



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

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 16, 2016
Gendron Hall, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

MINUTES OF MEETING

CHAIR: Scott Swinden, President, CFES

Present:

Council Members

Diana Allen, Canadian National Committee – International Association of Hydrogeologists (by teleconference)
Charles Beaudry, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
Mary-Louise Byrne, Canadian Association of Geographers (also serves as Treasurer and Director of Finance)
Andrè Desrochers, Canadian Council of Chairs of Earth Science Departments
Andrew McDonald, Mineralogical Association of Canada (by teleconference)
Bob Mummery, Canadian Association of Petroleum Geologists (by teleconference)
Rachel Newrick, Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (by teleconference)
Michael Parkhill, Canadian Quaternary Association
Nicholas Vlachopoulos, Canadian Geotechnical Society
Chris White, Atlantic Geoscience Society
Graham Young, Geological Association of Canada (by teleconference)

Board of Directors

Scott Swinden, President
Sandra Barr, President-elect
Mary-Louise Byrne, Treasurer and Director of Finance
Mike Cherry, Secretary
Anne Belanger, Director at Large
Christian Bohm, Incoming Secretary
Sarina Cotroneo, Director of Communications
Graziella Kirtland Grech, Director of Member Society Liaison
Lesley Hymers, Director of Outreach (CGEN and EdGeo)
Sam Kelley, Incoming Treasurer
Marie-Claude Williamson, Director of Member Society Liaison

Observer

Ollie Bonham, Geoscientists Canada



Regrets:

Council Members

Linda Ham, Committee of Provincial and Territorial Geologists

Board of Directors

Jason Dunning, Past-president

Stephen Johnston, Director for International Activities

Carolyn Relf, Director for CanGeoRef

Observer

Chris Burn, Partnership Group for Science and Engineering

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 Charles Beaudry, seconded by Chris White.
The motion was carried.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General meeting of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences had been circulated 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 Michael Parkhill, that the Minutes of the 2015 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 2016* was circulated to Members and Directors prior to the Meeting. The Meeting agreed to the Chair's proposal to waive the reading of the President's Report and to accept it as read. The Chair directed the Secretary to append the *President's Report – April 2016* to the minutes of the Meeting and to post it on the CFES website.



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Moved by Charles Beaudry, seconded by Nicholas Vlachopoulos, that the *President's Report – April 2016* be accepted as presented by the President.

Motion carried.

4. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

With the agreement of the Membership, the Chair directed that the unaudited financial statements for 2014 and 2015 be appended to the minutes of the Meeting, and requested a motion to accept the financial statements for 2014 and 2015 as presented by the Director of Finance.

So moved by Diana Allen, seconded by Chris White.
The motion was carried.

The Chair requested a motion to accept the budget proposal for 2016 (amended to include an additional \$2,500 for website development) as presented by the Director of Finance.

So moved by Diana Allen, seconded by Charles Beaudry.
The motion was carried.

The Chair requested a motion to appoint Clark, Stark and Diegel of Waterloo, Ontario, as the Public Accountant for the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences and to authorize the Board of Directors to fix the remuneration for this service.”

So moved by Bob Mummery, seconded by Graham Young.
The motion was carried.

5. NOMINATIONS FOR 2016-2017

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

President	Scott Swinden (2012-2016)
President-elect	Sandra Barr (2012-2016)
Past-president	Jason Dunning (2012-2016)
Finance Director	Mary Louise Byrne (2011-2016)
Secretary	Michael Cherry (2013-2016)
Director (International)	Stephen Johnston (2012-2016)
Director (Outreach)	Lesley Hymers (2015-2018)
Director (CanGeoRef)	Carolyn Relf (2012-2016)
Director (Communication)	Sarina Cotroneo (2014 - 2017)
Director (Member Society Liaison)	Marie-Claude Williamson (2015-2018)
Director (Member Society Liaison)	Graziella Grech (2015-2018)
Director	Anne Belanger (2016 - 2019)



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The Board of Directors recommends the following slate of Directors and Officers for 2016-2017:

To reconfirm:

Sandra Barr as Director
Scott Swinden as Director
Lesley Hymers as Director
Stephen Johnston as Director (2016-2018)*
Sarina Cotroneo as Director
Marie-Claude Williamson as Director
Graziella Grech as Director
Anne Belanger as Director

* - Stephen Johnston has agreed to extend his Directorship until 2018, when his term on the IUGS Executive Committee ends.

To Nominate:

Iain Samson as Director
Christian Bohm as Director
Sam Kelley as Director

There being no further nominations for Officers and Directors from the floor, the Chair requested a motion that the Secretary cast a single ballot for the affirmation of the election of the complete slate of Directors just named, to hold office as described.

So moved by Charles Beaudry, seconded by Michael Parkhill.
The motion was carried.

The Chair noted that four Directors – Mary-Louise Byrne, Jason Dunning, Carolyn Relf and Mike Cherry – are retiring this year, and that all have given more than their share to CFES and have contributed materially to the re-organization and re-birth of CFES in the past several years. The Chair requested a motion of sincere appreciation to these individuals for their significant and exemplary service to CFES over the past several years.

So moved by Chris White, seconded by Bob Mummery.
The motion was carried.

The Meeting agreed that it would be useful to append brief biographies of Officers and Directors to the minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A proposed Slate of Officers for 2016-17 was presented to Council, comprising:

Sandra Barr as President
Iain Samson as President-elect
Scott Swinden as Past-president
Christian Bohm as Secretary
Sam Kelley as Financial Director



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The Chair requested further nominations for 2016-17 from Council for Officers of CFES. 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 Mary-Louise Byrne, seconded by Rachel Newrick.
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) requested that the names and contact details for Council members be circulated with the minutes of the Meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Rachel Newrick expressed thanks to the Board of Directors for its efforts in the past year to add new Directors and to increase industry involvement in CFES.

9. NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences will be convened in the Spring of 2017, 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 21-22 April 2017, in Ottawa.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Chris White that the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences be adjourned.
Motion carried.



Appendix 1. President's Report – April 2016

Introduction

CFES has been very active during the 2015-2016 year. We continue to deliver a wide range of programs and activities on behalf of our member societies and we have made significant progress on most aspects of our strategic plan. During this fiscal year, we have completed our reorganization and established a stable operation within which we are now able to focus our energies on fulfilling our mandate to be the coordinated voice for Canadian Earth Sciences. The Board of Directors and Executive have been very active in planning the direction and future of the organization and monitoring our on-going activities. The Board of Directors has met 9 times by teleconference since the last Council meeting. The Board convened a teleconference of Council in July and conducted an e-vote for new directors in January.

Principal foci of the Board of Directors for most of the past year have been to make the transition from re-organization to full operations, and to provide for the future of the organization through succession planning of the Board of Directors. We have been successful at both of these, and details are provided below.

I will be succeeded in my position as President at the April 16 AGM. As this will be the last of my President's reports, I will take the opportunity not only to update the Council on the past year's activities, but also to reflect on the progress we have made during the almost three years that I have occupied this position.

Implementing the Strategic Plan

Developing and implementing a strategic plan for CFES was by far the top priority for the new Executive that was appointed by Council in the summer of 2012. There was a clear sense among many member societies that CFES needed to consider and clarify its mandate, direction, and plan of action in order to deliver value to its members. Following extensive consultations with representatives of all member societies, and in-depth discussions at the Board and at two council meetings, a strategic plan was approved by Council in November 2013 and released by the Board in January 2014. It is posted on our website. The first, and most important priority was for CFES to become a coordinated voice for Earth Sciences in Canada. It was generally agreed that this is the prime *raison d'être* for the organization, and it needs to be much more in the forefront of CFES activities. Beyond this overarching priority, it was agreed that CFES should focus on its roles as a coordinator of public policy advocacy on behalf of Earth Sciences, promoter of public awareness of Earth Science and Earth Science literacy, international representative of Canadian Earth Sciences, service provider to its member societies and supporter of professional and academic Earth Science organizations in Canada.

The Strategic Plan has since been used as the basis for operational planning. All activities have been weighed against the strategic plan to ensure that the things we do are in fact priorities of our member societies, and also that we are indeed addressing the areas that our member societies consider to be our priorities.



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Membership and Board Operations

2015-16 saw a significant turn-around in participation in CFES by our member societies. In the previous two years, the Board heard from member societies, and particularly the larger societies, that the dues structure based on a straight head tax was not sustainable for them. The Board carefully considered this issue in early 2015 and agreed to develop a new dues structure based on the size of the member societies. The new dues structure, which in the end resulted in a decrease in annual dues for all societies, was discussed and approved by Council in a July teleconference. Continuing discussions with our two largest societies, PDAC and CSPG, following this resulted in both resuming their membership in 2015. This was a major step forward for CFES, not only from a fiscal point of view, but because it ensured that the mineral exploration and petroleum geoscience communities continue to be represented in CFES.

At the same time, the Canadian Well Loggers Society decided to withdraw from CFES during 2015, mainly because geoscientists in CWLS are generally also members of CSPG and so were being doubly represented in CFES. We intend to maintain close contacts with CWLS and look for opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

A corollary of the new dues structure is that our dues revenues will be lower going forward. The Board believes that the new governance model, based entirely on volunteer members and not including a paid Executive Director, is sustainable at this level of revenue (see more under Financial Planning). The new governance model continues to function well, with regular Board meetings and continuing successful implementation of our core activities. It is important to note that the continued viability of this governance model is critically dependant on the recruitment of new Board members as existing members' terms expire, and for this, CFES will continue to rely heavily on our member societies to be proactive about identifying individuals to serve on the Board.

A major focus of the Board's activities during the past year has been to finalize the new structure of the Board and to provide for succession planning. In both of these, we have been successful. The Board structure required a transition from the former model in which Board members represented specific projects to one in which board members carry responsibility for a strategic priority. We began this transition in 2014-15 with the appointment of a new Director for Communications. We continued this in 2015 by the appointment of Marie-Claude Williamson from the GSC in Ottawa and Graziella Kirtland Grech representing CSEG in Calgary at the July Council teleconference. They have taken responsibility for member society liaison.

Through a later e-vote of Council in January 2016, an additional Director was appointed – Anne Belanger from PDAC. A second Director appointed at that time unfortunately had to resign his position shortly after.

In terms of succession planning, we needed to recruit several new Executive positions this year to replace members whose terms were expiring, including a President Elect, Treasurer and Secretary. I am pleased to note that we have been successful in all searches, and a full slate of officers will be presented to the AGM on April 16 for consideration by Council.



Member Society Liaison

One of our principal priorities for this year was to re-build lines of communication between CFES and its member societies. During the course of consultations leading up to the strategic plan, it became apparent that CFES has a very low visibility in the earth science community and there is little awareness among even the leadership of our member societies of what CFES does and why it is important to support it. Having appointed two Directors with responsibility for member society liaison, we have begun to implement a plan to improve this aspect of our relations. Our Directors are now in regular contact with representatives from all of the member societies and we are finding ways to ensure that information and decisions are passed via these Directors to the societies. We believe that regular contact is a necessary first step to improving our relationships with our members and that there is now much improved systematic communication between the CFES Board and the societies. We intend to build on this over the coming year. We hope that in return, the member societies will see this as an opportunity to engage in a dialog with the CFES Board. The CFES Board does not have the numbers or the capacity to unilaterally undertake a wide range of projects in support of Canadian earth sciences. The capacity to do this, and the ideas for how CFES can benefit the earth science community at large, exist within the member societies. CFES can facilitate these ideas, make contacts between earth scientists and others of similar interests and concerns, provide an umbrella by which multiple societies can get engaged, identify opportunities for people who want to be involved in a particular activity, and perhaps help secure funding. But we need engagement from the members if this is to work as well as it could. Improved 2-way communication and promotion of an awareness of the potential for CFES to help member societies meet their own objectives will be priorities for us in the coming year.

Financial Planning

CFES is back on a sound financial footing and we are presenting a balanced budget proposal this year for the second consecutive year. Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer Mary-Louise Byrne, we have restored the books to a fully supported position. We are now fully current in both our bookkeeping and tax status, compliant with the new Not for Profits legislation, and up to date on Review Engagements by our accounting firm, Clark, Stark and Diegel of Waterloo, ON. Our budgets are sustainable and we have approximately \$185,000 in the bank.

CFES has essentially two streams of operations money:

- The first is mainly the dues that we receive from our members. Under the new dues structure, this amounts to slightly more than \$20,000 per year. In addition we receive royalties from publications, a small surplus from CanGeoRef operations and interest on our investments. These revenues have to pay all of our day-to-day operational expenses. Under our current operation and governance model, this is sufficient to maintain our activities, but does not provide any extra for additional initiatives or unexpected expenses.
- The second stream is contributions that come by way of grants or donations that are dedicated to a particular purpose. Examples of this would be grants from CGF for printing of the book *Four Billion Years and Counting*, or grants from NRCan to support the GeoParks initiative. We account for these moneys separately from our normal operations. And we will continue to look for opportunities to fund new initiatives with the help and support of our member societies.



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Both revenue streams are budgeted to generate a small surplus in this fiscal year. The operations to which these funds are allocated are essentially all that we can do within the current dues structure. New initiatives that require funding will always require an outside source of funds and for this, we will rely on our member societies for help.

Communications

Our social media presence for CFES via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CFESciences?fref=ts>) and Twitter (@CFESciences) continues to grow, although slowly. As well, our principal outreach arm, CGEN is operating in the social media sphere, with a Facebook group and Twitter feed (@CGENnews). All feeds are slowly building both followers and traffic and are ready to talk the next step to increase their reach.

Our website was completely redesigned during 2015 and moved to a new host. We now have considerably more flexibility to make design and substance changes. It includes an earth science blog and a feature to "ask a geoscientist" which has to date seen little uptake. Updating and improving the website will continue to be a priority in the coming year.

We continue to maintain the earth sciences hub at www.earthsciencescanada.com, which has links not only to CFES but to a number of outreach and associated society sites. (e.g. CGEN, Careers, the Where Challenge, Four Billion Years and Counting, Science Media Centre of Canada, PAGSE). We are looking forward to the addition of a "Foundations Project" website, which will archive the materials produced during 2009-2010 that leveraged iconic Canadian landscape art to celebrate major bedrock and surficial mapping efforts and the geologists behind them.

The next steps of our communication strategy will involve media engagement and increased communications internally with our member societies and planning for these will take place at the 2016 meeting in Ottawa.

Resourcing Future Generations: Vancouver 2018

At the 2014 Council meeting in Ottawa, CFES agreed to support and sponsor an IUGS conference in Vancouver in 2018 on the topic of "Resourcing Future Generations". CFES support was important to provide an organizational umbrella for the committee that was developing the proposal and helped add credibility to the proposal in the eyes of IUGS. The meeting was accepted by IUGS as one of the first events in their 5 year initiative of the same name to raise awareness of earth resources. The organizing committee in Vancouver began work in 2014 and the planning ramped up substantially in 2015 with the appointment of John Thompson as the chair. The meeting will be organized under the auspices of the CIM convention management team, and will serve as the annual meeting for at least two other of our member societies, GAC and MAC. A MOU has been signed among the parties to the conference, including CFES and IUGS, and we maintain contact with the planning through our representative Jim Ryan, who sits on the committee and reports to our Board of Directors on progress. A number of our member organizations are involved with the planning for this meeting in addition to CIM, GAC and MAC including CSPG for the energy theme, provincial geological surveys (CPTG), and IAG-CNC for the



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Water theme. Even at this relatively early date, almost half of our member societies are directly involved in the conference and we anticipate additional participation as the planning advances. The conference has a website at <http://www.rfg2018.org> and I encourage all of our member societies to look for ways to get engaged in this important meeting. We can provide contact information and introductions to any that are interested in investigating this opportunity further.

Four Billion Years and Counting

"Four Billion Years and Counting", jointly published by CFES and Nimbus Publishing, has been a tremendous success and almost the entire first printings in English and French have sold out. Second printings are in progress in both languages. CFES has allocated funds that were collected through CGF and dedicated to the publication, to support the second printing to ensure that the price for the book stays very low. There is now a fully populated website accessible through the www.earthsciencescanada.com hub that contains all of the images for use by the community at large.

International Affairs

CFES continues to represent Canadian Earth Sciences at IUGS and in other international forums and Stephen Johnston, our Board member in charge of international affairs, is a Councillor to IUGS.

CFES continues to be very active in the UNESCO international Geoparks initiative. Two Geoparks have been declared in Canada to date and there is a list of 11 aspiring geoparks in various stages of development.

Canada Prize

The Canada Prize Foundation was constituted with the objective of providing a senior prize for earth scientists on the level of a Nobel Prize. The foundation has been active since the 1980's and its objective is to raise sufficient funds to endow such a prize. The former Canadian Geoscience Council (CGC) was a founding member of the Canada Prize Foundation and the relationship devolved to CFES, although contact was interrupted for several years. We have recently re-established contact and agreed to provide support to the initiative. The Canada Prize Foundation feels that the membership of an umbrella organization like CFES provides an important aspect of credibility to the effort. Accordingly, after some discussions, the Board agreed that CFES would become corporate members of the Canada Prize Foundation and one of the CFES Directors will henceforth be nominated to sit on the Board of the Canada Prize Foundation. For the present, I occupy that position.

Ongoing Initiatives

CFES continues to be very active on a number of fronts of importance to the Canadian Earth Science community. We continue to support CGEN and the hugely successful EdGeo program and regular teleconferences are held with outreach coordinators from the CFES member societies. Work continues on the CanGeoRef database and the end is in sight for at least the first pass of all the provincial geoscience databases.



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The CFES mentorship medal will be awarded at the GAC President's reception at the GAC-MAC meeting in Whitehorse to Valerie Jackson of the Northwest Territories Geological Survey.

New Initiatives

We have recently begun to consider a project in partnership with Geoscientists Canada to produce a brochure on the subject of Geology and Society. Similar brochures have been produced by the AGI in the US and the Geology Society in the UK, and there is a feeling that a similar brochure in the Canadian context would be of considerable value. Planning has only begun on this project and we will be looking to our member societies to decide whether and how they would like to be engaged in this project.

Conclusion

I believe that CFES is in a healthy position and is well-positioned to function in the role of a coordinating voice for Canadian Earth Science as envisaged by its member societies. I am convinced that CFES performs a necessary function in an otherwise fragmented Canadian earth science community and delivers significant value to our member societies. I hope that our representatives in the member societies will recognize this and help us build support and approval within their organizations. It is particularly important that member societies recognize the value that their CFES dues buys. CFES budgets have been significantly pared to accommodate the current dues structure, in an effort to provide comfort that we are operating on a responsible basis that recognizes the fiscal challenges faced by our member societies. But we can't operate without some money, and it is my view that the current annual dues of all societies is an astonishingly small amount considering the fiscal leverage that CFES provides through our volunteers in a wide variety of activities.

As always, I am very grateful to the volunteers who dedicate their time and passion to the Board, the Council, and the various CFES initiatives. I would like to thank those Councillors who have participated in conference calls, attended Council meetings, and met with Executive to provide ideas and feedback as to the things we are trying to do. I am indebted to the Board of Directors for their time and energy this year and I am especially grateful to those Directors who are retiring from CFES, Mary-Louise Byrne, Carolyn Relf, Jason Dunning, Mike Cherry. All have given more than their fair share over the past several years to ensure the continued success of CFES and we all owe them a debt of gratitude for their hard work and continuing support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Swinden, President.