

## Remembering Professor Mohamed “Mo” El-Hawary, 1943–2019

Thank you for the honour to speak to you this morning.

Ferial, our thoughts are with you and with your family. Together we mourn the passing of a very dear and caring person, and we commemorate an outstanding colleague, teacher, mentor, and friend, Professor Mohamed El-Hawary – affectionately known as Mo.

Mo’s service to the profession, to the students, to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the IEEE, is enormous. Speaking to you as current chair of its Canadian Atlantic Section I wouldn’t even know where to begin.

I am not really steeped in an IEEE *engineering* background – coming from the *geoscience* side of the house – to relate to Mo on strictly professional terms. Nor could I do his long record of service justice. Instead, allow me to speak to what impressed me so much about Mo: his humanity.

From a personal perspective – as a fellow volunteer – I always felt privileged to be connected with him. It often included informative, completely off-topic discussion and wonderful story telling. All that besides learning new things and conducting the IEEE Section’s committee work that brought us together for many “third-Wednesday-of-the-month” meetings. But I realize .. there was so much more to Mo than that.

He was *foundational* for the IEEE Canadian Atlantic Section. His leadership and dedication to the IEEE and to the Section here were

inspirational and telling for many of us. In that sense, those cryptic four letters on the El-Hawary van's licence plate do speak volumes!

Together with you, Ferial, he nurtured, encouraged and supported his fellow executive members, here at home, and elsewhere. On occasion he could also be, let us say, "*impatient*" when he saw things differently, or more urgently. He did all this in his inimitable, forthright and well-informed ways that I will fondly and respectfully remember.

You and your family will know more than anybody else about the time and the effort that Mo contributed to countless Section activities, aside from all his duties at the university and leader at many regional and international IEEE boards, committees and professional events.

Over the years – decades! – our Section greatly benefited from Mo's work. He was active on behalf of professional societies, as author, editor, as student councillor, and, most recently, as convenor of Life Members and Young Professionals during an event here in Halifax.

More than that: his warm personality, the enormous depth of his professional and institutional knowledge, and a good dose of anecdotal experience contributed to the success of many other meetings and enriched many personal encounters.

The IEEE's Canadian Atlantic Section will greatly miss Mo, one of its most distinguished founders and passionate supporters. We will honour his work, his accomplishments and his lifelong dedication. We will remember his optimistic outlook and realistic perspective, personally and professionally, as Mo returns to his creator.

[ Dirk Werle, IEEE CAS Chair, Halifax, August 2, 2019 ]