

**Canadian Geoscience Education Network
May 30, 2001, St. John's**

Issues, Actions & Decisions

Present: Grant Abbott, Doug Boyce, Frank Brunton, Nancy Chow, Howard Donahoe, Greg Finn, Robert Grantham, Fran Haidl, Kate Jarrett, Henrietta Mann, David Mate, Randy Miller, Alan Morgan, Ward Neale, Godfrey Nowlan, Dave Rudkin, Peter Russell, Shiri Srivastava, Harvey Thorleifson, Pierrette Tremblay, Bob Turner, Eileen Van der Flier-Keller, Christy Vodden, Jane Wynne

Regrets: Jennifer Bates, John Clague, Pat Dillon, Dixon Edwards, Toon Pronk, Vic Tyrer

Welcome

John Clague, who took over as CGEN President at the Vancouver meeting, sends his regrets at having to miss this meeting owing to a prior commitment. He has been active in two key areas:

- building a stronger visibility of CGEN in the geoscience community: 1/2 page article published in GEOLOG, major statement of CGEN vision to be published in September in Geoscience Canada.
- revitalizing CGC member society representation on CGEN with CGC president, Jeremy Hall.

The rest of the CGEN Executive for the next two years is:

Vice President: Graham Williams

Secretary Treasurer: Christy Vodden

Past President: Paul Robinson

Additions to the Agenda

Two items were added to the agenda: CGEN Website and "WAT on Earth".

Minutes of January 29 meeting

Approved with following changes.

1. Under EdGEO, the reference to the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC) providing mineral kits to all EdGEO participants was incorrect. It should read that "MAC could be interested in providing mineral kits to all EdGEO participants".
2. To be added: "Following the GeoCanada 2000 meeting, representatives of all participating associations held a meeting about public awareness/education initiatives and priorities. Action: Pierrette Tremblay to invite them to the CGEN annual meeting".

Finances (Christy Vodden)

CGEN funding over the past year came from the Geological Association of Canada (\$5K, with \$3K allocated to EdGEO and \$2K to EarthNet) and \$6K as of March 2001 from the Canadian Geoscience Council (allocation to be determined). The current CGEN balance is about \$7K.

CGEN Website (Jennifer Bates via email)

The CGEN website has been redesigned (<http://agc.bio.ns.ca/cgen/>). It includes general information about CGEN, past minutes, a scoping paper on geoscience education, the CGEN membership list, and related links. All agreed that it looked wonderful and had a good range of information. CGEN members voted a big thank you to Jennifer for her excellent effort. Action: CGEN members are to send any comments/suggestions to Jennifer Bates.

EdGEO (Fran Haidl)

In summary, there were eight EdGEO workshops in 2000, with 175 participants, at a cost of about \$70/teacher. EdGEO also supported 37 teachers at GeoCanada 2000 and provided funding for the National Association of Geoscience Teachers Distinguished Speaker Tour. As a new feature, EdGEO will consider paying a modest honorarium to graduate geology students who help with workshops. Gordon Domm has stepped down as the EdGEO newsletter editor. He is replaced by David Mate. David is looking for news and articles of 250 words and good illustrations in JPEG or TIF format, by email to David.Mate@Gems6.gov.bc.ca.

Issues/actions required:

There is a need to encourage workshops in eastern Canada, and to get both stronger industry participation in leading workshops as well as teacher input at the workshop planning stage.

The bulk of EdGEO funding comes from CGC, CSPG and GAC. Other CGC member societies are encouraged to consider giving funding to EdGEO.

EdGEO will be renominated for the next round of the Michael Smith Public Awareness of Science Award in April 2002. External validation of CGEN-supported programs is important to seek as it adds credibility to our programs. Action: Fran Haidl, Ward Neale and Christy Vodden.

EarthNet (Jennifer Bates via email)

EarthNet is developing new content and strengthening connections with Geoscape, EdGEO and "WAT on Earth". Prototypes for two new sections (GeoToolbox and Hall of Fame) have been created, and Partner Sites and Contributors added. Other highlights include a new search interface for the Glossary database and additions to the French site. A contractor has completed 150 resource reviews for the Teaching Resource database.

Publicity efforts since the January CGEN meeting have been limited. EarthNet is at: <http://agc.bio.ns.ca/EarthNet/>.

Issues and actions required:

Funding is the key issue for EarthNet. The Geological Survey of Canada program, ResSources GSC, which has been the main funder of EarthNet for the past three years, ended March 31, 2001. It is critical that other sources are identified to ensure that EarthNet continues to grow. Action: CGEN Executive to work with Jennifer Bates in seeking alternate funding sources.

External contributors are required to develop glossary terms specific to their discipline for the EarthNet glossary. Action: Interested CGEN members to contact Jennifer Bates.

New publicity materials are needed for EarthNet. Action: Jennifer Bates and Christy Vodden will discuss.

Geoscape (Bob Turner)

The Geoscape initiative pulls together teams from many organizations to produce community-based geoscience educational materials. There are 14 Geoscape projects underway, with two more under discussion (Sudbury and St. John's). A major success of Geoscape is the engaging of educators in the development phase. Broader public awareness of geoscience is also being achieved, most recently with a well-attended public launch of Geoscape Victoria on Earth Day, which received some good media coverage.

Funding for the three-year national Geoscape initiative (now in its second year) is provided by the Geological Survey of Canada. A CGEN funding proposal for \$90K to support the Ontario-based Geoscape projects has passed the first level of approvals at the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology. Website: <http://www.geoscape.org>

Given the funding opportunity in Ontario for Geoscape, there may be similar funds in the other provinces/territories. Action: Any information should be forwarded to Bob Turner or Christy Vodden.

Ocean Drilling Program (Shiri Srivavasta/Kate Jarrett)

There is significant Canadian participation in this international science program, and excellent educational opportunities. A complete description of the ODP can be found at the website <http://www.dal.ca/CanadaODP>. Kate Jarrett is the contact for the Canadian educational outreach program. Main thrusts are: educational programs/tours linked to port visits of ODP drill ship, a range of educational materials, and a lecture tour at the high school level. Future plans include having a teacher take part in an ODP cruise.

A flyer "Explore the Oceans from the Classroom" outlining educational resources is available from Kate Jarrett (odp@is.dal.ca). Action: CGEN recommends that CanadaODP put this flyer on its website and link to EarthNet.

Geoscied IV (Alan Morgan/Godfrey Nowlan)

CGEN, is sponsoring this international geoscience education conference, which is expected to attract about 400 participants to Calgary in 2003. Geoscied IV is moving quickly into its planning phase, with a diverse range of themes (e.g community geoscience, museums, government outreach, geotourism, etc.) already emerging, and an exciting slate of field trips blocked out. See website for more details:

<http://sciborg.uwaterloo.ca/earth/geoscied/>.

Godfrey Nowlan, chair of the Local Organizing Committee gave an overview of plans to date. He has assembled an excellent mix of educators, museum representatives, geologists from universities, government and industry for the LOC. His request to CGEN for \$2000 seed monies was approved. The LOC will hold their first meeting,

June 21, followed up with a meeting with CGEN, June 21. Action: CGEN members are to provide Godfrey with any program ideas by that date.

Funding from Geoscienced III is still being finalized. Action: Alan Morgan

Publicity will be an important component of the success of the conference. Action: CGEN members to make suggestions to Godfrey or Alan.

There will be a strong push to get Canadian teachers to the conference, with hopes that CGC member societies each support the participation of three teachers. Action: John Clague to discuss with CGC Executive.

WAT on Earth (Alan Morgan)

CGEN has recently agreed to support an enhanced version of the geoscience education newsletter “WAT on Earth”, published by the University of Waterloo. This will be moving to a more national scope with input from CGEN members across Canada, and it will be renamed (Earth Canada and GeoEducation Canada were suggested) and redesigned. Action: CGEN members are to provide suggestions for a new name and ideas for articles to Alan Morgan

“WAT on Earth” is published in both print and online versions. The mail list for the print version is over 1000. There is some consideration being given to dropping the print version as a cost-cutting measure. This will have to be carefully planned, with regular reminders sent to all online subscribers.

Website: <http://www.science.uwaterloo.ca/earth/waton/>.

Funding Opportunities (Christy Vodden)

Fundraising is an important new focus for CGEN. There are some excellent funding sources available for public awareness of science initiatives at various levels of government. CGEN’s goal is to identify these opportunities and take strategic advantage of them. Four funding programs discussed at the Vancouver meeting were reviewed (see January 29 minutes for websites and details). Additional programs are:

1. The Canadian Geological Foundation also offers small grants. Information is available at <http://www.esd.mun.ca/~gac/cgfggrants/>.
- 2 Michael Smith Public Awareness of Science Award, while not a funding body, provides a \$10,000 cash prize to winning organizations.
3. Tourism boards may be another interesting source of funding, and bear some investigation. There would have to be some link between the project and encouraging/aiding tourism goals.

Action: CGEN members are encouraged to share any other information they have about funding opportunities.

Revision of “Careers in Geoscience” (Christy Vodden)

A new version of “Careers in Geoscience” is being developed. A working group held its first meeting prior to the CGEN meeting. All agreed that the information would have to be targeted to a younger user than the earlier version, as the pressures to make career decisions are now at an earlier age. It was agreed to aim for the Grade 8 level, with more sophisticated information available in the online version.

The working group also realized the need for some basic insight into student needs for career information, as well as input from educators and guidance counsellors about the formats preferred. Action: Christy Vodden to prepare series of questions for review by working group, with a view to setting up focus groups of students and educators in the early fall. This information will provide the base information needed to develop the project concept.

Other professional associations such as the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists (CCPG) provide valuable input and advice. Action: Fran Haidl to keep CCPG informed. CGEN members to suggest other interested groups.

Funding of the project will be beyond the means of CGEN, and a fundraising strategy will have to be developed, once the concept is approved.

Role/Future Directions of CGEN

This item was held for discussion at a future meeting, or via email. John Clague's vision statement for CGEN is attached for reference. CGEN by-laws, which will be updated as part of this exercise, are also attached. Action: Any comments from CGEN members should be sent to John Clague.

Next Meeting

A special CGEN meeting will be held in conjunction with the the CSPG meeting in Calgary, (Geological Survey of Canada building, 3303-33rd St. N.W.) from 12:00-1:30, June 21. This will be followed by a meeting with the GeoSciEd IV Organizing Committee.

Other Business

CGEN wishes to congratulate Howard Donahoe, the recipient of this year's Ward Neale Award for Public Awareness. Details of his public lecture tour will be forthcoming.

All Ontario CGEN members are encouraged to post their events on OYSTER (<http://www.est.gov.on.ca>).

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