



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Memorial Tribute to

ELI ROBINSKY

Professor Emeritus
Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering

October 31, 2018

Be it resolved –

THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering record with deep regret the death on August 2, 2018 of Professor Emeritus Eli Robinsky.

Professor Emeritus Robinsky grew up in Lebanon, where he graduated from the American University of Beirut with a BA and BSc in Civil Engineering. He went on to receive his MSc in Civil Engineering from Harvard University.

Upon receiving a Doctorate in Civil Engineering from the University of Toronto in 1963, he joined the Department of Civil Engineering, remaining on staff until his retirement at 1992. He taught for 29 years, lecturing to first-year students and using contemporary civil engineering projects as case studies with his fourth-year students. He was honoured to be named Professor of the Year twice by his students.



Professor Emeritus Robinsky received many prestigious awards over his successful career, including the 1975 Arthur M. Wellington prize for the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the 1976 Leonard Medal from the Engineering Institute of Canada for a paper introducing an environmentally superior approach for the disposal of mine tailings.

Professor Emeritus Robinsky was one of several U of T faculty members hired to consult on the construction of Toronto's CN Tower. In 1972, he performed the soil and foundational analysis to ensure the tower could sit safely at its location. To complete this analysis, Professor Emeritus Robinsky bravely descended down a 30-inch wide, 117-foot deep caisson. Because of this, he is considered by some as the "unsung hero of the CN Tower project" for endangering his life to benefit the tower's ultimate safety.

Eli Robinsky leaves behind his loving wife, Marisha; daughters, Lisa (Randy) and Susie (Chris); sister, Tanya; stepson, Chris (Sharon); nephews and nieces, Kathy (John), Rurik (Roberta), Paul, Mary and Nick; grandchildren, Ava and Aidan; and grandnephews, Jamie and Christopher.

Be it further resolved –

THAT this tribute to Professor Emeritus Eli Robinsky be inscribed in the minutes of this Council meeting, and that copies be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of this Council.

Prepared by Professor Brent Sleep