



Tim Dottridge
1949-2019

IDRC mourns the passing of Tim Dottridge

Tim Dottridge, who joined IDRC in the early 1970s and served as a bridge until his retirement in 2010 between the early IDRC and the IDRC as we know it today, passed away on Saturday, February 9th following a brief illness.

Tim's influence on IDRC was first felt in the regions, where he was among the first cohort of staff in the Dakar, Senegal regional office in 1973. He then moved to Beirut in the mid-1970s when that regional office was established, but then was part of that office's relocation to Cairo in 1975 due to unrest. That move reflected the practical, action-oriented approach of the Centre's early years, and Tim played a fundamental role in helping to shepherd IDRC through to the present day.

Tim left the Centre in 1976 to study at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, where his research focused on Morocco. Tim rejoined IDRC in 1981, after which he served in a series of planning and policy positions. He retired in February 2010 as director of IDRC's Special Initiatives Division, marking more than 30 years of service.

Beyond Tim's work accomplishments, he was treasured by those with whom he worked. "Everyone who knew him knew he was the best in our organization," said IDRC President Jean Lebel, who recalled first meeting Tim in the cafeteria line soon after joining IDRC. "He was kind, smiling, knowing, friendly, always ready to help. An exceptional person and all who had the chance to meet him will remember with joy."

Claire Thompson, program officer with Foundations for Innovations, was among those who helped organize Tim's retirement party in 2010, which featured customized songs and other tributes.

"Tim was much-loved. He loved cycling, dancing, and gathering people at the pub," she said. "He was a funny, kind, and garrulous man

Le CRDI déplore le décès de Tim Dottridge

Tim Dottridge, qui s'est joint au CRDI au début des années 1970 et qui a servi de pont, jusqu'à sa retraite en 2010, entre le CRDI initial et l'organisme que l'on connaît aujourd'hui, est décédé le samedi 9 février des suites d'une brève maladie.

L'influence de Tim sur le CRDI s'est d'abord fait sentir dans les régions; il faisait en effet partie de la première cohorte d'employés travaillant au sein du bureau régional à Dakar, au Sénégal, en 1973. Il s'est ensuite installé à Beyrouth au milieu des années 1970 lorsque le bureau régional a été établi dans cette ville, mais en raison de l'agitation, il a participé à la réinstallation de ce bureau au Caire, en 1975. Cette réinstallation était le reflet de l'approche pratique et orientée vers l'action privilégiée durant les premières années du Centre, et Tim a grandement contribué à guider le CRDI jusqu'à nos jours.

Tim a quitté le Centre en 1976 pour étudier à la School of Oriental and African Studies de l'Université de Londres, où sa recherche a porté sur le Maroc. Tim est revenu au CRDI en 1981, où il a occupé une série de postes relatifs à la planification et aux politiques. Il a pris sa retraite en février 2010. Il était alors directeur de la Division des initiatives spéciales du CRDI et cumulait plus de 30 ans de service.

Au-delà de ses réalisations professionnelles, Tim était très aimé des personnes avec qui il travaillait.

« Tous ceux qui l'ont connu savent qu'il représentait la crème de notre organisation », a déclaré Jean Lebel, président du CRDI, qui se souvient avoir rencontré Tim pour la première fois en faisant la file à la cafétéria, peu après s'être joint au CRDI. « Il était gentil, souriant, complice, amical et toujours prêt à aider. C'était une personne exceptionnelle et tous ceux qui ont eu la chance de le rencontrer se souviendront de lui avec joie. »

Claire Thompson, administratrice de

with many friends. He was an icon in IDRC's history. Many of us are quite heart-broken."

Many IDRC alumni are sharing stories and tributes, including Rob Robertson, chair of the IDRC Alumni Association.

"All who worked with Tim will remember his wonderful personal qualities and his dedication to the Centre. We are so grateful to have experienced his friendship and benefitted from his wisdom," he said. "He was truly liked by everyone and treasured by those of us who worked most closely with him."

IDRC sends condolences to Tim's widow, Bahija, their three children, and their grandson.

This tribute to Tim was published February 14 in Mahali, the Centre's internal information service. Ed.

Tim's obituary in the [Ottawa Citizen](#).

Colleagues remember Tim:

Tim had such a warm personality that it makes it hard to describe him in terms of his professional contribution.

Tim rejoined IDRC when the Office of Planning and Evaluation (OPE) was created. There was naturally some concern in the program divisions that OPE would interfere with their programs. Tim was such a genuine person that he soon won the respect and cooperation of his colleagues throughout the Centre. Tim had an ability to understand both the technical programs and the institutional complexities of the partners we worked with so, among many other things, he was able to manage a number of program division reviews carried out by members of the Governing Board.

Doug Daniels

Tim was IDRC's resident historian. Many staff went to him for advice or to seek context on issues that had a long lineage, knowing Tim would provide a detailed and unbiased version of what transpired. He was a dispassionate and calming influence among staff in programs and P&P even during the (many) eras when there was actual or perceived turmoil at the top. Tim kept a measure of common sense in such matters.

Tim represented a bygone era at IDRC. I do not say this with regret or rancor, just as a fact. Times change and organizations must change with them. But Tim embodied the ethos of thoughtful, committed programming that gave IDRC its formidable reputation in its early years and persists to this day.

Rohinton Medhora

programme au sein de Fondements pour l'innovation, a participé à l'organisation de la fête de départ à la retraite donnée pour Tim en 2010, qui a inclus des chansons personnalisées et d'autres hommages.

« Tim était très apprécié. Il adorait s'adonner au cyclisme, danser et rassembler des gens au pub », a-t-elle dit. « C'était un homme drôle, aimable et loquace qui avait beaucoup d'amis; une icône dans l'histoire du CRDI. Plusieurs d'entre nous sont très éplorés. »

De nombreux anciens du CRDI partagent des histoires qu'ils ont vécues avec Tim et lui rendent hommage, y compris Rob Robertson, président de l'Association des anciens du CRDI.

« Tous ceux qui ont travaillé avec Tim se souviennent de ses qualités personnelles exceptionnelles et de son dévouement envers le Centre. Nous sommes tellement reconnaissants d'avoir pu profiter de sa sagesse et de son amitié », a-t-il raconté. « Il était véritablement apprécié de tous et chéri de ceux d'entre nous qui ont travaillé de façon plus étroite avec lui. »

Le CRDI offre ses condoléances à la veuve de Tim, Bahija, ainsi qu'à leurs trois enfants et à leur petit-fils.

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