

CANADIAN GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION NETWORK

GeoCanada 2000 Meeting May 30, 2000
Evans Room, Rozsa Center, University of Calgary

Preliminary Minutes

Attendees:

Alan Morgan, Univ. Waterloo	519 747-4049	avmorgan@uwaterloo.ca
Bob Turner, GSC, Vancouver	604 666-4852	bturner@NRCan.gc.ca
Jennifer Bates, GSC Atlantic	902 426-4386	bates@agc.bio.ns.ca
Fran Haidl, Sask. Energy & Mines	306 787-6116	franhaidl@sem.gov.sk.ca
Chris Gilboy, Sask. Energy & Mines	306 787-2573	chris.gilboy@sem.gov.sk.ca
Steven Earle, Malaspina	250 753-6736	earles@mala.bc.ca
Henrietta Mann, Dal-Tech,	902 494-6119	hmann@is.dal.ca
Harvey Thorleifson, GSC Ottawa	613 992-3643	thorleifson@gsc,nrcan.gc.ca
John Clague, Simon Fraser Univ.	604 291-4924	jclague@sfu.ca
Dixon Edwards, Alberta Geol. Survey	780 427-1576	dixon.edwards@gov.ab.ca
Ward Neale, Calgary Science Network	403 289-3583	wneale@nrcan.gc.ca
Pierrette Tremblay	418 831-5539	thomas.clarke@sympatico.ca
Nancy Chow		chown@ms.umanitoba.ca
Paul Robinson, Dalhousie University	902 494-2361	robinso@is.dal.ca

Regrets: Christy Vodden, Dileep Althaide, Godfrey Nowlan, and Graham Williams

Again, because Christy Vodden was unable to attend the meeting, I took the minutes. It is difficult to take comprehensive minutes while chairing the meeting, so please check these over for omission or errors. Send any suggestions or corrections to me and I will then prepare a final version – Paul Robinson

1. Introductions were made and attendance recorded
2. Alan Morgan moved that the minutes of the January, 2000 meeting be approved – seconded by Jennifer Bates. Approved unanimously.
3. The CGEN scoping paper adopted at the January meeting was discussed in preparation for the meeting with CGC Council Meeting on Saturday, June 3. Fran suggested that the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 2 be modified. This has been done and the revised version sent to the CGEN distribution list.
4. Alan Morgan presented a very useful paper entitled “The Canadian Geoscience Council and its Role in the Evolution of Geoscience Outreach and Education in Canada (a copy is attached to the minutes). This paper nicely summarizes the activities of CGC and CGEN and presents in chart form the structure of CGC and its outreach and educational activities. Several elements within the presentation needed minor modifications, and Alan has undertaken to complete these.
- 5.

6. Discussion then focused on the future of CGEN and actions that we might undertake. It was agreed that we should focus our efforts on the existing successful programs such as EdGeo and EarthNet but that we should try to increase participation of the CGC member societies and to use the GeoSciEd IV conference in 2003 to promote our activities across the country

Paul proposed 5 action items to be presented at the CGC meeting on June 3 (see below) and these were approved:

- a. Each member society of CGC appoint a public awareness coordinator who would be a member of CGEN.
- b. Member societies direct CGC executive to make education and public awareness of geoscience priority programs in the new CGC.
- c. Member societies direct their PAES coordinators to assist CGEN in maintaining a database of outreach activities in Canada.
- d. Each member society be urged to develop a medal or award specifically recognizing contributions to public awareness activities.
- e. Member societies coordinate their public awareness and educational activities through CGEN so that we can have a more effective and nation-wide program.

It was pointed out that we should have teachers on CGEN to help us focus on educational issues. This is highly desirable but difficult to implement without additional financial resources because it is unlikely that local boards would support travel to meetings. However, we may be able to hold virtual meetings in the future in which teachers could participate.

6. It was agreed that we would update and make better use of CGEN website. Jennifer kindly agreed to maintain the site and to post material submitted to her
7. Pierrette presented feedback on her lecture tour as the GAC Ward Neale medallist for 1999. Overall, she found the tour useful and interesting but suggested that more thought be given to who the target audience should be and that the tour be somewhat better organized in order to ensure larger audiences. Paul will discuss the tour with Scott Swindon, incoming President of GAC and offer CGEN's assistance for local organization and publicity. Alan Morgan commented that GAC should again stress that linkages must be created directly with the schools for the Neale Lecture Tour (Although not mentioned at the CGEN meeting, a summary paper with colour illustrations on his 1998 Neale Lecture Tour appeared in the March issue of Geoscience Canada.
8. A nominating committee for new executive officers was struck, consisting of the Paul, Pierriette, and Godfrey. Any nominations for the Executive may be sent to Paul by e-mail at robinso@is.dal.ca
9. Fran Haidl presented a report on EdGeo activities. Sixteen workshops were held in 1999, up significantly from the year before. Two were held in B. C., 6 in Alberta, 2 in Saskatchewan, 4 in Ontario, 1 in Quebec and 1 in Nova Scotia. There were 344

participants at an average cost of \$80.25 per teacher. The feedback from teachers was uniformly positive and they particularly appreciated the resource materials that can be used in their classrooms. Clearly EdGeo is a successful and cost-effective program that should be expanded. Fran is always looking for volunteers to hold the workshops, so contact her with ideas or suggestions. CGEN gratefully acknowledges continuing financial support from GAC, CGC and CSPG for this program.

10. Although unable to attend the meeting, Christy Vodden submitted a comprehensive list of outreach activities of the Geological Survey of Canada for 1999-2000. A broad range of activities included on-line events, public lectures, connections with teachers, and media contacts. Of particular importance were presentations to parliamentarians designed to increase their knowledge of science in Canada
11. John Clague discussed the Geoscape program and referred members to the posters on display at GeoCanada2000. This is a 3-year program directed by John and Bob Turner to produce posters dealing with geological features and hazards in areas across the country.
12. Jennifer Bates discussed EarthNet and asked people to review the site at agc.bio.ns.ca/EarthNet and provide feedback and suggestions. This program has grown enormously and is a significant resource for earth science education tools. This program is supported by GSC, GAC and CGC and their assistance is gratefully acknowledged.
13. Alan Morgan presented plans for GeoSciEd IV to be held in Calgary in 2003. A web page is up providing details of the conference. Alan will be head of the National Committee and Godfrey Nowlan will head up the local organizing committee. The conference will be held at the University of Calgary and we expect 300-400 participants. The organization of the conference is still being discussed with representatives of the International Geoscience Education Organization. We will probably use the facilities of Conference Services who will handle all registration details and organizational matters at about \$40 per person. A number of field trips are planned to the ice fields, the dinosaur sites, the Burgess Shale and archeological sites. At the moment, two days of optional field trips are planned for both the beginning and end of the conference with one mandatory mid-week trip, probably to Drumheller. The National Committee will include members from across the country and will be charged with contacting teachers in local areas, soliciting local support for teachers to attend the meeting and coordinating and promoting the conference. Contact Alan if you are interested in participating. Godfrey will organize the local committee to handle registration, field trips, logistics, etc. One of the goals of this conference will be to get teachers from across Canada involved. This will require considerable organization and fund raising. Although 2003 seems far away at the moment, there is much to be done. We need volunteers from across the country.

14. Happily, Graham Williams is recovering rapidly from his automobile accident and he sent a report outlining the activities of the Atlantic Geoscience Society. He highlighted the very successful EdGeo workshop held last year and mentioned plans for another in 2000. In 2001 the Society will publish a book "The Last Billion Years" which outlines in plain language the geological history of the Maritimes. Plans for the future include development of taped field trips as well as continued geology presentations in schools and at career days and science fairs.
15. Financial Report
Christy Vodden, our Secretary-Treasurer submitted the following report.

CGEN funds are in a Canada Trust (Ottawa) business account for non-profit organizations, opened February 2000.

Summary of Activity

Monies transferred from P. Tremblay (Feb)	+\$1205.73
Monies transferred from GAC (Mar)	+\$7500.00
1999 CGEN allocation to EdGeo (March)	-\$4500.00
1999 CGEN allocation to EarthNet (March)	-\$3000.00
Monthly charges (March-April)	-\$ 10.00
Current Balance	\$1195.73

16. Meeting was adjourned at 5 PM

Report on CGC meeting, Saturday, June 3.

Alan Morgan, Jennifer Bates, Fran Haidl and Paul Robinson gave presentations at the CGC meeting on Saturday, June 3. CGC members were very impressed with EdGeo, EarthNet, Geoscape and plans for the GeoSciEd IV conference and pledged continued financial support for outreach activities. The action items presented by Paul were accepted with few modifications and these will be pursued by Paul and Jeremy Hall, the new CGC Director.

Paul T. Robinson