



1937 - 2025
Professor DR Fraser Taylor
Officer of the Order of Canada
Fellow Royal Society of Canada

Chancellor's Distinguished Research Professor
International Affairs Geography and
Environmental Studies
Director, Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that Professor DR Fraser Taylor passed away on 22 March 2025. As many will know, he had a long and distinguished career at Carleton University.

Professor Taylor's family will hold a small, private ceremony, and propose, in time, that colleagues contribute to a fund for students in lieu of flowers.

The GCRC team will collaborate his family and the Carleton community to host an event that honours Professor Taylor's extraordinary life and career in the near future.

We welcome your engagement. Please share with colleagues.

A cartographer, geographer and research professor of international renown, Professor DR Fraser Taylor received many awards in recognition of his lengthy, remarkable and internationally influential research career, the most recent being his appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada, and others being the 3M Environmental Award, the Carl Mannerfelt Gold Award, the Killam Prize for the Social Sciences, and appointment as Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

He commenced his *development from within* understanding of social issues as an education officer in Kenya, while at the same time he undertook his own doctoral research, and initiated computer-based data analysis in the sixties. His most recent children's cognitive story mapping work in South Africa in 2025 demonstrates ongoing commitment to link practice and theory in research. He articulated the concept of Cybercartography in 1997, and in 2003, he founded the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University. Here, he and his team developed a robust platform of technology, research, project development and publication to advance the creation of digital atlases that put map creation into the hands of map users and communities. Indigenous communities have engaged actively in this work and have advanced the research with the inclusion of culture, language, place names and history, from its inception, over two decades ago.

Professor Taylor served in leadership roles on United Nations strategy teams, and with many academic associations, including the International Cartographic Association (Dr. Fraser Taylor acknowledgement <https://icaci.org/>), Canadian Cartographic Association, and the Canadian Association of African Studies. He impacted thinking in cartography and geography significantly with his extensive publication history; he also worked tirelessly as general editor for the Elsevier Modern Cartography Series, developing new streams for study, and ensuring the research of countless academics reached other thinkers, nationally and internationally.

He reached countless students, researchers, individuals, communities, national governments around the world, the private sector, the United Nations and other global leaders with his innovative and far-reaching initiatives, and with his deep and passionate commitment to research of importance to society.

Professor Taylor worked non-stop: working, thinking, strategizing, embracing new ideas, and doing big and small tasks was a way of life for him. He was mindful and respectful of everybody - and humble while he always stood tall. In developing himself, he helped countless others with their own personal and professional growth, and at their own pace. We are sure that many colleagues will be reflecting on his outreach, influence and the massive scope of his lifetime academic research project. His indomitable presence, wisdom, and sense of humour will be profoundly missed. Our deepest condolences to his family and friends and colleagues.

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