



The coordinated voice for Canadian Earth Sciences

16th CFES Council Meeting
Gendron Hall, University of Ottawa
April 10 - 11, 2015

Executive Summary of Meeting

The following motions were proposed and accepted:

- Moved by Sandra Barr, seconded by Mary-Louise Byrne, that CFES honour the obligations of the Canadian Geoscience Council to the Canada Prize Foundations
- Moved by Mary-Louise Byrne, seconded by Sandra Barr, that the CFES Board of Directors approves the conflict of interest guidelines developed for the Canadian National Committee for GeoParks.

The following action items arose from the meeting:

- The Secretary will acquire an update on a possible request to the Goodman School of Mines to purchase copies of the Four Billion Years and Counting book and report to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.
- The President will speak to Stephen Johnston about the impending change in the status of GeoParks within UNESCO and its implications for Stephen's activities as Director for International Affairs.
- The President will prepare and send a letter to the Board of Directors of the Canada Prize Foundations acknowledging that CFES will honour the obligations of the Canadian Geoscience Council to the Canada Prize Foundations.
- CFES will approach PAGSE to ascertain what of its information can be posted on the CFES website.
- The Director of Finance will seek advice from the CFES investment advisor (Denis St. Arnaud) about the advisability of investing some of the society's funds and what options there are for such investment.
- The President will advise Jim Ryan of Council's concerns about the urgency of appointing a new Chair for the Local Organizing Committee for IUGS – Vancouver 2018 and about the lack of female members on the LOC.
- The President-elect will inform Rob Fensome and Patrick Murphy (Nimbus Publishing) of the discussion at Council about subsidizing the price of the second printing of Four Billion Years and Counting.
- Council members will review the new CFES website and send corrections and suggestions for improvement to the Director of Communications.
- The Director of Communications will contact WiX to inquire about possible security for the new CFES website and about paying the hosting fee annually rather than monthly.
- The Secretary and the Director of Communications will compile a succinct summary of the meeting for distribution by e-mail to member societies.
- The Board of Directors will speak to Carolyn Relf about an apparent inefficiency in data acquisition for CanGeoRef.
- The Board of Directors will discuss changes to the Mentorship Medal program with Shoufa Lin.

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Gendron Hall, University of Ottawa
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Approved Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Council Members

Sandra Barr, Mineralogical Association of Canada (also serves as President-elect, Board of Directors)
Chris Burn, Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE)
Mary-Louise Byrne, Canadian Association of Geographers (also serves as Treasurer, Board of Directors)
Andrè Desrochers, Canadian Council of Chairs of Earth Science Departments (April 10)
Jason Dunning, Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (April 11 by teleconference)
Rob Naylor, Committee of Provincial and Territorial Geologists (April 11 by teleconference)
Rachel Newrick, Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (April 11 by teleconference)
Doug VanDine, Canadian Geotechnical Society
Chris White, Atlantic Geoscience Society and Geological Association of Canada

Board of Directors

Scott Swinden, President
Sandra Barr, President-elect
Mary-Louise Byrne, Finance
Mike Cherry, Secretary
Sarina Cotroneo, Communications
Eileen van der Flier-Keller, Outreach (CGEN and EdGeo)

Observer

Paul Rennick, Geoscientists Canada

Guest

Michael Dence, Canada Prize Foundations

Regrets:

Council Members

Canadian Quaternary Association (CANQUA)
Canadian Well Logging Society
Canadian National Committee, International Association of Hydrogeologists

Board of Directors

Stephen Johnston, International activities
Carolyn Relf, CanGeoRef

Observer

Jim Ryan, IUGS - Vancouver 2018

1a. Welcome and Introductions

After participants had introduced themselves, the President welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that a quorum of Council Members (8 of 13) was present for the Friday evening session and that a

quorum was also expected to be present for the Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning, which would permit voting by Council as required on some agenda items.

1b. Approval of Agenda

One additional item was added to the agenda, inserted as agenda item 9 (report by Sandra Barr on the Science Media Centre of Canada).

**Moved by Mary-Louise, seconded by Sandra, that the agenda be approved as amended.
Motion carried.**

1c. Approval of Minutes, 15th CFES Council Meeting, Ottawa, November 28-29, 2014

Minutes of this meeting had been distributed to Council and Board prior to the meeting. One clarification was requested in the discussion of agenda item 8 (Four Billion Years and Counting book).

**Moved by Sandra, seconded by Eileen, that the minutes of the 15th CFES Council Meeting be accepted as amended.
Motion carried.**

Matters arising from the minutes

Action item 1: Scott will contact Chris Burn to request a brief summary of opportunities for CFES to interact with PAGSE. Done – see following agenda item.

*Action item 2: The Board of Directors will hold a teleconference with Shoufa Lin to discuss how to regularize and broaden the selection process for the Mentorship Medal, and will assign responsibility for oversight of the program to a Director. Not done. Sandra has spoken to Shoufa about the Board's concerns, which arise because the selection committee for the medal acts without much interaction with CFES. Chris Burn, who is on the selection committee, suggested that CFES should appoint the chair of the medal committee to gain control of the process. **Carried forward (see agenda item 18 below).***

*Action item 3: Scott will discuss the revisions to the CFES by-laws proposed by Council with CFES's lawyer to ensure that they are acceptable. Done. The lawyer accepted all of the Council's proposed changes. The final version of the by-laws is ready for signature by the President and Secretary, as required. The signed copy must be submitted to Industry Canada by October 2015. **(Note added in preparing the minutes: The final copy was submitted to Industry Canada on April 23, 2105.)***

Action item 4: Andy McDonald and Mamadou Fall will work to develop a strategy for better integration of geology and earth sciences into engineering programmes for presentation to Council. Not completed. Doug Vandine reported that, although nothing has yet been done, Mamadou is still eager to work with Andy on the strategy.

Action item 5: Sarina will develop a draft communications plan for consideration by the Board of Directors at its January 8, 2015 teleconference. Partially completed. See agenda item 10 below.

Action item 6: Andy McDonald will approach the Goodman School of Mines about purchasing copies of the Four Billion Years and Counting book for distribution by CFES. No information.

Action: Mike will contact Andy McDonald for an update and report to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Action item 7: Mike will speak to the Ottawa representative of Nimbus Publishing about placing copies of the Four Billion Years and Counting book in Ottawa museums. Mike determined that the Museum of Nature in Ottawa was not carrying the volume for sale. Godfrey Nowlan relayed this information to Nimbus, and their representative in Ottawa was to speak to officials at the Museum. The result of that conversation, if it has occurred, is not known.

Action item 8: Sandra will work with Rob Raeside and Ollie Bonham to review the AGI student exit survey for application to Canadian students. Done. Notices about the survey, which is to be completed on-line, will be sent to earth science and geography departments across Canada in May.

Action item 9: Mary-Louise will contact Dan Smith (University of Victoria) about participating on the review committee developing the Canadian student exit survey. Done. Sandra reported that communications difficulties arose and that Dan did not contribute much to the work, but that Ollie Bonham had contributed a lot of work to make the survey a truly Canadian one that adequately includes geography. The onus is on the earth science and geography departments to make their students aware of the survey and to provide the link to it.

*Action item 10: Scott will speak to Stephen Johnston about the impending change in the status of GeoParks within UNESCO and its implications for Stephen's activities as Director for International Affairs. Not done. **Action carried forward.***

Action item 11: The Board of Directors will assign responsibility for the Mentorship Medal program to one of its members. (Repeat of action item 2, see agenda item 18 below.)

Action item 12: Scott will inform Jeff Packard that CFES will support the Foundations project, as requested in Jeff's letter. Done.

Action item 13: Scott will send a letter of support for the Mistaken Point inscription as a UNESCO world heritage site to Guy Narbonne. Done.

2. Canada Prize and Willett Green Miller Medal

Michael Dence provided a brief history of the Canada Prize. The Royal Society of Canada was first approached in the 1990s by a small group of proponents who wanted to establish a "Nobel Prize" for earth and environmental sciences in Canada, nominally worth \$1 million per year. The prize was intended to forge stronger links between the earth and environmental sciences, and to boost the image of these sciences in Canada. It would have required major fund-raising to establish and support, but the proponents were able to secure the promise of a large donation (valued on the order of \$20 million) from Stewart Blusson on the proviso that they could raise an equivalent amount from other sources to justify his offer. They were only able to secure about \$1 million in donations within the 10-year period specified by Mr. Blusson, with the result that he withdrew his offer.

Two foundations were established during this period: the Canada Prize Foundation, to look after the prize, and the Canada Prize Awards Foundation, to look after raising more money and perhaps adding an array of other prizes around the Canada Prize. A Board of Directors has continued to oversee the idea of the prize and the funds that had been raised when Mr. Blusson withdrew his offer. A representative of the Canadian Geoscience Council, the predecessor to CFES, was an *ex officio* member of the Board, as was the President of the Royal Society of Canada, who delegated the responsibility to the RSC Executive Director. The Royal Society of Canada had been brought into the idea of the prize to play the role of the Swedish Academy of Sciences in the Nobel awards – judging nominations and recommending recipients to the Canada Prize Foundations.

The recent changes to regulations governing not-for-profit organization made by Industry Canada do not allow for *ex officio* board members. The two foundations have made the necessary changes to their by laws to be compliant with the new regulations. With this change, the Board of Directors for the Canada Prize would like to have a letter from CFES confirming that the pre-existing responsibilities of the Canadian Geoscience Council with regards to the Canada Prize have been assumed by, and will be honoured by, CFES, and would like CFES to become a corporate member of both Foundations. Corporate membership would provide CFES with a position on the Board. Part of the desire to have CFES become an active participant is because the rights to the name Canada Prize for Earth and Environmental Sciences, the logo that was developed, and associated things belong to CFES. The Board is anxious to have a strong position with regard to these rights as there are suggestions that the Government of Canada is considering using the same, or a similar, name for other awards.

Moved by Sandra, seconded by Mary-Louise, that CFES honour the obligations of the Canadian Geoscience Council to the Canada Prize Foundations and communicate that we would look favourably on an invitation to become a corporate member of the Foundations and provide a nominee to the Board of Directors of the Foundations if so invited.

Motion carried.

Action: Scott will prepare and send a letter to the Board of Directors of the Canada Prize Foundations acknowledging that CFES will honour the obligations of the Canadian Geoscience Council to the Canada Prize Foundations and requesting an invitation to become a corporate member.

Dr. Dence also spoke to the meeting about resurrecting the Miller Medal, a medal of the Royal Society of Canada. The Miller Medal honours Willett Green Miller, a geologist who was a leader in the development of Ontario's mining industry. It was first presented in 1943, and was subsequently awarded in alternate years for outstanding research in any field of earth science. It is one of a number of Royal Society medals that are not adequately endowed. Because of this underfunding and a lack of nominations, the Awards Committee of the Royal Society stopped awarding the medal in 2011. Actions are being taken within the Royal Society to resurrect the medal, while at the same time expanding its terms to include all disciplines of the earth, ocean and atmospheric sciences. However, additional funds are required to sustain the medal indefinitely. The Canada Prize Foundations are prepared to contribute to this fund-raising, and would like CFES to consider contributing, on the order of \$1,000, to the effort.

Council identified a need for input from member societies before taking any decision, in light of potential overlap of the Miller Medal with medals presented by them and other Canadian geoscience organizations. The Board of Directors will decide on what actions would be taken in light of those discussions. The meeting recognized the importance of having the earth sciences represented in the

pantheon of awards made by the Royal Society, and the important role that CFES should play in ensuring that this happens.

3. Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE)

Chris Burn provided an overview of PAGSE and its activities. PAGSE is a program of the Royal Society of Canada, but operates at arms length from the Society. It was established about 20 years ago when the federal government issued a broad call for suggestions about what it might include in the budget to foster science and innovation. This call for suggestions resulted in an uncoordinated cacophony of ideas from all parts of the Canadian research community. To eliminate this confusion, the federal Department of Finance, in 1995, asked the Royal Society of Canada to coordinate an annual submission representing the collective views of the Canadian science and engineering research and innovation community. The Royal Society, through Michael Dence and Howard Alper, invited all learned societies in Canada to participate in PAGSE. The earth sciences community chose to have a single member, from the Canadian Geoscience Council. As the successor umbrella organization to the CGC, it is now CFES that sits on PAGSE to represent the earth sciences.

PAGSE is as an advocacy group for science and engineering, and has three deliverables:

(1) a submission to the Department of Finance, usually in August and tightly proscribed in content and length. PAGSE is asked to respond to specific, well-crafted questions (usually 3, but up to 6), which are targeted to contribute to consultations with the Minister of Finance on the budget. The submission cannot be interpreted as lobbying, and must be phrased in general terms that reflect the entire community. This can result in criticism from time to time from some of PAGSE's members who think their wishes were not satisfactorily presented in the submission. Historically, PAGSE has had considerable success in getting its suggestions into the budget.

(2) a series of Bacon and Eggheads breakfast lectures (6-7 per year) which are offered to parliamentarians (members of the House of Commons and Senators). A PAGSE committee identifies topics and speakers. Presentations must be engaging, broadly-based and objective, and cannot be seen as lobbying while at the same time being an advocacy talk. The talks are typically very well-attended. Topics have to be current (e.g., Denis Lavoie's recent presentation on shale gas) and it is important to have someone who will give a good talk.

(3) Science Pages, comprising 4-5 page broadsheets which summarize particular scientific questions of interest to Canadians. These are commonly associated with Bacon and Eggheads talks. The Science Pages are distributed to all MPs and all Senators, usually in the week before the talk. They are also distributed widely through government. The broadsheets are produced by a national committee of PAGSE, which has in the past worked in conjunction with the Science Media Centre of Canada. Production involves initial writing by graduate students, initial review by a journalist, and final review by senior research scientists. Both paper and digital copies are produced. Digital copies are posted on the Science Media Centre of Canada's website and on the Royal Society of Canada website.

PAGSE meets 4-6 times annually, at the University of Ottawa, with participation by out-of-town members by teleconference. Meetings are used to take care of standard business, but also include a presentation on a topic relevant to PAGSE's agenda. These presentations provide PAGSE members with a better appreciation of policy issues in Canada, which helps them to prepare the annual submission to the Department of Finance. Recent presentations have included one by a representative of the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada about the direction of science and innovation in the next 10 years; one by a representative from the United Kingdom High Commission on how science and innovation are dealt with at the diplomatic level; a third by the President of the National Science and Engineering

Research Council on what he had achieved in his first 3 months at the position, and a fourth by the Chief Research Officer for MITACS (Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems) on how MITACS identifies projects that link students with industry and not-for-profit organizations.

In his final comments, Chris noted that CFES is the second-largest society represented on PAGSE. Although this does not provide extra influence in meetings, it does ensure that the committee pays attention to issues raised by the earth sciences and more or less guarantees one Bacon and Eggheads talk per year and significant input into the submission to the Department of Finance.

In response to a question about what CFES could do to make its participation in PAGSE more effective, Chris asked for suggestions (2-3 per year) for topics, with speakers, for Bacon and Eggheads. He also asked for people who could help prepare Science Pages for those talks (preferably not the speaker) and for high-level suggestions for input to the submission to the Department of Finance.

Council thanked Chris for his contributions to PAGSE on behalf of CFES, and encouraged him to continue as its member.

Action: The Secretary will contact PAGSE to ascertain what of its information can be posted to the CFES website.

4. President's Report

The President's Report for the period November 2014 to April 2015 was distributed to Members and Directors prior to the meeting, and was accepted as read.

Scott noted that his report of November 2014 was a more comprehensive document than the one prepared for this meeting, as a number of initiatives were coming to fruition at that time. He commented on the importance of the strategic planning exercise that was undertaken in 2013 and 2014, and noted that progress has been made in many of the priorities identified in that exercise, including communications efforts and rationalization of finances and budgeting. This council meeting would finally see regularization of financial affairs, with the budget being proposed and discussed at the meeting being for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2015. He thanked Mary-Louise for her work in accomplishing this. He also noted that the appointment of Sarina Cotroneo as Director of Communications has allowed the Board to start to address issues related to communications that were identified in the strategic planning exercise.

Relations with member societies are still problematic, as the Board is still struggling to maintain meaningful contact with them. Some member societies clearly believe in what CFES is trying to accomplish, and participate actively. Others appear to have little or no interest in CFES, and the Board has been unsuccessful in changing this attitude. This discouraging behaviour includes several large societies that had previously indicated that they would support CFES. As a result, no dues have been received in the past 2 years from CSPG, CSEG [CSEG paid last year but not this year] or PDAC. Improving relations with member societies, and particularly bringing these large societies back into active participation, is probably the highest priority for the Board of Directors in the coming year. A first step in resolving this issue is to identify and appoint a Director of Member Relations, tasked with the responsibility of member society liaison.

A related problem is renewal of the Board of Directors. All of the current directors with the exception of Sarina are now serving in extended terms. Ideally, member societies would be sufficiently engaged in

CFES to have an appreciation of its value to them, and would welcome the opportunity to nominate new members to the Board.

Scott also commented on that the change in timing of the annual Council meeting to the spring has been beneficial for financial planning, and reminded Council of the decision to hold only one face-to-face meeting per year. He suggested that it may be necessary to supplement the face-to-face meeting with one or more teleconferences to deal with urgent issues.

5. Financial Report and Budget

Invoices for 2015 membership dues have been sent to all member societies, and dues have been received from most. Mary-Louise is developing an accurate database of society contacts so that, in the future, invoices will be sent to the appropriate contact in each society, rather than to presidents as frequently happened in the past and often resulted in the invoice being lost or ignored.

Council agreed that it is the responsibility of the Director of Finances to distribute the invoices for membership dues.

Mary-Louise is working with Clarke, Starke and Diegel of Waterloo, Ontario, to conduct a review engagement of the CFES statement of financial position for the year ended March 31, 2015. She and Scott have discussed the idea of having an audit done of the accounts when a new President and Director of Finance have been appointed, so that the next Board can be confident of the financial position. This should be done after the 2016 Council meeting and Annual General Meeting, in April 2016.

Mary-Louise spoke to a spreadsheet showing the CFES financial position. She identified anomalies in the budget and actual expense accounting that result from such things as late receipt of monies from various CFES activities, and indicated that the planned audit should ensure that proper accounting methods for dealing with such anomalies are used in the future. There is currently approximately \$182,000 in the bank account and \$60,000 in investments: ongoing expenses are the only liabilities that CFES has, and these are minor amounts. The meeting discussed the idea investing some of the funds in the bank account in instruments such as GICs to generate some interest income. The Board has not considered this to date because of uncertainties in both assets and liabilities. The current investments are in high yield bonds. One suggestion was to invest any monies above the amount of annual expenditures in a GIC ladder. It was also suggested that CFES develop an investment policy, as several member societies have done.

Action: Mary-Louise will seek advice from the CFES investment advisor (Denis St. Arnaud) about the advisability of investing some of the society's funds and what options there are for such investment.

Mary-Louise then presented the budget proposed for fiscal 2015-16. This budget predicts a small surplus for the year.

Council noted that CFES's financial position has improved and stabilized significantly because of Mary-Louise's efforts, and thanked her for that work.

6. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences is held as part of the annual Council meeting. Minutes of the 2015 AGM accompany these minutes.

7. Resources for Future Generations: IUGS – Vancouver 2018

Jim Ryan was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted a report that summarizes activities by the LOC since his last report, in November 2014. This report was distributed prior to the meeting, and accompanies these minutes.

The report outlines progress since Jim's last report, in November 2014. A significant impediment to progress is the necessity of naming a new Chair for the LOC. Several potential candidates have been identified and the LOC hopes to finalize the new Chair before the GAC-MAC annual meeting in May.

The meeting noted a lack of women on the LOC and agreed to ask Jim to encourage the LOC to name more women to the committee.

Action: Scott to advise Jim Ryan of the Council's concerns about the urgency of appointing a new Chair for the LOC and about the lack of women members on the LOC.

8. *Four Billion Years and Counting* Book

CFES expects a first royalty payment related from sales of the book at the end of April, representing sales of approximately 3,000 of the 4,000 copies that were printed. The French side of the website has been finished and launched: the English side has been available for some time. A decision about reprinting will be made in the next 2-3 months, pending on sales. The reprinting will incorporate minor corrections. Nimbus Publishing has proposed that the price be increased from \$39.95 to \$45.00 to reflect the fact that the reprinting will not be subsidized to the level of the first printing. The key players in the publication have strongly urged that the price not be increased, and CFES should discuss whether or not it should subsidize the second printing to allow that. These discussions are preliminary, so there is no accurate estimate of what this cost would be to CFES. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that it could be in the range of \$10,000.

There was some negative reaction to the suggestion of a CFES subsidy, based on the fact that most purchasers, whether the volume is bought through a retailer like Amazon.com or through a society, are paying substantially less than the list price, and the opinion that the \$5.00 difference in price is unlikely to deter many people from buying the book. A counter argument is that the money initially raised to publish the book was not all spent, and the residual funds, on the order of \$50,000, should be applied to expenses related to it.

Suggestions for other ways to use these residual funds include a CGEN session and associated workshops scheduled for GAC Whitehorse and expanded efforts to publicize the book.

The meeting agreed to defer any decision until a concrete proposal for a subsidy is received from Nimbus Publishing and until further information is obtained from Andy McDonald about the possible purchase of copies by the Goodman School of Mines.

Action: Sandra will inform Rob Fensome and Patrick Murphy (Nimbus) of the discussion about subsidizing the price of the second printing.

Fleiva Media has submitted a proposal to Rob Fensome for development and operation, for 6 months, of a social media platform to publicize the book. To date, this sort of advertising has not been undertaken. The cost of the work would be \$650 per month for the first 3 months and \$450 per month for the second three months.

The meeting agreed that it would be better to develop a social media platform on its own website, rather than having on an external site. This could be done by using a contractor, or by doing the work ourselves. It might be possible to solicit social media contributions from volunteers who have read the book.

9. Science Media Centre of Canada

Sandra provided a summary of a conversation she recently had with Penny Park, Executive Director of the Science Media Centre of Canada, about possible collaboration between SMCC and CFES. The SMCC is a registered charitable organization that supports journalists writing about the sciences, engineering and technology (statement extracted from the Centre's website). CFES was a founding member of SMCC, but has not been active in its operation.

Ms. Park thought that CFES could play a larger part in interactions with politicians and the public than some of its member societies because it would be seen as impartial. She thought that another strength of CFES is that it represents all areas of the profession, and suggested that a major contribution could be to Science Pages (as described by Chris Burn, see agenda item 3 above). The Science Pages are posted and archived on the SMCC website and have elicited very positive responses from MPs and parliamentarians, who are particularly appreciative of their conciseness. The Science Pages are not seen as lobbying efforts, but as a source of impartial information. Previous Science Pages have included climate change, reclamation and changes in the Arctic: currently, SMCC would like to have one on fracking.

SMCC also trains young scientists to deal with the public, including dealing with journalists, and operates a program to provide learned discussion panels to meetings or conventions, in which members of the press attend the discussion by teleconference and only the scientists on the panel are together at the meeting venue.

In discussion, Council members were strongly supportive of attempting to work with SMCC, recognizing that it has expertise that could greatly help in publicizing the earth sciences and their contributions to society. Examples of biased and incorrect reporting of science and industry activities were cited, and the need was expressed for rebuttals of these by a source that is accepted as impartial and objective, such as SMCC or CFES. The discussion also recognized the desirability of appointing a Director with responsibility for media relations.

The meeting agreed that further discussion by the Board is required to define how CFES can take advantage of the opportunity to interact with SMCC.

10. Communications: Website and Social Media

Sarina demonstrated progress in revising and restructuring the website, with the proposed website available on-line to all participants. Members offered minor suggestions for improvements in content

(i.e., different images, typos, etc.) and in how the site operates, but were unanimous that the new website is a major improvement.

The meeting agreed that summaries of meetings should be posted on the website as soon as possible after the event rather than waiting to post approved minutes, as approval occurs as much as a year after the meeting. Summaries are to comprise brief descriptions of each agenda item and actions arising for each agenda item.

Council members were asked to consider submitting a blog (or blogs) to the blog post, and to help identify potential contributors to the blog post.

The cost for the website is extremely low. The monthly hosting fee to WiX, the hosting company, would be \$12.42, which will include Google analytics and a mobile site, and will eliminate advertising by WiX. A potential additional cost will be translation of new material (the old website already has a lot of translated material which will migrate to the new site). There is also a minor fee to migrate the domain name. The website should be live within a month [Note added in preparing these minutes: the site became live on April 13, 2015].

The social media initiative is functioning well. There are over 200 Twitter followers: Facebook is somewhat less. This is because Twitter is more public, and Facebook is more “who you know”.

Sarina suggested that another way to reach out to the public would be to hold a photo contest, with winners being featured on the home page and with a small prize. The photos might also be used to create an annual calendar.

Council thanked Sarina for her efforts.

Action: Council members are to review the preview of the website and send corrections and suggestions for improvement to Sarina.

Action: Sarina will contact WiX to inquire about possible security for the website and about paying the hosting fee annually rather than monthly.

11. Membership

Scott restated the problem that the Board is having in maintaining effective communications with member societies, and the importance of appointing a new Director of Member Society Liaison to be in regular contact with member societies.

A second problem is the difficulty that the existing membership fee structure is imposing on the larger societies (e.g., CSPG, PDAC, CSEG), particularly in the current difficult economic environment for resource industries. Individuals within these larger organizations acknowledge the contributions that CFES is making, but the societies cannot find funds to pay annual dues. It may be possible to change the fee model – for example by putting a cap on dues – and thereby bring the large societies back to the table. Their participation is essential for CFES to thrive and continue to operate.

Rachel suggested that one major problem is the lack of communications into the societies about what CFES is doing. She suggested that one vehicle for improving communications, in addition to the new

website, would be a newsletter, perhaps issued on a quarterly basis, that societies could forward directly to their members. An alternative could be to make regular contribution to the newsletters of member societies, rather than to produce a separate CFES newsletter.

It was noted that membership fees vary greatly among the member societies, and that the \$3 per active member fee could be a significant portion of the membership revenue of societies with small annual dues.

The meeting discussed possible ways for identify someone for the director's position. These included posting position descriptions to various mailing lists and approaching individuals who might be interested.

It was agreed that it is important to engage the senior leadership of the larger societies to explain the value of their participation in CFES, without raising the potentially divisive issue of fees. The meeting agreed not to attempt to decide on changes to membership fees until accurate information is collected about the numbers of active members and annual dues of all societies. At the same time, CFES will seek to discuss with member societies what sort of fee structure would be acceptable to them.

Action: Mike and Sarina will compile a succinct summary of the meeting (what CFES has accomplished in the last year and what it is planning to do in the immediate future) for distribution by e-mail to member societies.

12. Conflict of Interest Guidelines

Council was introduced to proposed conflict of interest guidelines (digital file attached) for the Canadian National Committee for GeoParks that had been prepared by Godfrey Nowlan, Chair of that committee, after a situation with an apparent conflict of interest had arisen with one member of the committee. Upon review, it was determined that CFES does not have a conflict of interest policy, and the Board has agreed that one should be developed that could apply to all CFES committees and activities. Godfrey has, in the interim, prepared guidelines for his committee, and has asked that they be approved by CFES.

Council recommended that the guidelines be approved, with the addition of a date of approval.

Moved by Mary-Louise, seconded by Sandra, that the CFES Board of Directors approves the conflict of interest guidelines developed by Godfrey Nowlan for the Canadian National Committee for GeoParks.
Motion carried.

13. Geoscientists Canada Update

Paul Rennick, outgoing President of Geoscientists Canada, provided an update of the group's activities, speaking to a PowerPoint presentation (digital file attached).

Geoscientists Canada is an umbrella national organization that serves the provincial and territorial associations that regulate the profession of geoscience. There are currently nine members: Quebec recently withdrew from membership, and PEI and Yukon do not have regulatory associations. Quebec withdrew because of a perception that it was not benefiting substantively from membership, and because of a large decrease in membership in 2014, and accompanying decrease in association funds, as a result of

the economic downturn. Quebec does continue to operate its own regulatory association. The withdrawal has no implications for mobility of professional geoscientists.

Paul's presentation addressed: changes in numbers of licenced geoscientists across Canada in the past year, the outcomes of a strategic planning exercise undertaken by Geoscientists Canada in 2014, the federally-funded admissions support tools project that recently ended, what is anticipated from an upcoming forum of federal and provincial labour market ministers, and international activities to promote professional geoscientists.

14. International Activities

Stephen Johnston was unable to attend the meeting. A written report of activities since the last report in November 2014 (digital file attached) was accepted as read.

It was suggested that CFES should consider posting its annual reports to NSERC on the website as a demonstration of what CFES is doing on an annual basis.

15. Outreach and EdGeo

Eileen van der Flier-Keller reported on Outreach and EdGeo activities, speaking to a written report (digital file attached). Highlights of Eileen's report included:

1) EdGeo has received a new, 3-year grant from the Canadian Geological Foundation. This grant will support EdGeo workshops and core activities such as website maintenance and production of a newsletter. The newsletter is an important tool to communicate with teachers and others, and as an aid in fund-raising. Some of the funds will also be used to translate existing web materials and tools.

2) Eight EdGeo workshops were held in the past year, attended by 147 teachers and costing \$12,160.

3) CGEN and EdGeo will host a full day workshop at the GAC-MAC annual meeting in May. The workshop will be held at the Redpath Museum, and will comprise a morning of activities and an afternoon of touring the museum.

4) A lot of work has been done on the website to ensure that the Resources for Teachers is maintained. One focus of the work has been the reconstruction of the Geoscapes posters, which had been lost when NRCAN, the original host, eliminated them from the GSC website. There are also 8 geotour guides on the website: these are virtual field trips linking to resources in communities. This work has been funded by another CGF grant. Another focus has been revision of the Careers website, using CGF funding. This is typically done annually, but the grant that has supported it is expiring, so CGEN will have to find new funds (\$3,500 per year) to continue this work. CGF will be approached for a new grant.

5) CGEN has also been working to improve communications, adding a Facebook page and a Twitter feed.

Eileen reminded Council that her term as president of CGEN has ended, and that the new president, Lesley Hymers, will be replacing her on the Board of Directors.

16. GeoParks and IYPE Legacy

Godfrey Nowlan was unable to attend the meeting. A written report (digital file attached) was accepted as read.

17. CanGeoRef

Carolyn Relf was unable to attend the meeting. Her written progress report (digital file attached) was accepted as read.

Paul Rennick, who provided New Brunswick data for CanGeoRef to Purple Rock, brought an apparent inefficiency in data acquisition for CanGeoRef to Council's attention. He informed Council that Purple Rock had undertaken a large download of data from the NB website after he had provided a database, rather than requesting that he provide the digital files, which he could have done by placing the data on a DVD. This seems a time-consuming and inefficient process.

Action: The Board will speak to Carolyn about this apparent inefficiency in data acquisition for CanGeoRef.

18. Mentorship Medal

Shoufa Lin, who was the original proponent of the award, continues to operate the program efficiently. A need has been identified to broaden publicity about the medal, so as to attract candidates beyond the traditional geoscience fields, which have dominated the winners. In discussion of possible changes to the program, it was suggested that nominations should come from member societies rather than from individuals, which would broaden the variety of nominees and raise the profile of the medal within the member societies.

The Board re-iterated the desirability of having a Director of Programs, who could be responsible for promoting and overseeing this and other similar activities.

The 2015 recipient, John Thompson, will receive his medal at the GAC President's Reception during the GAC-MAC annual meeting in May.

Action: The Board of Directors will discuss changes to the medal program with Shoufa Lin, in particular the idea of making member societies responsible for nominations.

19. Other Business

None.

20. Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in April 2016, on either 8-9th or 15-16th. The Board of Directors will set the date, time and venue in consultation with Council members.

The next teleconference of the Board of Directors will be on May 14 at 4 pm Eastern.

Adjournment

**Moved (Mary-Louise) that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion carried.**



The coordinated voice for Canadian Earth Sciences

**CANADIAN FEDERATION OF EARTH SCIENCES /
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES SCIENCE DE LA TERRE**

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 11, 2015
Gendron Hall , University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

CHAIR: Scott Swinden, President, CFES

Present:

Council Members

Sandra Barr, Mineralogical Association of Canada (also serves as President-elect, Board of Directors)
Mary-Louise Byrne, Canadian Association of Geographers (also serves as Treasurer, Board of Directors)
Jason Dunning, Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (by teleconference)
Rob Naylor, Committee of Provincial and Territorial Geologists (by teleconference)
Rachel Newrick, Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (by teleconference)
Doug VanDine, Canadian Geotechnical Society
Chris White, Atlantic Geoscience Society and Geological Association of Canada

Board of Directors

Scott Swinden, President
Sandra Barr, President-elect
Mary-Louise Byrne, Finance
Mike Cherry, Secretary
Sarina Cotroneo, Communications
Eileen van der Flier-Keller, Outreach (CGEN and EdGeo)

Observer

Paul Rennick, Geoscientists Canada

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Meeting to order, reminding all those present that Notice of Meeting had been duly served, and directed the Secretary to retain a copy of the Notice of Meeting with the records of the meeting. He noted that a quorum of Members was present, and declared the Meeting to be properly called and constituted for the transaction of business. There being no objections, he requested a motion from the floor to proceed with the published agenda.

So moved by Chris White, seconded by Doug Vandine.

The motion was carried.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President had circulated Minutes of the 2014 Annual General meeting of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences prior to the Meeting. The Meeting agreed to the Chair's proposal to waive the reading of the Minutes. No errors or omissions were identified in the Minutes.

Moved by Mary-Louise Byrne, seconded by Sandra Barr, that the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences be adopted as circulated.

The motion was carried.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The *President's Report – April 2015*, which had been circulated to Members and Directors prior to the Meeting, was accepted as read.

The President provided a brief oral summary of the Report as a basis for discussion. The principal message of the Report is that most of the key objectives identified several years ago have, to a significant degree, been accomplished. A strategic planning process has been completed and a set of priorities developed that are being pursuing. In particular, a very significant development has been the appointment of Sarina Cotroneo as Director of Communications and, with that appointment, the start of efforts to develop a very strong communications plan for CFES. Another significant step has been the normalization of the Federation's financial affairs, with the books in a standard format and a budget proposed for the upcoming fiscal year. This is a major improvement from the past, when the AGM did not coincide with the start of the fiscal year and the budget was more a reflection of what had been done than a tool for operating in the fiscal year. A third accomplishment is the completion of the process required to bring CFES into compliance with new federal regulations for not-for-profit organizations.

The Report identifies an urgent need to improve communications with member societies and to encourage participation in CFES by several large societies that are not currently supporting CFES. It will

be difficult for CFES to survive without the support of these large societies. Another major issue identified in the Report is the renewal of the Board of Directors, as the majority of the current Directors have exceeded their appointment terms.

Rachel Newrick (CSEG) complimented CFES on the progress on these issues, noting that CSEG is one of the larger societies that had expressed concern about how CFES was operating at a meeting held in Calgary in May 2014. She acknowledged the urgency of improving communications with member societies, and indicated that CSEG would be happy to work with CFES on that issue. She also noted that CSEG is concerned about the perception that geoscience does not offer good career opportunities in the current economic climate, and thinks that there is a good opportunity for CSEG and CFES to work together to promote the geosciences.

The Chair directed the Secretary to post the *President's Report – April 2015* on the CFES website.

4. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Director of Finance reported that spending in the just-ended fiscal year was less than budgeted, and that the balance at the end of fiscal 2014 was approximately \$89,000. A decision was made to cancel the review engagement for fiscal 2013-14 that was originally planned and instead to do a review engagement for fiscal 2014-15. This will rationalize the books with the change in scheduling of the annual meeting to the spring, from the previous fall meetings that occurred part way through the fiscal year.

Assets are approximately \$240,000 and liabilities are limited to low, ongoing operational expenses. The proposed budget has an anticipated surplus of \$7,700.

Dues notices were mailed in mid-February. Dues have been received for all but three societies that had committed to membership: two of the three remaining societies have indicated that payment is in progress. A second dues notice will be mailed shortly.

Rachel Newrick informed the meeting that CSEG will not pay dues for 2015-16 due to a drastic reduction in its budget arising from the downturn in the petroleum industry. A brief discussion ensued of what alternatives to the current dues structure might be used to bring CSEG back into active participation in CFES. The current fee is \$3 per active member. In recent years, the largest dues payment (from PDAC) was about \$12,000. CSEG and CSPG were in the range of \$6-7,000; CIMM was about \$4,000 and GAC was around \$3,000. All the other member societies have been paying smaller amounts, with the smallest being around \$500.

The Chair stressed that CFES is very amenable to discussions with member societies about alternative dues structures in order to rebuild the Society and to attract the human resources available in member societies to CFES.

The discussion identified discrepancies between numbers of active members and the amount of dues payments in some of the larger societies. The Director of Finance informed the meeting that work is in progress to obtain accurate information from societies about their active membership and accurate

contact information so that dues notices and other messages are sent to the appropriate contact(s) in each society.

The Chair commented on the dramatic improvement in rationalizing the finances and in budgeting from past years. He noted that some of the assets in the bank are from a grant from the Canadian Geological Foundation toward the publication of the Four Billion Years and Counting book, and CFES will have to decide how best to use these funds to support the book. The financial position of CFES is stable, and it can continue to operate at the current level with the current level of resources.

The membership agreed to append the unaudited financial statements for 2014-2015 to the minutes.

The Chair requested a motion to accept the financial statements for 2014-2015 as presented by the Director of Finance

So moved by Chris White, seconded by Mike Cherry.

The motion was carried.

5. NOMINATIONS FOR 2015-2016

The current slate of Officers and Directors, pursuant to the By-Laws of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences, is:

President	Scott Swinden (1 year term ending 2013)
President-elect	Sandra Barr (1 year term ending 2013)
Past President	Jason Dunning (1 year term ending 2013)
Director of Finance	Mary-Louise Byrne (3 year term ending Fall 2014)
Secretary	Michael Cherry (3 year term ending Fall 2016)
Director of Communications	Sarina Cotroneo (1 year term ending Fall 2015)
Director of International Affairs	Stephen Johnston (3 year term ending Spring 2016)
Director for Outreach	Eileen van der Flier-Keller
Director for CanGeoRef	Carolyn Relf (3 year term ending October 2012)

Of these Directors, the Council was requested to reconfirm:

President	Scott Swinden
President-elect	Sandra Barr
Past President	Jason Dunning
Director of Finance	Mary-Louise Byrne
Secretary	Michael Cherry
Director of Communications	Sarina Cotroneo
Director of International Affairs	Stephen Johnston
Director for CanGeoRef	Carolyn Relf

The Council was also requested to confirm the following nomination:

Director for Outreach	Lesley Hymers
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6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A proposed Slate of Officers for 2015-16 was presented to Council, comprising:

Scott Swinden as President
Sandra Barr as President-elect
Jason Dunning as Past President
Michael Cherry as Secretary
Mary-Louise Byrne as Director of Finance

The Chair asked for further nominations for 2015-16 from Council to both the Board of Directors and the Slate of Officers. There being none, he requested a motion that the Secretary cast a single ballot for the affirmation of the election of the complete slate of Directors and Officers named above, to hold office as described.

So moved by Mike Cherry and seconded by Eileen van der Flier-Keller.

Motion carried. Those named in the Slate of Nominated Officers and Directors were declared by the Chair to be duly elected to hold office until the end of their terms as outlined in the By-laws.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rachel Newrick (CSEG) informed Council of a planned meeting of herself and representatives of CSPG and CWLS to discuss ways to improve communications between CFES and the industry societies based in Alberta. One of the ideas that this group plans to move forward with is a joint article on CFES and its benefits with a call for volunteers for the CFES Board of Directors and other volunteer positions that might be needed. This idea will make use of the good volunteer base that exists in the three societies.

The Chair thanked Rachel for this initiative, and reminded her that appointments to the Board could be made promptly by means of a Council teleconference. He identified several urgent functions that are not being met by the current Board because of the lack of someone to take on a lead role. These include a Director of Member Society Liaison and a Director of Project Coordination. Beyond these unfilled functions, it is important that people be identified to replace long-serving Officers and Directors, many of whom have served beyond the terms defined by the By-Laws.

Rachel asked for input from Member Societies to the joint article, which was intended for initial publication in The Reservoir (CSPG) and The Recorder (CSEG) but could be extended in content and publication in the newsletters and other publications of all of the Member Societies.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Rachel requested that a list of Council representatives be appended to the Minutes.

The Chair informed Council of recent discussions between the Board of Directors and the Canada Prize Foundations. The Foundations have requested that CFES become a member of their Board of

Directors, to re-establish linkages between them and CFES as the successor organization to the Canadian Geoscience Council. There are no financial implications to this action. The Canada Prize Foundations are anxious to retain control of the trademark rights to the term Canada Prize, which CFES owns as the successor to the CGC.

9. NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences will be convened in the Spring of 2016, at a time and place to be selected by the President and the Board of Directors, with due notice to be provided to Members and Directors in accordance with the provisions of the By-laws.”

Probable dates for the meeting are the 8-9 or 15-16 of April 2016, in Ottawa.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mary-Louise Byrne that the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences be adjourned.

Motion carried.