The Canadian Geoscience Education Network: a collaborative grassroots effort to support geoscience education

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guiding principles:
1. As the outreach and education arm of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES), CGEN's mandate is threefold:
   - promote the teaching of the earth sciences at all levels of school and university;
   - encourage the continuing education of earth scientists with respect to earth science outreach and K-12 education; and
   - stimulate activities aimed at increasing the general public's appreciation and understanding of the earth sciences and, more broadly, of our planet.
2. CGEN will work to coordinate the efforts of the Canadian earth science community in these matters by providing leadership for core national activities and a forum for information exchange and networking amongst Canadian groups working in earth science education, with the goal of maximizing synergies and minimizing duplication of effort across the country.
3. CGEN will act as a forum for discussion of matters related to earth science education policies and practices in Canada.
4. CGEN will liaise with similar bodies in other countries as appropriate.

organization:
- little administration, tiny budget
- most members are active with outreach in their communities
- two pages "terms of reference" define guiding principles (see left side) and structure

president
secretary-treasurer, past president, pres.-elect
regional chapters

network:
- currently 325 members from across Canada
- membership is open to anyone concerned with earth science, and it is free

communication:
- contact via email (regular news broadcast)
- annual meeting in conjunction Geol. Assoc. of Canada meeting
- regional chapters (can address issues like provincial curriculum)

our goals:
collaborate:
- presentations, field trips, web guides, by member groups across Canada

workshops
- for teachers and students

create resources:
EdGEO  
www.edgeo.org/
- supports local workshops for teachers up to CAD 3,000.
- since 1998 has reached about 4000 teachers
- educational opportunities for teachers and, through them, their students
- hands-on sessions, often with field experience, and take-away resource package
- developing 12 lesson plans for earth science topics in physics, chemistry, biology, and math

encourage students:
careers website
www.earthsciencescanada.com/careers/
- new website to promote earth sciences to students and teachers
- interactive and animated
- up-to-date information

WHERE challenge
www.earthsciencescanada.com/where/
- competition for Canadian students 10-14
- identify non-renewable earth resource in an everyday object and describe where it comes from
- CGEN members promote event and judge entries

WHERE challenge example:
- Church in Buckingham, Quebec built of glacial erratics

share and lobby:
What on Earth  
www.whatonearth.org
- newsletter

Friends of Can. Geoheritage  
http-server.carleton.ca/~jadonald/friends.html
- preservation of landscape, buildings,...

Geoscape  
www.geoscape.nrcan.gc.ca/
- initiative by Natural Resources Canada
- posters & websites to explain geology and landscape
example: Oak Ridges moraine (near Toronto)
- formation
- topography
- hydrology

visit also:
U11B-0027. IYPE in Canada, J. Boyd & G. Nowlan

to join CGEN send email to cgen@sympatico.ca with "Join CGEN" in the subject line