

THE QUEBEC-LABRADOR FOUNDATION IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
THE CLIFFORD CONSERVATION FUND

ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF DONALD (OBIE) K. CLIFFORD, JR.
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, QLF-U.S.

*“Ours is a noble goal and a noble purpose.
We can and should take great pride
in the work we are doing.”*

OBIE CLIFFORD, OPENING SESSION
QLF CONGRESS, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 2006

Gros Morne National Park on the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland is in the heart of QLF's home region and the field site of QLF's Conservation Internships. PHOTOGRAPH BY NICHOLAS GATES



QUEBEC-LABRADOR FOUNDATION
ATLANTIC CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Obie Clifford in his Address before the Opening Session, QLF Congress, Budapest, Hungary, 2006. The Congress was attended by 200 Alumni—former Volunteers, Interns, International Fellows, and Members of QLF’s Governing Boards—representing 34 countries.

Obie believed that QLF has a definite purpose in today’s world, bridging communities, culture, and conservation in our home region and across the globe.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREIG CRANNA

Obie Clifford’s Thoughts on QLF at 50

The First QLF Alumni Congress

A publication of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, 2007

Taking part in QLF’s First *Alumni Congress* was a major high point of the year for me. Sensing the extraordinary enthusiasm for our mission among so many diverse, committed individuals was inspiring, and my conviction that QLF is making a vital difference in the world was confirmed many times over.

Perhaps for the first time, I fully appreciated how effectively QLF is drawing on its central role—to serve rural communities in the Atlantic Region (Eastern Canada and New England)—and to create community-based conservation models that are shared worldwide.

QLF’s mission is both noble and ambitious. Given the enormous challenges of today’s world, what we are doing so well is also more needed than ever before in our 50 years of service.

...

It Couldn’t Be Done?!

Inspiration, Perseverance, Commitment, and Leadership defined Obie Clifford. All these years, we relied on Obie’s wisdom, thoughtful guidance, and inspiration, shared with a wink, humor, and endless puns to our delight.

It was on the Eve of QLF’s 50th Anniversary, the Board of Directors began a dialogue on Management Transition and Leadership for the next decade and beyond. A daunting task, for there were big shoes to fill, Obie inspired us with this poem, *It Couldn’t Be Done*. And now when it seems that it couldn’t be done, we do it!

Thank you, Obie ~

IT COULDN’T BE DONE

Somebody said that it couldn’t be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That “maybe it couldn’t,” but he would be one
Who wouldn’t say so till he’d tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn’t be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: “Oh, you’ll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it”;
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he’d begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn’t be done and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That “cannot be done,” and you’ll do it.

EDGAR A. GUEST

THE CLIFFORD CONSERVATION FUND ESTABLISHED MARCH 2018

Members of the Governing Boards of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation/ Atlantic Center for the Environment (QLF), Friends, Alumni, and Staff are pleased to announce **THE CLIFFORD CONSERVATION FUND**, an operating fund established in Memory of the late Donald (Obie) K. Clifford, Jr., Chairman *Emeritus*, Board of Directors, QLF–U.S.

With encouragement from the Clifford family, QLF has established this operating fund to honor Obie's vision, leadership, legacy, and unwavering commitment to the highest principles of community and conservation. **THE CLIFFORD CONSERVATION FUND** is a heartfelt tribute to our friend, colleague, mentor, and leader.

In 1980, Obie discovered QLF following the introduction by a close friend, Cottie Davison, who served as QLF's Board Chairman (1990–1996). Coincidentally, Obie knew QLF Founder Bob Bryan at Yale, and naturally Bob was especially proud to welcome Obie to QLF's Board. Obie served with distinction as QLF Chairman from 1997–2012. He was especially respected for his vision and spirited leadership, and commitment to QLF's program mission. Under Obie's name on QLF's *Board Leadership Timeline* are the words, "Mission, Management, and Fiscal Accountability," and these principles are now deeply embedded in QLF's organizational culture.

Obie brought more than wisdom, knowledge, and experience to his role. He also gave his extraordinary enthusiasm and his love of people to every organization he supported, including ours. Obie was especially supportive of QLF's vision to continuously develop a new generation of conservation leaders. It was only natural that Obie wholeheartedly supported and contributed to the successes of both the 2006 QLF *Congress* in Budapest, Hungary, and ten years later, the QLF *Congress* in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain. In a videotaped introduction for the opening night of

the 2016 *Congress*, Obie shared his observations about the world and QLF's role in it:

"If we are to survive as individuals, let alone survive as a species, we must meet two central requirements: we must learn to live in harmony with each other, a test we are failing in many parts of the world today; and we must learn to live in harmony with our natural environment. To the extent we destroy nature, nature will surely destroy us. Living in harmony with nature is an absolute necessity for our survival. I don't know about you, but I am strongly in favor of survival! QLF's program mission addresses both of these global challenges."

THE CLIFFORD CONSERVATION FUND will support current needs within QLF's established Conservation Internship Program and International Conservation Programs. Obie shared in our belief that philanthropic investment in QLF's Conservation Internship Program extends far beyond a summer, a semester, or the year. Supporting Internships represents a proven and high-impact investment in the next generation conservation leaders and stewards of our environment. Early on, Obie also believed in the merit of International Conservation Programs and the inherent value of exchanging conservation knowledge, expertise, and innovation while building international cooperation between communities and regions worldwide that share environmental challenges and opportunities. Obie was a pivotal inspiration in QLF's growth in the early years of the 21st century, and his extraordinary support for QLF's mission and purpose lives on as does his dedication and commitment to community and conservation.

We welcome you to join us in honoring Obie's legacy with a tax deductible gift to the Quebec-Labrador Foundation in support of **THE CLIFFORD CONSERVATION FUND**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLIFFORD CONSERVATION FUND, PLEASE CONTACT:

Elizabeth Alling, President, Quebec-Labrador Foundation ~ 4 South Main Street, Ipswich, Massachusetts 01938 U.S.
Ealling@QLF.org ~ 978.356.0038 (Office) ~ 978.886.0408 (Mobile) ~ www.QLF.org



THE QUEBEC-LABRADOR FOUNDATION: THE ORGANIZATION

The Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment is a Not-for-profit Organization in the U.S. (incorporated in 1963) and Registered Charity in Canada (1969). With its headquarters in Ipswich, Massachusetts, QLF has an office in Montreal, Quebec. QLF has a Staff of thirty with Program Consultants. QLF has a Board of Directors in the U.S. and Canada, Honorary Directors, and a Council that serves as an Advisory Board.

QLF's Mission is defined in two parts: a regional component (New England and eastern Canada), and an international component, which ties our regional model to a global network. The Mission Statement follows: *QLF exists to promote global leadership development, to support the rural communities and environment of eastern Canada and New England, and to create models for stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage that can be shared worldwide.*

Over five decades, QLF has been a model of what cooperation can achieve: politically, between two countries; geographically, within a bioregion; and locally, among the mixture of religious denominations and ethnic identities, which make up the rural population of eastern Canada and New England.

QLF began as an organization providing community service and leadership programs for young people living in isolated fishing communities along the Quebec-Labrador coast. In the mid-1970s, programs were expanded both geographically and programmatically when QLF offered residential conservation camps and experiential outdoor leadership opportunities for youths, adults, and families. In 1977, the Atlantic Center for the Environment was created to develop environmental programs throughout the home Region—New England and Eastern Canada.

In 1981 QLF realized its regional programs could be an effective model as countries looked for ways to address environmental issues over an international border and established International Programs to foster an exchange of experience and conservation innovation among organizations and individuals in other regions that face similar challenges and opportunities. Today, our program model of cross-border, bioregional conservation is shared beyond our home region of New England and eastern Canada with conservation leaders and practitioners in Europe; Central and Southeast Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East, North Africa, the Gulf States; and Southeast Asia.

Binding all programs together is QLF's commitment to leadership development through community service; community-based conservation; and stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage.