

**MARTIN (MARTY) PURO (1938-2016)**  
By Randy Donato and M.A.J. (Fred) Matich



Martin (Marty) John Puro (born June 26, 1938), former Superintendent of the Copper Cliff Ontario Mill of Vale Canada Ltd. (and predecessor Inco Ltd.), passed away on September 29, 2016 at age 78. He played an important part as a pioneer in the application of geotechnology to mine tailings management facilities in Canada.

Marty received his early education in Sudbury and went on to study at Michigan Technological University from which he graduated in Metallurgical Engineering in 1961. After graduation, he returned to Sudbury and joined Inco where, in a distinguished career spanning nearly 40 years, he worked in all milling operations at one time or another. He was appointed Superintendent in 1979.

Over a period of about 30 years, between the early 1970s and the early 2000s, Marty had a leading role in the management of tailings facilities at Inco/Vale Sudbury. Working with in-house personnel and prominent specialists in fields such as risk assessment, seismic design, hydrology and geochemistry, he contributed to Inco/Vale incorporating new geotechnical techniques and designs at its Sudbury tailings operations. A significant achievement on Marty's part was the establishment, in the 1980s, of an independent Geotechnical Review Board for the tailings management facilities, believed to be the second of its kind in Canada.

Marty also contributed various publications on tailings subjects. For example, he was a co-author of "Stability of Tailings Facilities for Mine Decommissioning" in the 1999 proceeding of the Canadian Dam Association's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, held in Sudbury.

Marty is survived by his wife of 54 years, Linda (Heino) Puro, and sons Robert, Michael and Greg. Robert and Greg have continued the family tradition and are both engineers engaged in the mining industry in the Sudbury area.