

J.R. (JACK) SUTHERLAND

John Raymond Sutherland was born in Heward, Sask. and raised on the family farm. He completed high school in Stoughton, Sask. and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1953 with a Civil Engineering degree.

Mr. Sutherland joined the Saskatchewan Department of Highways and Transportation in 1953 as a resident engineer in charge of construction projects. Over the years he was promoted to positions of increasing importance until 1981 when he became Deputy Minister, responsible for administration of the department and management of the highways system in Saskatchewan. He remained Chief Executive Officer of the department until his retirement on July 1, 1992.

Mr. Sutherland's leadership and foresight had a significant influence on the development of the highway system in Saskatchewan. Some major initiatives included:

- Operation Open Roads and Operation Main Street, which provided small communities with better highway access and funding for paving main streets.
- transportation assistance programs to provide bus service to rural communities and transit service for handicapped persons in urban centres.
- passage of a new Railway Act that facilitated establishment of Saskatchewan's first producer owned shortline railway.
- design and construction of five major air bases in northern Saskatchewan to provide service and fire protection for northern communities and forest resources.
- development of several transportation technology initiatives to improve the safety and efficiency of commercial truck equipment.
- design and construction of four lane highways and the introduction of passing lanes on two lane highways.
- development of a Traffic Accident Information System, used by all police forces and other agencies in Saskatchewan.

For his distinguished service Mr. Sutherland was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Medal in 1987 by the Regina Chapter of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. He served as President of the Roads and Transportation Association of Canada from 1985-86 and, during his tenure with RTAC, chaired a committee of Deputy Ministers established to oversee a major initiative to improve truck safety and harmonize vehicle weights and dimensions across Canada.

In 1993 he received an award from the Saskatchewan Trucking Association and the Truck Transportation Industry for his contributions to that industry.

Mr. Sutherland is on the board of directors of the Santa Maria Nursing Home and the Regina Rotary Club. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, serves on a committee of the Regina Early Learning Centre, and is a former board member of the John Paul II Catholic Centre.

Inducted into the
Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame
June 1995