

Tribute to the Memory of Professor Christopher R. Bryant

To the attention of the International Geographical Union (IGU)

It is with profound sadness and deep emotion that we learned of the passing of **Professor Christopher R. Bryant**, an eminent Canadian geographer, a leading scholar of rural territories and sustainable territorial development, and a distinguished figure within the international geographical community.

On behalf of the **Research Group on the Rural World) (GREMR)**, the **National Association of Moroccan Ruralist Geographers (ANAGERM)**, and the **National Association of Moroccan Geographers (ANAGEM)**, we extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the International Geographical Union, its members, and to Professor Bryant's family and loved ones.

The passing of Christopher Bryant represents a profound loss for rural geography and, more broadly, for the international geographical community. His distinguished academic career was characterized by a sustained commitment to developing new understandings of **rural systems**, their transformations, their interactions with urban and peri-urban spaces, and the challenges of **sustainable territorial development**.

As **Chair of the IGU Commission on Sustainable Development and Rural Systems from 2000 to 2006**, following his service as Vice-Chair, he made an outstanding contribution to strengthening scientific exchange among researchers from different countries and to establishing the Commission as a privileged forum for dialogue, cooperation, and scholarly reflection on the transformations of rural territories.

For us, Moroccan rural geographers, his memory holds a particularly special significance. **Christopher Bryant maintained close scientific ties with the Moroccan geographical community**, notably through the activities of the IGU Commission and his participation in scientific work devoted to local development, rural systems, agricultural territories, and tourism.

His name remains particularly associated with the **International Conference of the IGU Commission held in Rabat in July 2007**, devoted to *Agricultural and Tourism Products and Local Development*. The proceedings of this conference were edited by **Moussa Kerzazi, Mohamed Aït Hamza, and Mohammed El Assaad**. Christopher Bryant contributed to this scientific gathering, thereby demonstrating his strong interest in territorial and rural experiences in Morocco.

Beyond his scientific achievements, we shall remember Christopher Bryant as an **engaged geographer, open to dialogue, attentive to the realities of territories, and deeply committed to international scientific cooperation**. His approach, grounded in the articulation between research, territorial stakeholders, local development, and sustainability, will continue to inspire generations of rural geographers.

His passing leaves a profound void. Yet his scholarly legacy, teachings, publications, and, above all, the scientific and human ties that he helped forge among geographers across different continents will endure.

We respectfully bow before his memory and express our deepest gratitude for his outstanding contribution to rural geography and to international geographical cooperation.

May his memory remain alive among geographers throughout the world.

Done in Safi, Morocco, on August 28, 2026

On behalf of the **Moroccan Ruralist Geographers Research Group (GREMR)**,
the **National Association of Moroccan Ruralist Geographers (ANAGERM)**,
and the **National Association of Moroccan Geographers (ANAGEM)**,

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