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Technovation

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/technovation

Obituary

Professor Louis-André Lefebvre

In memory

This spring marked the first anniversary of the death of Professor Louis-André Lefebvre. Louis passed away in February 2012 at the age of 61. In remembering him, we think of all that he represented and accomplished during his life and career.

Louis was an irrepressible optimist. He embraced life and shared his enthusiasm with everyone around him. An aficionado of nature and the outdoors, he built a home in the glorious Laurentian Mountains in Quebec, Canada, where he and his wife Elisabeth brought up their children and where he could be found skiing, grilling, “Ski-Doo’ing” on the lake, or constructing some new facility. He delighted in his family and in the time he spent with them. Elisabeth was not only his life partner but a key collaborator in his research; his children (Chantale, Michelle and Nicolas) inherited his zest for life and demonstrated this energy with their own distinct talents as skiers, artists, and teachers.

To many of us, we learned of Louis through his passionate and tireless efforts as a researcher, teacher, and mentor. He inspired a generation of researchers who are at work today in Canada and around the world, and for almost two decades, he was an active member of the MoT research community. He was a founding member of the International Association for the Management of Technology (IAMOT) and served as its president 1999–2000. His contributions to the scientific and engineering communities were both local (Canada) and global. He was an active participant on several national and international committees, including the Review Committee of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. In the 1990s he was instrumental in setting up the Research Chairs in the Management of Technology (MOT), a joint undertaking between the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). As one of the founding chairs, Louis generously gave his time and efforts to the chair holder community, hosting one of their annual meetings serving as mentor to his colleagues. This group promoted and collaborated with the Canadian Association for Management of Technology (CANMOT), an affiliate of IAMOT. In 2011, IAMOT awarded Dr. Lefebvre the association's Lifetime Achievement Award for his years of contribution to the MoT community.

Dr. Lefebvre began his academic career in the mid 1980s at the *Université du Québec à Montréal* (UQAM), where he quickly became

a full professor of information systems management. In 1991 he was hired by the industrial engineering program at the *École Polytechnique de Montréal*. In 1998, in collaboration with his wife, Elisabeth, Louis created the ePoly Centre (Centre of e-Commerce Expertise) at the *École Polytechnique*. This center has since turned out dozens of researchers and professionals in the field of e-commerce and business model applications. During his university professorship, more than 20 PhDs and dozens of master's students graduated from this program in technology management.

Throughout his career, Louis was guided by an unwavering vision: to explore new territory in the broad field of information technologies and management. His research projects and publications cover a wide range of topics, from knowledge-based economy to B2B electronic commerce, e-collaboration tools, virtual teams, supply chain management, RFID, open innovation, and organizational performance. His curiosity led him into related areas, including the internationalization of SMEs and export performance, for which he earned a world-wide reputation. He was concerned with environmental issues and the long-term impacts on enterprises. In his career, he addressed most of Canada's major industrial sectors, including the automotive industry, aeronautics, telecommunications, retailing, health care, and hospital management.

Louis's publications appeared in multiple journals, including *Technovation*, *R&D Management*, *International Journal of Technology Management*, *Journal of Engineering and Technology Management*, *Management Science*, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *Journal of Manufacturing Technology Management*, *Small Business Economics*, *Production and Operations Management*, and *Journal on Chain and Network Science*. He served on the editorial boards of *Technovation* (from 2002) and the *Journal of Chain and Network Science* from its inception.

Louis was an exemplary academic. In his education, research, and service to academia and industry, he remained engaged with his colleagues and with his topics. He consistently sought to push the envelope and challenge presumptions; he not only studied innovation, he personified it!

The MoT community has lost a charismatic pioneer, and we miss him—as a colleague and as a friend.