

The Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique: What does it do and how can you help ?

The mandate of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique ('Foundation') is to recognize and foster excellence in the geotechnical disciplines across Canada. In addition to funding the annual awards and prizes of the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) that celebrate the success of outstanding geotechnical specialists, the Foundation also promotes the discipline among young/future engineers and geoscientists by providing a graduate scholarship and prizes, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. This brief article describes the activities of the Foundation, and provides details about how you can contribute to this effort and help the Foundation strengthen our national heritage as a bastion of innovative geotechnique.

What does the Foundation do?

While the Foundation and the CGS share many goals, the Foundation functions at arm's length from the CGS. Annually the Foundation provides the funding for the RF Legget Medal (the highest CGS honour), and its funding supports the RM Quigley Award (for the best paper in the Canadian Geotechnical Journal), and AG Stermac Awards, and the various CGS awards that honour the excellence of the contributions in different specialities in various geotechnical disciplines. In addition, the Foundation takes great pleasure in financially supporting the annual CGS undergraduate and graduate student awards, and providing travel support for two younger CGS members to attend the International Young Geotechnical Engineer's conference held every four years.

In 2007, the Foundation established the National Graduate Scholarship, its flagship student award, to support an outstanding graduate student who demonstrates academic excellence and active participation in the geotechnical community. This scholarship, valued at \$5000, is provided from a dedicated fund in the Foundation's budget, and donations are specifically earmarked for this scholarship.

The Foundation also provides the financial support to the annual CGS Geotechnical Colloquium – a presentation by a younger geo-professional selected by the Geotechnical Research Board. Foundation's travel support to the CGS's Cross Canada Lecture Tours (CCLT) bring Canadian (Spring CCLT) and international (Fall CCLT) specialists to the geo-professionals in various cities across the country.

How does the Foundation support its activities?

The Foundation relies on donations from individuals and corporations to support its activities. The CCLTs are supported exclusively by generous corporate sponsors. Funds raised from individual CGS members and other local geotechnical groups are used to support the awards, prizes and the National Graduate Scholarship. The Foundation has instituted two special recognitions in recent years: the Legacy Donor Program recognizes significant individual donations, and the Legacy Corporate Sponsor Program acknowledges generous corporate support.

How can you contribute?

The Foundation strongly encourages all geo-professionals, especially CGS members, to support its activities by making an annual contribution. By doing so, you will help promote geotechnique across the country and provide assistance to the future leaders of our profession. The Foundation also accepts interest-free loans from local geotechnical groups. If you are an individual, a local geotechnical group or a corporation and wish to make a donation or a loan to support the Foundation's activities please visit Foundation's website at www.cfg-fcg.ca for contact details of our President Doug VanDine or Treasurer David Harding.

CGS members can easily contribute to the Foundation when they renew their annual membership on the CGS website. All contributions, big and small, are appreciated very much and will go toward further strengthening geotechnique in Canada. The Foundation is a federally incorporated registered charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.