

ROBERT (BOB) PATRICK (1952-2025)

By Paul Evans with assistance from
friends and colleagues, Ian Stewart, Paul Kemp, Al Veenland,
David Parry and Paul Ruffell, and his widow Louise



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Robert (Bob) Patrick, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, colleague, mentor and friend. Bob's life was marked by technical excellence, quiet integrity and a steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of others.

Born in Welland Ontario, Bob earned his B.Eng.Sc. in civil engineering from the University of Western Ontario and later his M.Sc. in foundation engineering from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Early in his career, he developed a lasting interest in soil mechanics, dams and water retention structures — passions he pursued over the course of his professional life.

Over more than 40 years as a consulting geotechnical engineer, Bob built a reputation for sound judgment, careful analysis and an unwavering sense of responsibility. He began his career with Crippen Consultants in Vancouver, then moved to northern Saskatchewan to work as a Geotechnical Instrumentation Engineer on the Nipawin Hydroelectric Project. He later joined Cochrane-Lavalin in Regina, focusing on flood protection and dyke safety. In 1988, Bob and his family relocated to Auckland, New Zealand, where he served as a Senior Geotechnical Engineer with Beca Carter Hollings and Ferner Ltd. He worked on major civil engineering and water retention projects in New Zealand and Indonesia.

In 1991, Bob and his family returned to Canada and he joined EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd. (now Tetra Tech Canada Inc.) in Nanaimo, British Columbia. He remained with the company until his retirement in 2022, eventually serving as Principal Geotechnical Consultant and Dam Practice Lead. In those roles, he provided senior technical guidance across a wide range of projects and generously mentored younger engineers.

Bob's technical legacy includes contributions to the Rafferty and Alameda dams, Little Bow Dam, Tar River Diversion Dam, Bluefish Dam Replacement and numerous dam safety reviews and annual inspections for municipalities, utilities and mining operations. He was

especially respected for his expertise in dam design, construction, performance monitoring, rehabilitation, slope stability, seepage, spillway issues and foundation design.

He also contributed to small hydro projects in British Columbia and Alberta, including Pingston, Upper Mamquam and Long Lake. Bob served on a number of independent tailings review boards and was valued, not only for his technical rigor, but also for his calm, practical approach to solving difficult problems.

Bob cared deeply about helping others grow and was a generous mentor to many. His patience, humility, dry wit, and willingness to share knowledge left a lasting impression on the engineers who worked with him.

His professional affiliations included the professional engineers and geoscientists associations of British Columbia and Alberta, the Canadian Geotechnical Society, the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique and the Canadian Dam Association. With the CDA, Bob served as British Columbia Director, Vice President, President and Past President. In 2023, he was honoured with CDA Life Membership and the Peter Halliday Award for Service. For his many contributions to the engineering profession, he was also awarded a fellowship in Engineers Canada.

Bob was active in the Nanaimo community and was a long-standing member of the Nanaimo Rotary Club, Runners of Compassion, Toastmasters and Parksville Food Banks. He also participated in community sporting events including marathons and half marathons.

Bob will be remembered for the structures he helped build, the standards he upheld and the many lives he influenced through both his work and his example. He leaves behind a legacy of excellence, care, and lasting contribution, and he is deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Louise, of 42 years, his children, Kate and Craig, and two grandchildren. Family was the foundation of his life, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him, including extended family, friends, and colleagues who valued his wisdom, steadiness, and generous spirit.