

**THE CANADIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL
GEOGRAPHICAL UNION (IGU)
2012-2016**

Organization

The National Research Council, as Canada's official adhering body to the International Geographical Union (IGU) has given the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) responsibility for establishing the Canadian National Committee. The Committee consists of four members: three from the CAG, one from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS). Two meetings of the CNC are held annually at the AGM with other business conducted by telephone or e-mail communication.

Canadian Involvement in the IGU

The CAG Executive have had continual exchanges with the Executive, Secretary-General and Past-President of the IGU with respect to the possibility of submitting a bid to host a regional IGU meeting in Quebec City. This culminated in the submission of a bid to host the IGU regional conference in 2018—a bid that was successful!

At the 2014 CAG annual meeting, it was enthusiastically adopted by the general assembly that Canada would actively pursue a bid to bring the International Geographical Union (IGU) to North America in the near future. To that end, a team of Canadians travelled to Poland in mid-August to attend the 2014 IGU regional conference in Krakow and to present Canada's candidature to host the IGU Regional Conference in Quebec City in 2018. Representing Canada were Dr. Matthew Hatvany, member of the CAG Executive Committee and professor of geography at the Université Laval, Dr. Laurent Bourdeau, professor of geography at the Université Laval, and Monsieur Jocelyn Guertin of Quebec City. After lengthy consideration of several auspicious regions, the IGU chose Canada as the 2018 host country, noting the importance of the IGU going back to North America for the first time in more than two decades, and at the same time open up better opportunities for the participation of francophone Geographers at the conference.

In 2015, Theresa Garvin of the University of Alberta, President of the CAG and chair of the CNC for the IGU attended the IGU Regional Conference 2015 in Moscow, Russia, 17-21 August, 2015. Dr. Dan Shrubsole (University of Western Ontario) attended the 2016 IGU Congress in Beijing.

Dr. Matthew Hatvany of the Département de géographie, Université Laval, obtained the status of Observer for Canada at the 12th Annual Geography Olympiad in Tver, Russia, August 12th to 17th 2016. As well, he attended the post-Olympiad geography excursion from 18 to 23 August in Moscow, Novgorod, and St. Petersburg, Russia, given that an equivalent trip will be organized by Canada in 2018. Dr. Matthew Hatvany and Dr. Laurent Bourdeau (Université Laval) also participated in the 2016 Congress, in part, to promote the 2018 Regional IGU meeting in Quebec City.

At the 2016 IGU Congress, there were 24 Canadian delegates attending the Congress. Canadian Professor emeritus Ian Burton (Toronto) was awarded the International Geographical Union's highest honour, the Laureat d'honneur. This award was inaugurated in 1976 to honor individuals who have achieved particular distinction or who have rendered outstanding service in the work of IGU or in international geography and environmental research. It is presented once every four years to no more than three or four individuals. Dr. Lynn Moorman (Mount Royal University) was highly engaged in the running of the IGeo Olympiad that immediately proceeded the Congress. Dr. Mark Rosenberg (Queen's) was an invited keynote speaker. At the IGU Business meeting, Canada presented one nomination for the position of Vice-President of the IGU. The nominee was Dr. Remy Tremblay, Associate Professor of Geography at Laval University (Quebec City). He was elected to a 2-year term for the period 2016-2018. In addition, Dr. Dan Shrubsole (Western) was elected to the Finance Committee.

With more than 40 different commissions in human and physical geography, an average of some 2000 participants from all regions of the world, and a youth-oriented Geo-Olympiad preceding the conference, the 2018 IGU meeting will provide unparalleled opportunities for North American geographers to share the fruits of our work and the unique aspects of our geography with the rest of the world. The local organising committee based in the Department of Geography at the Université Laval is already hard at work planning the event, including exciting field excursions and a unique post-conference trip to the Canadian North. All CAG members and institutions are encouraged to collaborate with the local organizing committee. Additional information will soon be available by the CAG via a dedicated Internet site.

Canadians members of Commissions

As shown below, Canadians are on the Steering Committees for 18 of the 37 IGU Commissions. There are also Canadians on both of the IGU Task Forces. In terms of overall membership, more than 300 Canadians are members of Commissions.

Canadian Members of IGU Commissions and Task Forces

Commission or Task Force		Corresponding Members	Steering Committee Members
C08.01	Applied Geography	1	0
C08.02	Arid Lands, Humankind, and Environment		0
C08.03	Biogeography and Biodiversity		0
C08.04	Climatology		2
C08.05	Coastal Systems	16	1
C08.06	Cold Region Environments		1
C08.07	Cultural Approach in Geography	51	1
C08.08	Dynamics of Economic Spaces		1
C08.09	Environment Evolution	3	1
C08.10	Gender and Geography	11	0
C08.11	Geographical Education	4	0
C08.12	Geographic Information Science		1

C08.13	Geography of Governance	15	0
C08.14	Global Information Society	3	0
C08.15	Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change	57	1
C08.16	Geomorphic Challenges for the 21 st Century		
C08.17	Global Change and Mobility	4	0
C08.18	Hazard and Risk		0
C08.19	Health and Environment	22	2
C08.20	History of Geography	11	1
C08.21	Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge and Rights	15	1
C08.22	Islands		1
C08.23	Karst	7	1
C08.24	Land Degradation and Desertification		0
C08.25	Land Use and Land Cover Change	7	0
C08.26	Local Development	7	0
C08.27	Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses	5	1
C08.28	Modeling Geographical Systems	34	1
C08.29	Mountain Response to Global Change	3	0
C08.30	Political Geography	25	2
C08.31	Population Geography	2	1
C08.32	Sustainability of Rural Systems	2	0
C08.33	Urban Geography: Emerging Urban Transformations	5	0
C08.34	Water Sustainability		0
C08.35	Transport and Geography		0
C08.36	Landscape and Landscape Analysis		
C08.37	Geoparks		2
T08.02	Megacities Task Force		1
T08.03	Olympiad		1
Total		310*	24

*This is a conservative estimate as several of the commissions do not have membership lists (indicated by blank cells) or did not provide a report in time for inclusion here.

Steering Committee Members (2012-2016) and Other Leadership Roles on IGU Commissions

Alain A. Viau, Université Laval—Climatology

Lawrence Nkemdirim, University of Calgary—Climatology (Past Chair)

Jeffrey Ollerhead, Mount Allison University—Coastal Systems

Nancy C. Doubleday, McMaster University, Canada – Cold Region Environments
Guy Mercier, Université Laval—Cultural Approach in Geography
Paul Plummer, University of Calgary--Dynamics of Economic Space
Norm Catto, Memorial University of Newfoundland—Environment Evolution
Nadine Schuurman, Simon Fraser University—Geographic Information Science
Margaret Johnston, Lakehead University—Tourism, Leisure and Global Change
Susan Elliott—Health and Environment
Mark W. Rosenberg—Health and Environment (Past Chair)
Anne Godlewska, Queens University—History of Geography
Evelyn Peters, University of Winnipeg—Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge and Rights
Godfrey Baldacchino, Prince Edward Island University—Islands
Jacques Schroeder, Université de Québec—Karst
Stephen Déry, University of Northern British Columbia—Marginalization, Globalization and
Regional and Local Response
Barry Boots, Wilfrid Laurier University—Modeling Geographical Systems (Past Vice Chair)
Bruce Newbold, McMaster University—Population Geography
Chris Bryant, Université de Montréal—Sustainability of Rural Systems (Past Chair and Vice
Chair)
Ming-Ko Woo, McMaster—Water Sustainability (Past Chair and Vice Chair)
Peter Bobrowsky, Natural Resources Canada—Geoparks
Duane Fast, Artercraft Display Graphics—Geoparks
Terry McGee, University of British Columbia—Megacities Task Force

Respectfully submitted

Dan Shrubsole
Chair, Canadian National Committee for the IGU
President, Canadian Association of Geographers
September 29, 2016