnical Virtual Archives are two projects directly related to the history of the CGS.

The history of the Heritage Book Project and its legacy is provided in a paper by Doug VanDine and Heinrich Heinz in the proceedings of GeoVirtual 2020. The history of the Canadian Geotechnical Virtual Archives on the CGS website is provided in a paper by Heinrich Heinz and Doug VanDine in the proceedings of GeoVirtual (2020)<sup>17</sup>.

### ***3.12 Miscellaneous***

In 1987, various society manuals were written by Tony Stermac, the CGS Director General. These manuals include the Administration Manual, Conference Manual, Awards and Honours Manual and Operations Manual. These manuals have been revised and updated several times since. The Conference Manual and the Awards and Honours Manual were revised in 2023. The Operations Manual was last revised in 2008<sup>18</sup>.

The idea of CGS Corporate Sponsors (as opposed to conference sponsors) was introduced sometime prior to 2008. The sponsorship program provides some finances to the society while, at the same time, provides a sense of helping the Canadian geotechnical community to the sponsors, and providing them some exposure to the geotechnical community.

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<sup>17</sup> These proceedings are on the CGS website, under <Resource Centre>, <Canadian Geotechnical Virtual Archives>.

<sup>18</sup> The current Administration Manual, Conference Manual and Awards and Honours Manual are available on the CGS website, through the Members Section (MyCGS Login), <Member Resources>.

### **3.13 Arms-Length Organizations**

Both the Canadian Geotechnical Journal and the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique were established before the CGS was formed. Both operate at arms-length from the CGS. Because many CGS members are directly involved in these organizations for the benefit of the CGS and its members, brief histories of these organizations follow.

#### **3.13.1 Canadian Geotechnical Journal**

The CGS has chosen the *Canadian Geotechnical Journal (CGJ)* as its main publication for geotechnical-related papers.

The Journal's early history has been mentioned previously and, starting in 1969, the *CGJ* was published by NRC Publications. Since 2010, the *CGJ* has been published both digitally and in hard copy by the Canadian Science Press, an independent, not-for-profit publisher that has assumed publishing of all of the NRC's former journals<sup>19</sup>. An annual subscription of the *CGJ* has always been included in the CGS membership fees. Starting in 2010, only the digital subscription has been included in the membership fees<sup>20</sup>.

Over the history of the *CGJ*, most of the Editors and Associate Editors, and many of the reviewers have been, and are, CGS members<sup>21</sup>.

In 2018, the *CGJ* established an annual Fredlund Award to honour long-time CGS member Delwyn Fredlund. The award is presented at the Canadian Geotechnical Conference to the author(s) of the most highly cited article published in *CGJ* in the previous five years.

#### **3.13.2 Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique**

As mentioned previously, the Canadian Geotechnical Fund was established by the ACGR in 1970. In the late 1980s, ACGR was beginning to be phased out by the NRC. Under the leadership of Tony Stermac, the CGS Director General, the Canadian Geotechnical Fund was successfully transferred to a new charitable organization operated at arm's length from the CGS. Geo Contributions, as it was called, was established in 1989. Over the next year, Geo-Contributions began to financially support, at least to some extent, many of the CGS awards.

In 1999, the name of Geo-Contributions was changed to its current name, Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique/La fondation canadienne de géotechnique (CFG). The foundation is a registered charitable organization that "recognizes and fosters excellence in the geotechnical field in Canada." It remains independent of the CGS.

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<sup>19</sup> A history of the *CGJ* to 2013, authored by past CGS Editors, is available in *CGJ*, Vol 50 (2013), No 11.

<sup>20</sup> All past issues (1963-present) are available to CGS members on the CGS website, through the Members Section (MyCGS Login), <Geotechnical Publications>.

<sup>21</sup> A list of the current and past *CGJ* Editors is available on the CGS website, under <Resource Centre>, Canadian Geotechnical Journal>.

The CFG has continued to support the Canadian geotechnical community and provide financial support for many of the awards, honours and recognitions of the CGS.

Since 2007, the CFG has established two annual scholarships of its own. The Michael Bozozuk Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique National Graduate Scholarship (2007) and the Dennis Becker Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique M.Sc. Student Award (2018). Although not CGS awards, awardees are selected by a CGS committee, and the scholarships are presented at the annual Canadian Geotechnical Conference<sup>22</sup>.

## Closure

Since its humble beginnings associated with the National Research Council Canada's Associate Committee on Soil and Snow Mechanics in 1945, the Canadian Geotechnical Society has become "home" to many Canadian professionals active in the geotechnical field. The society enables close co-operation of, and cross-fertilization with, all geotechnical professionals worldwide, and speaks with one voice, both nationally and internationally, for all CGS members.

Above all, the CGS has demonstrated that it is an indispensable forum for the continuing education of its members, and that it is a progressive, flexible and adaptable organization. As the profession has changed, the CGS has changed. And regardless of the changes that have occurred, those changes have always been made within the context of a single objective: "To better serve the needs of CGS members, the profession and the country."

To close, we provide a 2022 quote from Don Shields, the 3<sup>rd</sup> CGS President (1977-1978), "During my career, I have belonged to many professional and technical organizations. None compare to the CGS in the positive technical and congenial atmosphere I've encountered, and the many long-lasting friends that I've made."

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<sup>22</sup> The history of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique is available on the CGS website, under <Resource Centre>, <Canadian Geotechnical Virtual Archives>.