

Report from Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers

Submitted by Jennifer Mateer, President (mateerj@brandonu.ca)

Please find below the annual report from the Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers. In this report you will find a summary of our activities over 2025. I have included notes from Executive meetings and a report from the AGM that was held in March. Details of the current Executive are also provided. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The WDCAG Annual Meeting

On March 7–8, 2025, the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers met for an in-person Annual Meeting at Thompson Rivers University (TRU). The 66th Annual Meeting was a tremendous success, greatly supported by TRU's Geography Department—which provided robust assistance from both students and instructors. We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Crystal Huscroft, Dr. Darryl Carlyle-Moses, Dr. Robin Westland, Dr. Tom Waldichuk, and Dr. Michael Mehta for their invaluable contributions to this memorable event.

Notable information from the event include:

- Registered Attendees: 156
- Poster Presentations: 59
- Oral Presentations: 31
- A well attended Workshop: "Career Planning and Education – Leveraging for Geography Students"

Additionally, we have initiated discussions regarding the possibility of the University of British Columbia hosting the 2026 meeting, although this plan remains pending formal confirmation.

Notes from Executive Meetings

The WDCAG Executive met both in person during the 66th Annual Meeting for our AGM, as well as virtually throughout the year to ensure continuity of business. Despite some disruptions—including a shortage of committee members and a mid-year change in the presidency that left us still dealing with interim leadership issues—the executive maintained its functions effectively.

We have been trying to reignite excitement for publishing in Western Geography, our division journal. Daniel Brendle-Moczuk proposed that we explore indexing the Western Divisions journal, and then report back on our progress at next year's meeting. In addition, we discussed introducing a student competition at the meeting. This initiative could encourage the submission of more papers, offer a platform for smaller projects, and promote further access.

We also considered our approach to International Women's Day by exploring ways to avoid scheduling conflicts that might diminish conference attendance and/or limit the amount of engagement participants are able to have with IWD. Along with this we discussed whether establishing an EDI task

force for WDCAG specifically would be beneficial. Furthermore, the matter of membership encouragement was raised, with questions about whether this responsibility should be integrated into existing executive roles or if a new executive position should be created.

WDCAG Executive 2025- 2026

The following comprises the Executive Committee for the WDCAG for the coming year.

- Past - President Jennifer Mateer (2025);
 - Current: Our Understanding is Julie Young may be able to return; Shannon Fargey is serving as interim.
- Vice-President –Adam Hawkins (UNBC) (2025-2026)
- Secretary-Treasurer – Shannon Fargey, UVic (2025-2026)
 - Tom Waldichuck, TRU (2024-2026)
 - Zoe Meletis (2024-2026)
 - Parthi Krishnan, Kwantlen (2024-2026)
- Student Representatives (2-4)
 - Alberta –
 - British Columbia - Glen Thielmann (UNBC)
- Western Geography Editor – Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVIC)
- Archivist – Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVIC)
- Awards Officer – Sophie Norris (UVIC)
- BC Education Chair –Tom Waldichuk (TRU)
- Newsletter Editor – Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic)
- Webmaster – Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic)