



Canadian Federation | Fédération Canadienne of Earth Sciences de la terre

2022-2023 CFES President's Report

Overview

I look forward to our second post-COVID CFES AGM and Council Meeting, as we welcome those that are able to travel in Ottawa on 31 March and 1 April 2023, with others joining us virtually. Thank you to everyone in advance for sharing your time however you are able for this annual CFES hybrid meeting.

Your CFES Board of Directors has been working on many initiatives that are each summarised briefly below. Details of specific projects can be found in individual director and committee reports, and we thank all of those involved for their continued dedication to CFES.

Board and Membership Changes 2023

At the 2022 AGM we said farewell to Oliver Bonham, as he ended his term as Past President. Fortunately for us he did not go far, becoming Secretary of the revitalized Canada Prize and Canada Prize Award Foundations. We very much appreciate his continued support of CFES initiatives and know he is an asset to the continued work of these foundations.

Keith Delaney, who understudied our outgoing Financial Director Jen Parks in the previous year, officially became our Financial Director at the 2022 AGM. Similarly, Tom Sneddon who joined the Board mid-term was elected External Engagement Director. We also welcomed Janice Zinck, as our President-Elect.

Nominations Committee

This year, the Nominations Committee was tasked with finding both a new President-Elect, as Janice Zinck will move to take over the role of President, and a Communications Director, as Courtney Onstad's term comes to an end after three years. The Nominations Committee is comprised of Past-President, President-Elect and two council members, this year Sandy Archibald (PDAC) and Mike Hall (CSEG).

We are sad to say goodbye to Rachel Newrick this year as she ends her term as Past President. Rachel has been invaluable to the Board, providing a steadying, logical sounding board, stepping in where needed and contributing to the functions of the Board well beyond her mandate as Past President. You can read about her contributions in the Past President's report. We wish Rachel the best in her next endeavours and hope she will stay involved!

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Past President	Graziella Kirtland-Grech	Ollie Bonham	Rachel Newrick	Beth McLarty-Halfkenny	Janice Zinck
President	Ollie Bonham	Rachel Newrick	Beth McLarty-Halfkenny	Janice Zinck	
President-Elect	Rachel Newrick	Beth McLarty-Halfkenny	Janice Zinck		
Secretary	Charlie Jefferson	Lilian Navarro	Lilian Navarro	Lilian Navarro	
Finance	Jen Parks	Jen Parks interim Keith Delaney	Keith Delaney	Keith Delaney	Keith Delaney
Communications	Diane Hanano interim Courtney Onstad	Courtney Onstad	Courtney Onstad		
Outreach	Beth McLarty-Halfkenny	Amanda McCallum	Amanda McCallum	Amanda McCallum	
External Engagement	Andy Abraham	Andy Abraham interim Tom Sneddon	Tom Sneddon	Tom Sneddon	Tom Sneddon
international	Mostafa Fayek	Katherine Boggs	Katherine Boggs	Katherine Boggs	
Special Projects	Christian Bohm interim Linda Ham	Linda Ham	Linda Ham		

In addition, Linda Ham leaves us as Special Projects Director, with the recommendation that the position remain vacant until such time as another project is identified (see below for more details on her investigations into the CanGeoRef program).

I regret to report that as of early March, Amanda McCallum has resigned as CGEN President and thus resigns as Outreach Director. This change was very recent and so could not be dealt with in time for the 2023 AGM and Council Meeting, however as the CGEN President sits on the CFES Board as Outreach Director, the position is not elected by the Council. Efforts to reconstitute the CGEN executive have begun and will progress in the coming months, with the intention of having a new President in place by September.

With all that said, we are delighted to approve and share with you the recommendations of the Nominations Committee to fill the President-Elect and Communications Director roles. The CV's of these excellent candidates, Imad Alainachi (CGS) and Fiona D'Arcy (2022 CFES Communications volunteer) are available for review in the 2023 AGM and Council Meeting Documents folder.

I offer our thanks to the members of the Nominations Committee for your excellent work. Thank you also to our outgoing Directors, Rachel Newrick, Courtney Onstad, Linda Ham and Amanda McCallum for their time and effort on behalf of the Canadian geoscience community while serving on the CFES Board of Directors.

Rolling Operations Plan

Over the course of the year, the CFES Board and committees have been focused on Strategic Initiatives that stem from the CFES Operating Plan and Strategic Objectives. During the AGM and Council Meeting, these will be reviewed and revised, so please come along ready to put forward suggestions for initiatives that are most important to your organisation and to geoscience in Canada.

Canadia	CFES FCST an Federation th Sciences le la Terre	CFES Strategic Objectives		
Objective #1		ating role and common voice for member organizations and the ommunity in Canada		
Objective #2	: Coordinate pub	lic policy advocacy on behalf of Earth Science in Canada		
Objective #3	: Facilitate public	awareness of Earth Science and Earth Science literacy		
Objective #4	: Represent and	promote Canadian Earth Science internationally		
Objective #5		Provide service to member organizations in particular, and to the Earth Science community in general		
Objective #6	: Coordinate sup	port for professional and academic organizations in Canada		

Housekeeping and maintenance tasks took up more time than usual this year, including attending to websites and ensuring the organization is healthy and functioning properly. The earthsciencescanada.ca HUB has been stabilized, and our web properties are now consolidated under one management team, ensuring that our web presence is optimized and remains functional. You can find the restored HUB here <u>https://earthsciencescanada.com/</u> and read more on these important updates in the Outreach Director's Report.

Member, Observer and External Organization Interaction

CSPG has recently undergone a name change to the Canadian Energy Geoscience Association (CEGA) and remain a CFES Observer Organization. We appreciate being able to continue dialogue with this important Canadian geoscience organization as an Observer. We are delighted that CIM has rejoined CFES as a Member Organization this year and welcome their valuable contributions. CFES is in ongoing conversation with the Canadian Society of Soil Science (<u>https://csss.ca/) and Ca</u>nadian Geophysic<u>al Union (https://cgu-ugc.ca/)</u> regarding potential membership or collaboration with CFES.

Council Meetings

During the year we held interim Council meetings on two occasions. A meeting in December 2022 provided updates from the Nominations Committee, on the IGC2028 Bid investigation process and a report on the Geologist-in-Residence pilot that took place at Pukaskwa National Park in August of 2022. We also held a Q+A Council Meeting in late February to answer questions about the formation of an IGC2028 Bid Investigation Committee. We thank those who came out to share their thoughts and discuss issues important to their MO's with your Board. CFES <u>is</u> its Member Organizations; your feedback and insights help us to shape the CFES strategic plan and focus our efforts on your behalf.

Articles

Several collaborations with our member organizations were initiated by Past President Rachel Newrick, including 3 articles prepared with CGS, AGS and CSEG highlighting the connection between these organizations and CFES, and are published in the respective organizations newsletters. They can serve as a template for future articles with other member organizations. We welcome ideas that help us serve the needs of our Member Organizations, so please do share with us what we can do to help meet our common goals. See the Past President's Report for more details.

Canada Geological Foundation Grants Committee

The CFES President is a member of this committee and contributes each year by reviewing grant applications, attending a grant meeting to determine awardees as well as the AGM as the CFES representative. Although I was able to review all the grant applications, Rachel Newrick, Past President, attended the meeting as CFES representative.

International Organization Collaborations

Further discussions with the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) will be held in 2023 to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding that will determine what a mutually beneficial collaboration might look like. Members of CFES and CGEN also supported efforts to contribute to the IUGS First 100 Geosites Book initiative, led by the Geoparks Network's John Calder. We are delighted to see that 6 Canadian sites are featured in this beautiful and informative coffee table book, available for download on the IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage website https://iugs-geoheritage.org/. You can also view the sites on the interactive map. https://iugs-geoheritage.org/.

UNESCO International Geodiversity Day

October 6, 2022 marked the first annual UNESCO International Geodiversity Day, which is intended to draw attention to the important role geological diversity plays in support of biodiversity and human society. CFES was an early supporter of this initiative, providing a letter of support for the resolution. I encourage CFES members and the whole of the Canadian geoscience community to mark their calendars and use this named annual, international day as tool to draw attention to the critical importance of geoscience to the public.

Special Projects

Continuing the research begun by previous Special Projects Director Christian Bohm, Linda Ham was tasked with making recommendations for the future of CanGeoRef and open data. As subscriptions remain low, due to the availability of free, common internet search engines and a lack of standardized database formats across Canada, her recommendation is that CanGeoRef be abandoned, and a new Special Projects Director be engaged when a new initiative is identified. We thank Linda Ham for her work on this project during her term.

Outreach

It has been a particularly busy year for outreach volunteers, with many projects completed, progressing or newly initiated, fueled in part by my own professional background and interest.

Outreach initiatives serve to progress Strategic Objectives related to geoscience education and public literacy. You can read more about all of the events, initiatives and projects supporting these goals in the 2022-2023 Outreach Director's Annual Report, but the following are some highlights.

The Careers Website rebuild

Work on the rebuild of the IYPE legacy project Careers website has progressed well this year, with visioning and design phases complete and work on the new site development well underway. We will showcase three functional (but not live) pages of the website at the 2023 AGM and Council Meeting. Participation from our Member and Observer Organization members is critical to populate the site with current, relevant information about Canadian geoscientists, the jobs we do and where we work. I encourage you to use the QR code below to fill in a questionnaire telling us your story and help us to build great Canadian content! Thanks go to Sandy Archibald (PDAC) for suggesting this brilliant QR code campaign.



Geoscientist in Residence

The pilot of the Geologist-in-Residence program took place August 15-29, 2022, at Pukaskwa National Park in Ontario. This partnership with Parks Canada provided geoscience knowledge support to Park staff and visitors, in the person of our Inaugural Geologist-in-Residence, Dr. Victoria Stinson, who will speak about her experience at our AGM. Volunteer expense funding was generously provided through a grant from the Association of Professional Geologists of Ontario Education Foundation (APGOEF). Parks Canada was so pleased with the program that they have requested a second summer residency at Pukaskwa and APGOEF has signed on again to provide financial support. A call for applications for the August 2023 residency position has been initiated. For more information and a position description, visit <u>https:// www.cfes-fcst.ca/gir</u> Please do share the information widely. We hope to engage other National Parks to initiate similar programs in their spaces based on the success of this pilot.

The Canadian Geoscience Education Network (CGEN)

CGEN is the education arm of CFES, supporting geoscience education via a network of interested people from all areas of geoscience practice. The key CGEN activity remains encouraging and supporting teacher professional development through resources and funding under the EdGEO Canadian Earth Science Teacher Workshop Program. This work directly impacts youth exposure to our discipline, leading to recruitment into Earth Science postsecondary study and on to geoscience careers. Some highlights of CGEN's work this year are noted below, and full details can be found within the 2022-2023 Outreach Director Report. The recent resignation of CGEN President, Amanda McCallum means efforts in the coming months will be concentrated on filling that role, and reconstituting the CGEN executive. The CGEN President sits on the CFES Board of Directors as Outreach Director, so that CFES Board position will be filled once the CGEN President is in place.

CFES had a great presence at the 2022 GAC-MAC conference. I was delighted to be able to bring GAC-MAC Halifax, May 2022 greetings on behalf of CFES and to present both the 2021 and 2022 Mentorship Medals in person at the GAC President's Reception, to Sandra Barr and Henrick Falck. Several CFES Board members and CGEN folk facilitated two sessions: Symposium SY-04 IUGS, Geoparks and the IGCP co-chaired by Katherine Boggs (International), and Special Session SS-33: Geoscience Education and Outreach in Canada 2.0: Setting a roadmap for the future, co-Chaired by myself, Amanda

McCallum (CFES Outreach Director, CGEN President), Lesley Hymers (EdGEO Chair, CGEN Past President) and Courtney Onstad (CFES Communications Director). A video about CFES and what we do was created by Rachel Newrick was shown at Special Session 28: Canadian Earth Science Needs Everyone, and was visible to all attendees on the virtual platform. You can view the video here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jtsa6TJPVfA . An EdGEO sponsored teacher's professional learning workshop and field trip also took place.

GAC-MAC Sudbury 2023

Plans for the 2023 GAC MAC conference in Sudbury include CGEN sponsorship of Special Session 15: Geoscience Education and Communication, and a teacher's workshop, sponsored by CGEN and EdGEO will take place for local teachers, facilitated by CGEN members, Mining Matters and the APGOEF. We will also present the CFES Mentorship Medal to Dr. Brendan Murphy at the meeting so be sure to come by to congratulate him!

GAC Geoscience Education and Communication Division Proposal

A proposal was forwarded by Lesley Hymers, Chair of EdGEO, and Past President of CGEN to introduce a Geoscience Education and Communication Division into the Geological Association of Canada. We feel this Division will properly recognize the value of work to advance geoscience literacy and will serve to foster the burgeoning geoscience communications community. The GAC is deliberating and a decision is expected to be made prior to the 2023 GAC-MAC Conference.

EdGEO

The EdGEO Canadian Earth Science Teacher Workshop Program is a Principal Activity of the Canadian Geoscience Education Network (CGEN) and has been supporting local Earth Science

instructional development workshops for Canadian teachers since its inception in the 1970's. CFES continues to support the efforts of EdGEO Canadian Earth Science Teacher Workshop Program through an annual grant of \$3500. We thank Lesley Hymers for dedication to the organization during her 7 year term as Chair of EdGEO. She will step down in 2023, and so we will be looking for someone to lead this CGEN sister organization. Watch for a call-out to fill CGEN and EdGEO volunteer roles in the near future. You can read more about the EdGEO program in the Outreach Director's Report.

Communications

Our communications team, led by Courtney Onstad, and volunteers Jaida Lamming, Carolyn Hill-Svehla and Fiona D'Arcy have been working hard to update and maintain the CFES website and work on various targeted projects. We thank them for their efforts in keeping important comms projects in motion and Rachel Newrick for her troubleshooting talents.

I'd like to highlight the team's thoughtful, creative and timely CFES social media posts, which received increased engagement over the past year, gaining followers across all platforms including LinkedIn (35%), Twitter (6%), Facebook (38% and Instagram (109%). Social media posts for the Geologist-in-Residence initiative were extremely successful, with the Instagram campaign alone reached over 3000 people. Please do follow our pages, invite your contacts to follow us and tag us on your posts so we can share widely for more reach.

Courtney Onstad completes her term with the Board of Directors this year, and I would like to personally thank her for her enthusiasm, creativity and hard work over the course of the past three years. On behalf of CFES and the Board of Directors, I wish her well with her current and future endeavours. As her PhD studies in Geoscience Communication near completion, and with new projects on the horizon, Courtney is and will continue to be a huge asset to the Geoscience communication community.

External Engagement

Tom Sneddon, our External Engagement Director, has been working on issues related to his mandate, relevant to CFES and its mission, as a member of the CFES Comms Team (Communications, Outreach and External Engagement), and has been a key component of the rejuvenating the Canada Prize initiative. Tom acts as President of the reconstituted Canada Prize Foundation, and Vice President of the Canada Prize Award Foundation. You can read more about it in the External Engagement Director Report.

Canada Prize

Full Board Meetings with the previous Board members were held on September 18th to elect new executive and officers of the two foundations. Since that time, the two Foundation Boards have been meeting monthly to discuss strategic priorities in an effort to define a way forward. Please find more information in the External Engagement Director Report. Thank you to Tom Sneddon (CPF President), Ron Larson (CPAF President), Oliver Bonham (CPF/CPAF Secretary) and all other committee members for taking on this important work.

Audit and Governance Committee

At the 2022 CFES AGM and Council Meeting, the formation of an Audit Committee to support the Finance Director and the Board on governance matters was ratified by the Council. The formation of this committee is in its early stages, and the CFES Board is requesting a CFES Councillor to volunteer to serve. It is suggested that audit committee members serve a 3-year term. Should you be interested in joining this group please contact Rachel Newrick (cfes.pastpresident@gmail.com) prior to, or at the 2023 CFES Council Meeting and AGM.

Mentorship Medal

The 2023 CFES Mentorship Medal was awarded to Brendan Murphy, of St. Francis Xavier University, for his selfless dedication to his mentees and colleagues in the Canadian and global geoscience communities, and his scientific contributions to plate tectonics and the supercontinent cycle. Brendan Murphy was nominated by Donnelly Archibald. We are grateful to the CFES Mentorship Medal committee, led by Shoufa Lin for their diligence in reviewing nominations and recommending an excellent candidate for this recognition. The Medal will be presented at the GAC MAC meeting in Sudbury, May 2023.

International

A symposium to celebrate the IUGS (60th Anniversary), IGCP (50th Anniversary), was held at the GAC-MAC 2022 Halifax conference, co-Chaired by International Director, Katherine Boggs. A paper summarizing the symposium is currently under review for Geoscience Canada's summer edition. Katherine Boggs has been working hard to progress the National Geoscience Research Plan that will assist in engaging with the NSERC for important research funding. Appendix B of the 2022-2023 International Director Report contains additional information.

Potential Bid for IGC 2028

Since the 2022 CFES AGM, work has progressed to investigate if the Canadian geoscience community has the capacity and interest to offer a bid to host the IUGS International Geological Congress in 2028. In summer of 2022, a request for Expressions of Interest produced 3 excellent submissions from Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary, with Calgary chosen as the host city should a bid go forward. The Bid Investigation Committee, consisting of representatives of all interested CFES Member Organizations, CFES President and International Directors and other stakeholders met weekly since late February, and will bring their recommendation to the 2023 AGM and Council Meeting for discussion and to vote on two motions. The recommendations of the BIC are summarized in the documents found in the 2023 CFES AGM meeting google folder. Please be sure to review it and the two proposed motions prior to our AGM and Council Meeting so that we can have a fulsome discussion.

Finances

The unaudited 2021 and 2022 financial have been received and will be tabled for approval at our AGM. Dues letters have been issued and I offer my thanks to all of our Member Organizations for attending to this matter. We understand a general decline in memberships have been challenging and we appreciate your continued support of the important work of CFES.

Two one-time web related maintenance projects, the HUB repair and web properties consolidation have been completed this year, and ongoing work on the Careers website has progressed. We are delighted to have received a Canadian Geological Foundation (CGF) Grant to support the Careers website rebuild, and a donation of \$5000 from the Division of Engineers and Geoscience in the Resources Sector (DEGIRS) to support this important project. We would welcome other donations for this project, which is expected to help address the decline in enrolment in geoscience programs. Please see the full financial report for more details and to review the 2023 Proposed Budget.

Forward Looking

CFES is an entirely volunteer powered organization, whose work takes considerable effort from many people. We are grateful for those who serve on our board, or as member and observer organization representatives. Thank you for bringing your organizations perspectives to our discussions, supporting committees, representing external organizations and taking on dedicated tasks. Given the global concern regarding the public perception of the value of Earth scientists, and the impacts this has on recruitment into post-secondary education programs, and into geoscience jobs, it is essential that we work together to highlight the critical role of geoscientists to Canadian society. By collaborating, problem-solving, learning how to communicate effectively and promoting geoscience education, we can make a difference. Thank you all for making time to add your voice to work on our collective mission.

CFES is what we make of it. As Janice Zinck takes on the leadership of CFES, I look forward to helping to build CFES from within my role as Past President, lending my energy to the initiatives that are important to our membership. It has been a pleasure serving as President of this caring and committed group and progressing projects that speak to my heart and my work in geoscience education at a critically important time for our discipline. Thank-you all for your generous support over the past year.

Beth McLarty Halfkenny [CFES President, April 2022-2023]