It was with sadness that the Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) learned of the death of Dr C William L Jeanes, in Ottawa, Ontario, at the age of 95. Dr Jeanes was founder of the CTS and medical director of the Canadian Lung Association (CLA, formerly known as Canadian Tuberculosis Association [CTA] and Canadian Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association).

Dr Jeanes first came to Canada in 1956 as a visiting scholar from the British Chest and Heart Association. During his four-month stay, he visited every provincial tuberculosis (TB) association in Canada. By the time he returned to Ottawa to present a report of his visits, he had become an expert on respiratory diseases in Canada (especially TB).

Dr Jeanes was invited to join the staff of the CTA to form a medical section (CTS) that would help broaden the association’s focus to other respiratory diseases. Dr Jeanes thus returned to Canada in 1957 with his wife and young children. He worked tirelessly on TB control and on organizing the medical section, visiting every TB association, university respirology department and all 55 sanatoria in Canada. As medical director, he helped transform the CTA, broadening its focus from TB to respiratory diseases as a whole.

Dr Jeanes’ career spanned 50 years, 20 of those with the CLA. He was known for his contributions to TB and public health worldwide through his work with the World Health Organization and the Canadian International Development Agency. His contributions to the fight against TB have been documented on a CLA website (www.lung.ca/tb/tbhistory/people/jeanes.html) highlighting Canada’s role in fighting TB. His contributions to the establishment of the CTS are documented, in his own words, in the first chapter of A Book of Recollections – A Personalized History of the CTS, 1958-2008, available in the ‘About Us’ section of the CTS website.

Dr Jeanes was a valued member of the CTS, and honoured by the society in 2008 as part of CTS’ 50th anniversary celebration. We are grateful for his enormous contributions to the society, the CLA, TB control and public health.

Our deepest sympathy to his family and friends. A private funeral was held in Ottawa, Ontario. A public memorial ceremony was held in Ottawa at The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence on July 26, 2014. To sign the memorial guest book, visit the Ottawa Citizen website.
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