



After Event Report

15th International Geography Olympiad

31 July to 6 August 2018

Québec

<http://igeo2018.ulaval.ca/>

<http://www.geoolympiad.org/>

A few words from the Local Organising Committee

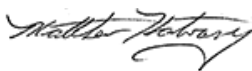
The 15th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) was held from July 31 to August 6 2018 in Quebec City, Canada. The local organizing committee (LOC) was co-chaired by Ms. Beth Dye (Twin Rivers Education Centre, British Columbia), Dr. Matthew Hatvany (Université Laval, Quebec), and Dr. Lynn Moorman (Mount Royal University, Alberta). From 2015 to 2018, they assured a presence and acted as official observers (volunteering assistance to the iGeo Task Force) at each of the previous iGeos in Russia, China and Serbia.

The LOC was supported by a staff of Université Laval graduate students including Maxwell Bouchard, Julie Nadeau, and Arielle Frenette. It would not have been impossible to run a successful iGEO without committed and efficient volunteers who were involved in planning and executing numerous events. They came from across Canada from Université Laval, Mount Royal University (Alberta), and Thompson Rivers University (British Columbia). Immense logistical and planning support over the last three years was provided by the Canadian Association of Geographers, Dr. Marie-Hélène Vandersmissen of the Department of Geography, Université Laval, Dr. Guy Mercier, Faculty of Forestry, Geography and Geomatics, Université Laval, and Ms. Ellen Curtis and colleagues from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

The 2018 iGeo was an event that saw many “firsts.” It was the first time that Canada sent a team to the iGeo as well as the first time that red (symbolizing North America) was used as the primary colour in the iGeo logo. Nearly 270 participants from 40 countries representing 43 teams attended the 2018 iGeo held on the campus of the Université Laval – making it the second largest iGeo in history. Tests took place on the university campus, including a multi-media exam developed by Tim Schuring (The Netherlands), while field exercises and excursions were held in Old Quebec City and the Charlevoix Region. The last full day of the iGeo was organized by Hugues Sansregret (Université Laval) at the Forêt Montmorency where students benefitted from a unique faunal concert highlighting Canada’s boreal forest. A five-day post-excursion led by Maxwell Bouchard, Julie Nadeau and Beth Dye took 78 participants to the Saguenay, Tadoussac, Rivière-du-Loup, Témiscouata, and Montmagny regions of Quebec.

Another first was the invitation for members of the Canadian Association of Geographers **Education Study Group** and the International Geographical Union **Commission on Geographical Education** to partake in the judging of the 2018 iGeo poster session. Posters were for the first time sent electronically and printed by the LOC thanks to the financial and logistical support provided by HERE Technologies and Natural Resources Canada. It was a rewarding evening that strengthened the links between Canadian and International geography educators and the iGeo.

The Gold Medal Ceremony recognizing the world’s best young geographers was held at the Quebec City Convention Centre and was presided over by iGeo co-chairs Ms. Sue Lomas (United Kingdom) and Dr. Su-Min Shen (Taiwan) in the presence of International Geography Union president Yukio Himiyama (Japan), Canadian Association of Geographers president Dan Shrubsole, and National Council for Geographical Education president Audrey Mohan (USA).



Dr. Matthew Hatvany, President of the 2018 iGeo and IGU Local organizing committees
Département de géographie, Université Laval

Overview of the International Geography Olympiad

The International Geography Olympiad is held under the auspices of the **International Geographical Union**, a scientific organisation dedicated to the advancement of geography worldwide. Its main purpose is to promote geography by initiating and coordinating geographic research and teaching in all member countries.

The Olympiads are a unique opportunity to engage young geographers and assist them in better appreciating the different peoples, cultures and lands that make up our world. Students compete in written, multimedia and field work exercises to demonstrate their understanding of human and physical geography. The event recognizes the talent of young geographers and promotes professional contacts within the global community of geographic education.

The 15th International Geography Olympiad was made financially possible thanks to the generous support of the Canadian Association of Geographers, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, the Secrétariat à la Capitale-Nationale (Québec City), the Charlevoix Community Development Corporation, Charlevoix Tourism, the Charlevoix Geosphere Observatory, the Wildlife Foundation of Quebec, the Sustainable Development Fund of the Université Laval, the Faculty of Forestry, Geography, and Geomatics of the Université Laval, the Québec Ministry of Education, the Université Laval Forêt Montmorency, HERE Technologies, Natural Resources Canada and others. Public and private sector support was critical to the high quality and safety of all the events.



Highlights of the 2018 iGeo

- **15th International Geography Olympiad**
- **7 full days of geography events from July 31 to August 6th 2018**
- **Held on the campus of the Université Laval**
- **3 field excursions :**
 - **Old Québec**
 - **Baie-Saint-Paul (Charlevoix region)**
 - **Forêt Montmorency**
- **40 countries representing 43 teams**
- **165 student competitors**
 - **122 boys**
 - **43 girls**
- **86 team leaders**
- **22 volunteers**
- **12 local organisers**
- **8 members of the iGeo Task Force**
- **3 written exercises, including a multimedia test**
- **1 poster competition (all posters were sent electronically and printed by Natural Resources Canada)**
- **1 cultural evening organized by the Royal Canadian Geo. Society**
- **Medal Ceremony at the Quebec City Convention Centre**
17 Gold, 31 Silver, 54 Bronze medal winners
- **Post-excursion field trip of 5 days in Eastern Quebec**
- **A budget of \$261,047 CDN**

40 Countries/43 Teams

Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Hercegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
China-Beijing
China-Hong Kong
China-Macau
China-Taipei
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
Germany
Hungary
Indonesia
Japan
Kazakhstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Mongolia
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Philippines
Poland
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Switzerland
Thailand
Turkey
United Kingdom
USA



iGeo Poster Session, Université Laval campus

Field Excursions

Old Quebec City

A half-day geo-rally organized by Dr. Étienne Berthold and graduate student Mathieu St-Pierre (Université Laval) was held in Old Quebec City providing participants with interactive opportunities to learn about the city's unique francophone culture, architecture and landscape.

Charlevoix Region

The iGeo Field Work Exercise (organized by Lynn Moorman, Matthew Hatvany, Alexey Naumov, Maxwell Bouchard and Donald Cayer) took place at Baie St-Paul, Charlevoix. Students analyzed and mapped different characteristics of the socioeconomic management of the city including architecture, the role of art in the city's development, tourism appeal of the territory, and the role of physical geography in landscape formation. Students then visited the Boisé du Quai on the banks of the St. Lawrence River to analyze the floral and faunal elements of this natural area of Baie-St-Paul. They then proposed a management plan taking into account the natural and cultural attributes of the environment. Lunch was held at The Mother House and served by *Al Dente* delicatessen. Mr. Jean Fortin (mayor) and Ms. Caroline Simard (parliamentary representative) provided words of welcome. Lunch was followed by two informative talks on the human and physical geography of Charlevoix by Jean-Michel Gastonguay of the Observatoire de l'Astrolème de Charlevoix and by Gabrielle Leblanc of the Mother House.

Forêt Montmorency

The final full day of the iGeo, organized by Hugues Sansregret (Université Laval), was spent at the Forêt Montmorency – the world's largest teaching and research forest. Students learned about the boreal forest and the sustainable management of flora, fauna and soils for environmental, social and economic purposes. Lunch and supper, featuring local forest products, were served by the Forêt Montmorency. The evening was crowned by a wildlife concert performed under the stars in the heart of the boreal forest by musicians seated in boats in the midst of a Northern lake – the music mimicking the sounds of wolves, moose and loons. It was an intimate experience with Quebec's nature and culture that etched itself in the memory of all who attended!



A few of the many invaluable 2018 iGeo volunteers from Quebec and across Canada.

Post-iGeo excursion



Post-excursion participants admiring the intertidal flora and fauna of the St. Lawrence Estuary.

A post-excursion was led by Maxwell Bouchard, Julie Nadeau and Beth Dye. It was an opportunity for participants to discover the unique indigenous, agricultural, and industrial landscapes of the Saguenay Region and the maritime coastline of the St. Lawrence Estuary. Over a five-day period, 78 people from 14 countries visited the Amerindian Museum at Mashteuiatsh, the historic village of Val-Jalbert, the Saguenay Fjord, the Mammal Interpretation Center, the seascapes of Tadoussac, the Fort Ingall historic site on Lake Temiscouata, the Seigneurie des Aulnaies, and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site on Grosse Île.

2018 Congress of the International Geography Union-Canadian Association of Geographers-National Council for Geographical Education

Following the iGeo, approximately 1,150 scientists from more than 105 countries participated in the 2018 Congress of the International Geography Union-Canadian Association of Geographers-National Council for Geographic Education, which took place at the Quebec City Convention Centre from August 6th to 10th, 2018. During the congress, there were eight plenary talks in human, physical and education geography, nearly 500 sessions, 100 posters, and 9 field trips in the surrounding area. Generous financial support was received from Google Earth Outreach, National Geographic, Jarkarto 3D Mapping, K2 Geospatial, and several other collaborators – making this the largest geographic gathering in the history of Canada. The Université Laval and the Canadian Association of Geographers were proud to host these events which provided numerous opportunities for national and international participants to discover the culture and landscapes of Quebec City's National Capital, the Charlevoix Region and the Forêt Montmorency.

Financial Details

The 2018 iGeo competition was realized at a cost of \$261,047 CDN. Revenues of \$147,695 were secured by team registration. The local organizing committee was responsible for raising \$73,750 (28 % of the overall budget). The post-excursion was realized at a cost of \$65,000, all of which was paid for by participant registration fees. A shortfall of \$9,700 (4% of the overall budget) was covered by a contribution from the 2018 IGU Regional Conference local organizing committee to the 2018 iGeo operating budget.

REVENUES (\$CDN)

iGeo Registration	\$147,695
Sponsorships	\$ 38,652
2018 IGU LOC Contribution	\$ 9,700
Post-excursion	\$ 65,000

TOTAL REVENUES

\$261,047

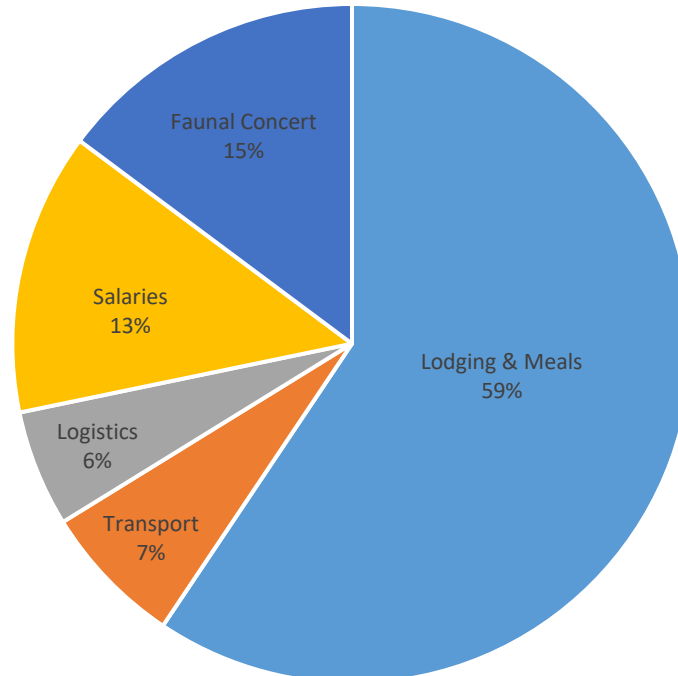
EXPENSES (\$CDN)

Lodging & Meals	\$155,059
Transport	\$ 17,758
Logistics	\$ 14,480
Salaries	\$ 35,098
Faunal concert	\$ 38,652

TOTAL

\$261,047 CDN

2018 iGeo: An Event of \$261,047 CDN



Financial partners

Partners for the 2018 iGeo included the Canadian Association of Geographers and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, several Canadian and Quebecois governmental ministries as well as the Quebec City Secrétariat à la Capitale-Nationale, the Charlevoix Community Development Corporation, Charlevoix Tourism, the Charlevoix Geosphere Observatory, Natural Resources Canada, and the Wildlife Foundation of Quebec. Two private companies, EF Tours and HERE Technologies, provided financial and in-kind support. In the absence of State Support, it is important to recognize the financial participation of private sector sponsors in the realization of such an event involving youth education and development. Such contributions were vital to keeping registration fees reasonable in order to encourage international participation by all countries. We are especially grateful for the considerable contributions by the Université Laval Faculty of Forestry, Geography and Geomatics, the Université Laval Department of Geography, and the financial and in-kind contributions of the 2018 IGU Regional Conference Local Organizing Committee to the overall 2018 iGeo budget.

Public-Private Sponsors of the 2018 iGeo

U.L. Dept. of Geo (student salaries)	\$35,098
QC Secrétariat à la Capital National	\$15,000
SADC Charlevoix	\$4,500
EF Tours	\$4,500
Toursime Charlevoix	\$4,000
Fondation de la Faune du Québec	\$3,000
HERE Technologies	\$2,660
Fonds DD Université Laval	\$1,492
Natural Resources Canada	\$2,000
Ministre d'Éducation du Québec	\$1,500
Sub total (CDN)	\$73,750
2018 IGU LOC contribution	\$ 9,700
Total CDN	\$83,450

iGeo Gold Medal Ceremony

The Gold Medal Ceremony recognizing the world's best young geographers was held at the Quebec City Convention Centre and was presided over by iGeo co-chairs Ms. Sue Lomas (United Kingdom) and Dr. Su-Min Shen (Taiwan) in the presence of International Geography Union president Yukio Himiyama (Japan) and Canadian Association of Geographers president Dan Shrubsole and National Council for Geographical Education president Audrey Mohan.



2018 iGeo Gold Medal Ceremony at the Quebec City Convention Centre August 6th, 2018.

Individual Gold Medal Winners

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Alen Kospanov - Russia | 15. Bianca Solomon - Romania |
| 2. Junxiang Heng - Singapore | 16. Kinga Kaszap – Hungary |
| 3. Andrei Sandu - Romania | |
| 4. Jakub Pypkowski - Poland | |
| 5. Wojciech Piątek - Poland | |
| 6. Ken von Büнау - Germany | |
| 7. Kyle Yu - USA | |
| 8. Haoran Zhang - China-Beijing | |
| 9. Manuel Fosalaу - Romania | |
| 10. Zhaoxu Sui - China-Beijing | |
| 11. Domantas Kuryla - Lithuania | |
| 12. Hanlin Zhang - China-Beijing | |
| 13. En-Jui Chang - Taiwan | |
| 14. Benjamin Benjadol - USA | |

Team Ranking (by score)

1. Romania
2. Singapore
3. United States of America
4. China-Beijing
5. Lithuania
6. Russia
7. Poland
8. Latvia
9. Indonesia
10. Germany

Conclusion

The iGeo is a unique global event that harnesses all the cross-sectoral specificities of geography. As a gesture towards a sustainable future, the 2018 iGeo local organizing committee has pledged itself to transfer the important knowledge gained in running an international geography olympiad to next year's host. The committee would especially like to thank the iGeo Task Force and our invaluable volunteers. The 15th International Geography Olympiad was a considerable event of more than \$260,000 CDN, undertaken on behalf of the International Geography Union. It is a concrete manifestation of Québécois, Canadian and international support for the next generation of geographers, helping governments, citizens and private organizations to recognize geography as a science that advocates an integrated vision of the relationships between humans, nature and territory while addressing global challenges.

15th INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY OLYMPIAD

Host



Partners



Sponsors

