



72<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Video Conference  
Thursday, June 2, 3:30-5:30pm EDT

## Minutes

### Executive Committee at opening of the AGM:

President: Neil Hanlon  
Vice President: Nathalie Gravel  
Secretary-Treasurer: Joseph Leydon

### Division Representatives:

Atlantic: David Lieske  
Ontario: Joseph Aversa  
Prairies: Janna Wilson  
Québec: Chantal Déry  
Western: Craig Coburn

### Councillors:

Craig Coburn  
Heather Castleden  
Matt Dyce

Sinead Earley

### Student Councillor:

Celeste Digiovanni

## Welcome

CAG President Neil Hanlon welcomed the members in attendance, thanked them for taking time to participate virtually in the 72nd Annual General Meeting (AGM), and delivered his land acknowledgement. Neil invited participants to provide their land acknowledgement in the meeting chat box and went over some general housekeeping guidelines for the meeting.

### 1. Approval of Agenda\*

Motion to accept the agenda of the 2022 AGM

Craig Coburn/Evan Cleave  
Motion Carried

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting\*, Thursday, June 10, 2021. Virtual.

Motion to accept minutes of the 2021 AGM

Craig Coburn/Evan Cleave  
Motion Carried

### 3. Announcements

- a. **Memorials** – a moment of silence is observed while the names of the deceased are displayed.
- b. **Undergraduate Awards** – the award winners, identified by departments, are announced. They receive a complimentary 1-year membership to the CAG in 2023. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all the departments who submitted candidates.
- c. **CAG 2022 Awards** – the recipients of the CAG 2022 awards are announced. Thank you to all who nominated a colleague for a CAG Award, all nominees were deserving of recognition. Members were encouraged to continue to nominate their colleagues and students for the awards.

## REPORTS

### 4. *The Canadian Geographer* (TCG) – Editor's Report\*

\*Written reports available at [www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2022](http://www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2022)

Nadine was unable to attend the meeting and the TCG Editor's report was presented by Neil Hanlon. He noted that this would be Nadine's penultimate year as editor of *The Canadian Geographer*, and that the journal has responded well to the challenges faced over the last few years. Neil highlighted upcoming changes to the journal, such as the name change and change in journal design. In 2021 the journal received a large increase in submissions as well as an increase in Open Access papers (from 4 to 8), also reported was an increase in the number of downloads, up 40% over previous years. There was an emphasis on special sections in 2021, as well as efforts to increase the number of French papers thanks to French Editor Martin Simard. With Martin's help, the editors started the revision of the Style Guide and Author Guidelines, which is scheduled to be completed in 2022. 2021 saw a decrease in Book Reviews but was offset by a large number of submissions in January 2022. This year also marked the final year for Ryan Burns as the book review editor for the journal. Neil thanked Ryan for his service. The editorial team continues to work on decreasing the time from submission to initial decision and saw a significant decrease between 2020-2021. The most recent available Impact Factor was 1.5 for 2020, the highest index historically to date. Overall, the journal is in a strong position.

Motion to receive the TCG Editor's Report

Craig Coburn/Evan Cleave  
Motion Carried

5. Officers' Reports:

a. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

i. Financial Statements 2021\*

CAG Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Leydon went over the audited financial statements, noted very little difference in CAG operations from 2020 to 2021. He highlighted the slight increase in assets are due to all Regional Divisions and majority of Study Groups transferring their funds to the central CAG account. He also noted that operations and investments remain relatively stable.

The membership revenue somewhat recovered in 2021 but is still low compared to pre-pandemic numbers. Membership registration is expected to see a decline again in 2022 and virtual Conference enrollment numbers were not as high as expected. Royalties from Wiley has remained stable. Joseph stated that the CAG and Wiley are negotiating a new contract and projections suggest Royalty revenue will remain stable over the next five years. There was a small surplus in 2021 as a result of investment income and surplus generated from the conference at UNBC. Joseph noted little change in expenses for 2021, and that the CAG moved to a home office, resulting in savings associated to rent payments. These savings would be used towards the transition to the home office and increase in salary for the Executive Assistant.

Motion to accept the 2021 Financial Statements

Craig Coburn/Evan Cleave  
Motion Carried

ii. Budget 2022

Joseph presented the budget, with actual revenues and expenses for 2021 and estimates for 2022. It is expected that revenues for 2022 will be slightly lower as a result of the slowed rate of membership renewals and lower than expected registration numbers for the annual conference. It is also expected that investments will yield lower interest return on investments due to volatility of the markets. Joseph stated that he anticipates expenses to remain similar to 2021, and that office expenditures will remain relatively similar due to the hiring and transition of a new Executive Assistant. Joseph explained that in the Executive recommended that the small surplus be used to support the work of three groups that were established through the Executive last year – Indigeneity and Decolonization Committee, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and Membership Taskforce Committee.

Motion to accept the 2022 Budget

Craig Coburn/Evan Cleave  
Motion Carried

\*Les rapports écrits sont disponibles à [www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2022](http://www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2022)



Motion to appoint Andrews & Co for 2022  
Financial Statements

Craig Coburn/Evan Cleave  
Motion Carried

b. President's Report\*

Neil summarized his report, highlighting the accomplishments the past year despite facing COVID restrictions, including the formation of two ad-hoc committees in the Indigeneity and Decolonization, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committees. He recognized the importance of the committees and credited Heather Castleden and Sinead Early for the groundwork laid moving forward. Neil discussed the formation of the Membership working committee and the valuable information generated from their efforts. He thanked all five Regional Divisions for their work and for finding innovative ways to gather their members to host regional meetings in spite of restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Neil highlighted the continued efforts and importance in digital communications for keeping our community connected and informed throughout the year. He continued to thank Nathalie Gravel (Incoming CAG President) and Jean Hébert (RGQ Vice-President), for leading an initiative to consult with Francophone Department Chairs and faculty through a virtual tour across sixteen departments. This consultation produced valuable information to inform the associations efforts in making CAG activities, resources, and processes more inviting and accessible to Francophone members. Neil noted the departure of Kathryn Laferriere, CAG Executive Assistant and thanked Kathryn for all her work and contributions during her five years with the CAG. He also addressed the ongoing search for a replacement Executive Assistant. In 2021, the CAG created a new position for a Francophone Student Councillor, and welcomed Leena Lamontagne Dupuis, who was elected as the first student to fill this role. Once again, this year, the executive meetings were held virtually outside of the conference program, which will likely continue in the future as a way to generate considerable cost savings. Regarding the TCG, the Wiley publishing agreement is expiring in 2023. However, contract negotiations are ongoing to renew the relationship for another five years. He also addressed the upcoming journal name change, because the French name is expressed in the masculine form, the CAG and Wiley have developed a gender-neutral name to promote inclusiveness and acceptance in the Geography Community. The change to *Canadian Geographies/Les Géographies Canadiennes*, is expected to role out in 2023. Neil announced the upcoming Conference for 2023, a return to in-person setting at the University of Quebec in Montreal, as well as the planned Regional meetings. He also provided some insight into membership numbers, noting the slight improvement from 2020 to 2021, but does not anticipate a significant recovery in 2022. Neil concluded his report by sharing that this is the end of his term as President and that he is grateful for all the work and achievements that the Association has accomplished. He thanked the CAG Executive and fellow Geographers he got to work with during this time, and acknowledged Nathalie and Joseph for all their hard work and commitment to the Association.

Motion to receive the President's Report

Craig Coburn/Evan Cleave  
Motion Carried

6. Division Reports

- a. Atlantic\*
- b. Québec\*
- c. Ontario\*
- d. Prairie\*
- e. Western\*

Motion to receive all Divisions Reports

Craig Coburn/Evan Cleave  
Motion Carried

7. National and International Affairs

- a. The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) – Renewed membership, Neil was unable to attend the AGM.
- b. The Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES)\* - Written report available. Renewed membership and Dr. Krys Chutko has agreed to be the new CAG representative to the CFES,

\*Written reports available at [www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2022](http://www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2022)

- c. The International Geographical Union (IGU) – Renewed membership and thanked the National Research Council of Canada for their sponsorship. Neil announced the IGU meeting to be held in person, in Paris the month of July. The CAG will not be attending in person.

Motion to receive the CFHSS, CFES and IGU reports

Craig Coburn/Evan Cleave  
Motion Carried

## OTHER BUSINESS

8. FIGS governance concerns re: a) Study Groups special events funding application process; b) mini-executive; and c) CAG mission.

Discussion was led by Zoe Meletis and Leah Coppella from the FIGS Executive Committee. The discussion surrounded the CAG Study Group Special Funding Program. Ahead of the 2022 Conference, FIGS presented a budget with a \$7,700 request for funding, in which the CAG Mini-Executive countered, requesting a reduction in budget and ultimately agreeing to fund \$3,000. The FIGS Executive asked the CAG to reconsider, but an agreement was never reached. FIGS presented a proposal to the CAG to improve the Study Group Special Funding application process and to revise internal governance and processes.

Neil clarified that, procedurally, the AGM is not equipped to treat the FIGS statement as a motion as it was not submitted in both official languages. In addition, the virtual format of the AGM required that motions be submitted in advance of the AGM for pre-loading in the presentation slides and Zoom polls. However, he did receive the statement and recommendations on behalf of the Executive for its consideration.

9. Updates on special CAG Committees and initiatives

Neil explained that Heather Castleden was unable to be in attendance to provide an update for the Indigeneity and Decolonization Committee, but reminded Executive members that the draft terms of reference was submitted and encouraged everyone to read the draft and provide their feedback.

Sinead Earley provided an update on the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion ad-hoc Committee, detailing the work that is to come. This includes the process establishing the committee through careful recognition and diverse representation from the CAG membership and beyond, as well as the task of building a terms of reference.

Sinead introduced Rae Jewett, who made a brief presentation for the EDI Sub Committee on Gender Based Data Collection. The sub-committee is working with the CAG to address issues of gender identity on the CAG registration page and within the CAG itself to recognize inclusiveness and improve service to the membership.

David Lieske discussed the Membership Taskforce Committee survey. Received 128 English language responses and approximately 20 French responses. The quantitative data has been reviewed, and the content analysis is currently being analyzed by two volunteer Political Science students. David detailed next steps for compiling the data and reviewing it with the sub-committee before sharing results and preparing a report.

10. Nominations from the floor to the Elections Committee

In 2023 the CAG will be seeking nominations for a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, two Councillors, and an Anglophone Student Councillor. The Elections Committee is composed of four members: Past President as Chair, two members chosen from the floor at the AGM, and one member of the Executive Committee. CAG members Jenna Dixon and Andrea Rishworth volunteered from the floor.

11. Adjournment



Canadian Association of Geographers  
Association Canadienne des Géographes

Motion to adjourn

Craig Coburn

**Executive Committee at closing of the AGM:**

President: Nathalie Gravel

Past President: Neil Hanlon

Secretary-Treasurer: Joseph Leydon

**Division Representatives:**

Atlantic: David Lieske

Ontario: Joseph Aversa

Prairies: Janna Wilson

Québec: Chantal Déry

Western: Craig Coburn

**Councillors:**

Craig Coburn

Heather Castleden

Matt Dyce

Sinead Early

**Student Councillor:**

Leena Lamontagne Dupuis