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**DAVID ROBERT SLESSOR  
(1916-1983)**

We are sorry to report the death, on December 11, 1983, of Dave Slessor, retired Surveyor General of Canada. Despite continued ill health and several operations, Dave continued to attend Ottawa Branch CLS meetings and was present at the 1983 CIS Convention in Victoria. Dave had always been an athletic and active man, and his crippling illness was an unfitting end to his successful life.

Dave was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, the eldest of three sons of Rev. Robert and Jeannie Slessor. Following the death of his father, the family emigrated to Canada in 1924 and settled in Winnipeg. He financed part of his tuition at the University of Manitoba by delivering newspapers, and graduated with a B.Sc. in 1936.

From 1936 to 1938 he worked for the Federal Department of the Interior. From 1938 to 1940 he was a junior engineer with the Tropical Oil Company in Columbia, and was assistant to his friend Bob Thistlethwaite on positional astronomy in remote areas of Columbia.

From 1940 to 1945, Dave served as a lieutenant and captain in the Royal Canadian Engineers in England and N.W. Europe, completing his service as second-in-command of the 2nd Field Survey Company R.C.E. Following the war, he was a major in the reserve army for several years, commanding the 41st Independent Field Survey Squadron in Ottawa.

He was employed by the Legal Surveys and Aeronautical Charts Division of the Federal Surveys and

Mapping Branch in 1946, and worked for seven years on mapping surveys of the Columbia River Basin, being in charge of the immense project from 1948 to 1952. The project employed four survey parties each year for seven years and produced 97 maps at a scale of one-half mile to one inch. He was commissioned as a Dominion Land Surveyor in 1946 and as an Ontario Land Surveyor in 1956.

In 1952 he was appointed Chief of the Legal Surveys section, became Assistant Surveyor General in 1956, and in 1971 succeeded his old friend, Bob Thistlethwaite, as Surveyor General and Director of the Legal Surveys Division.

As Assistant Surveyor General he had been responsible for streamlining the organization and eliminating the large backlog of work-in-hand. As Surveyor General he administered the regionalization of the Legal Surveys Division and the establishment of nine regional offices across Canada, for the purpose of closer co-operation with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in the survey of Indian reserves. This has been completely successful.

Dave was a student of French, Spanish and Russian, was officially bilingual in French and English, and was the author of several technical articles. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and a Life Member of the Canadian Institute of Surveying. He retired in December 1977.

Dave is survived by his wife, the former Anne Milton; two sons, David of Calgary, and Bob of Peterborough; grandchildren Stephanie, Stephen, Erin, Mathew and Kealy; and by his two brothers, Ed of Richmond, British Columbia and Bert of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The funeral service was held at Trinity United Church, became Assistant Surveyor General in 1956, and in 1971 succeeded his old friend, Bob Thistlethwaite, as Surveyor General and Director of the Legal Surveys Division.

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The funeral service was held at Trinity United Church in Ottawa, where an appreciative eulogy was delivered by his old friend and associate, Bill Blackie.