



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Memorial Tribute to

Michael R. Piggott

Professor Emeritus
Department of Chemical Engineering
and Applied Chemistry

October 18, 2021

Be it resolved –

THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering record with sincere regret the death on July 5, 2021 of Professor Emeritus Michael R. Piggott in his 92nd year.

Professor Piggott received his BSc in Physics from Imperial College, London in 1951. He went on to graduate studies at Imperial College working on thin film chemical reactions, and friction and wear of surface films. After completing his PhD at Imperial College, he went on to work in industrial research and production in England before coming to work with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. at their Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories. While at Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., he began working in the new area of composite materials and their potential application to nuclear reactors. In 1968, he joined the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry at the University of Toronto. He retired in 1995.

After joining the University of Toronto, Professor Piggott shifted his work from reinforced metals to composite materials involving polymers. He was an active scholar who was deeply engaged in research and education in composite materials. His early work focused on the properties of the fibre/matrix interface, and his later work called into question some of the widely accepted theories underpinning the theory of composite design. He outlined these ideas in a revised second edition of his classic text “Load Bearing Fibre Composites” and followed up by publishing a book entitled “What Engineers Should Know about Fibre Composites”.

Professor Piggott loved the outdoors. He climbed the six virgin peaks in the Canadian Arctic and built two cottages. He also sung with the Canadian Opera and was the Editor in Chief of the North Renfrew Times.

Professor Piggott was a much beloved colleague who regularly stayed in contact with the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry well after his retirement. He was always full of enthusiasm about his love of science and the outdoors and his family which included three children and six grandchildren.

Be it further resolved –

THAT this tribute to Professor Emeritus Michael R. Piggott 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 Council.