

## **Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (ACAG) 2022 Annual Report**

The ACAG Executive membership consists of: Dr. Carissa Brown (MUNL, ACAG President (2022-2025); Dr. Mathew Novak (SMU), ACAG Secretary-Treasurer (2022-2025); Dr. Josh Lepawsky (MUNL), Member-at-Large (2022-2025); Dr. Dave Lieske (MTA), ACAG Member-at-Large (2022-2025), Mr. Johnathan Carter (NB), Member-at-Large, Mr. Joshua Barrett (UGuelph but based at MUNL), Member-at-Large, and Miranda Frison, student-representative (2022-2023).

The 31st meeting of the ACAG (ACAG 2022) was held virtually on October 28-29, 2022, and was hosted by Saint Mary's University. There were 52 official registrants. The keynote lecture was presented by Donna Davis: "Cogswell Redevelopment Program at the City of Halifax", followed by an "e-pub" social event. Thank-you to Dr. Mathew Novak and Dr. Peter Bush for another successful virtual ACAG meeting. Our Division continues to embrace the virtual format, first initiated during the start of the pandemic, as a means to better engage our members across the broad geographic distribution of our Division, and to be inclusive of those members unable to travel to in-person meetings.

There were 18 presenters during the main meeting on October 29th, which was a mix of traditional oral presentations and a new "lightning talk" format for emerging research. We were thrilled at the engagement in this year's conference. All presentations were engaging and much discussion was had during our question periods. Three student prizes awarded: First prize: Hannah Kosick (MUNL), for "Drivers of change in the Acadian-Boreal Ecotone of Cape Breton Highlands National Park"; second prize: Ellise Proctor (MUNL): "Forest management alternatives to prescribed burning in Terra Nova National Park, NL"; and Lightning Talk prize: Abigale Coad (MUNL), for "Re-imagining a Northern Housing System: A Case Study of the Partnership between the K'asho Got'ine Housing Society and Housing NWT". There were no poster submissions.

ACAG executive elections were held during the general meeting following our conference programming on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Well much of our executive were still within their first year of their current role, two new nominations were received: Josh Barrett as Member-at-Large and Miranda Frison as Student Representative. Both nominations were carried.

Outgoing President David Lieske gave a tribute to long-serving ACAG executive member Guy Vincent:

"On behalf of the ACAG Executive, as well as the general membership, I wanted to say a special thank you to Professor Guy Vincent, who has been a wonderful colleague and a most dedicated member of the ACAG. Guy has been a continuous member of the CAG since he started his position at the UdeM in 1992.

For me, as a new faculty member starting at Mount Allison in 2007 – and being 'from away' – it meant a lot to always be able to look forward to seeing Guy at an ACAG or CAG meeting. Unfailingly kind, friendly, and with a pleasant, mild-manner, I have always appreciated his candor, his wisdom, and his generosity with his time and energy.

Guy is now the outgoing Secretary Treasurer (some 12 years service), but he has also served as President of the ACAG (2007-2009). We are, I am sad to report, about to lose Guy to retirement, which needless to say, is a bummer for us but likely a source of great joy for him.

Guy, just wanted to say ‘thank you’ and wish you all the best in the coming years. On behalf of the Executive, we have a special gift to present to you.”

Professor Guy Vincent was also honoured with the 2022 Stuart Semple Award. Professor Vincent taught at Université de Moncton for 31 years, and fully embodies the spirit and mission of the “geographic educator”. Stuart Semple presented the award, noting Professor Vincent’s impressive and impactful career as an urban geographer, and a social scientist, who has taught a wide range of human geography courses over his 31+ year career to thousands of students. As part of his acceptance speech, Professor Vincent singled out both his love of cycling and curiosity about urban environments as a young person that fueled (and continues to fuel) his passion for Geography.

Memorial University will host the 32nd Meeting of the ACAG Division in the fall. Details to follow!

Finally, I note that three post-secondary institutions in Atlantic Canada are undergoing or near-to undergoing job action: Cape Breton University, Memorial University, and Saint Mary’s University. I note the impact this has on our Geography community, from students to practitioners to faculty, and send my personal support to all members.

Carissa Brown, Memorial University

ACAG President

30 January 2023

## **2022 Financial Report**

ACAG finances remain in a good position, however, incurring a net decline over the 2022 reporting period. January 2022 saw an opening balance of \$5305.00 with expenses in the form of student awards of \$750.00 and \$125.35 for engraving of the Stuart Semple Award. The year ended with a balance of \$4,429.65.

Opening Balance:	\$5,160.00
Revenue:	\$145.00 (ACAG Annual Rebate)
Expenses:	\$750.00 (Student Awards) \$125.35 (Engraving)
Closing Balance:	\$4,429.65

ACAG's bank account is now managed through the CAG office. Payments are made through the CAG office on the request of ACAG's Treasurer. This system greatly simplifies the local accounting of ACAG's finances.

Mathew Novak

ACAG Secretary/Treasurer

January 25, 2023