

A native of Edmonton, Alberta, Richard H. (Dick) Douglas (1919 - 1993) was President at the Canadian Branch of the Royal Meteorological Society, that later became the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society for the term 1961-62. His term saw the Branch host an international meeting on agrometeorology and the launch of the publication *Atmosphere*.



His career spanned more than 40 years, in university and government, both as an operational meteorologist and as a researcher studying precipitation physics and agrometeorology.

After obtaining his BSc in physics at The University of Alberta in Edmonton in 1941, he joined the Meteorological Service of Canada. After training in Toronto, he was posted to Gander, Newfoundland, where he did transatlantic forecasting for the RAF Bomber Ferry Command, the RCAF and later commercial flights, during and after the Second World War. From 1947 to 1951, he was stationed at the Main Meteorological Office in Dorval.

From 1952, his career turned to research. In 1954 he was seconded to the Stormy Weather Group of the Physics Department at McGill (see photo), where he pursued studies of snow processes leading to a thesis *Snow Cells and Showers* and his Ph.D degree in 1957. In 1956, he was instrumental in initiating the Alberta Hail Project and subsequently directed it for nearly a decade. In 1960, he became a founding member of the McGill Department of Meteorology. He was appointed as Chairman of the small Department of Agricultural Physics on the Macdonald Campus in 1965, with a specific mandate in agrometeorological research. In 1968, he became a member of the Canada Committee of Agrometeorology (later the Expert Committee on Agrometeorology) on which he served until his retirement in 1985, the last two years as its chairman. In 1991, he was made a Fellow of the Society of Agrometeorology, in recognition of his services to the field.

He died in 1993 in Edmonton.

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