Neil J. Campbell 1925 - 2014

Neil J. Campbell was born in Los Angeles Calif. of Canadian parents and attended schools in Toronto and St. Mary's, Ontario later graduating from McMaster University in Honours Physics in 1950 with his BSc and his MSc in 1951. He graduated from UBC in 1955 in physics where he did his graduate studies in physical oceanography. During the Second World War he worked on the Manhattan Engineering Project at Hooker Electrochemical Company, Niagara Falls, NY.

As an oceanographer, he was employed by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada in Nanaimo, BC, St. Andrews, NB and Halifax, NS where he headed the Board's Arctic and Atlantic Oceanographic programs. While in Halifax, he taught oceanography at Dalhousie University.



His appointment to Ottawa, in 1963, was to fulfil the role of organizing and developing the entry of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources into the field of marine sciences. Appointed Chief Oceanographer, he directed the organization of what is known as the Marine Environmental Data Service. He was named and became head of the Canadian delegation to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in 1968 and subsequently served the Commission in various capacities including four years as First Vice-Chairman. During his term as Vice-Chairman he represented the IOC and UNESCO at the Third Law of the Sea Conference.

He was assigned the responsibility of organizing the federal government's program for the study of pollution of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario for the International Joint Commission which led establishment of the Canada Centre for Inland Waters.

In 1976 Dr. Campbell was appointed Director-General of the Marine Sciences and Information Directorate. He served as a delegate to the international organizational meetings for the preparation of the Convention on Ocean Dumping and subsequently prepared the Canadian legislation in 1975 which allowed Canada to ratify the London Ocean Dumping Convention.

From 1963 to 1972 he served as the Canadian Member on the NATO Sub-Committee on Oceanographic Research and was invited to continue to serve with the Scientific Affairs Division of NATO on the Marine Sciences Panel.

Dr. Campbell served as Vice-President (1983), President (1984) and Past-President (1985) of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS).

In 1987 he was nominated as a Lifetime Member of CMOS and was awarded the J.P. Tully medal in 1992. He is also recognized as a Scientist Emeritus in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

In 1994, after the retirement of Uri Schwarz from the position of CMOS Executive Director, Dr. Campbell took over looking after the Society's administration.