



## 2025: Annual Report to the CAG/ACG on Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes

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### Overview

This report presents and explains a number of metrics that describe the situation of *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes* vis-à-vis the academic publishing landscape at the end of 2025.

2025 marked a year of significant change for *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes*. Three key changes deserve highlighting:

- First, we welcomed a new Book Review Editor, Dr. Daniel Cockayne (Waterloo), who commenced in the role effective January 1, 2025.
- Second, the journal commenced and completed its transition to *Research Exchange (REx) Review*, our publisher Wiley’s new editorial and reviewer portal. We had already previously transitioned to REx for purposes of manuscript submissions back in 2024. This change-over to REx Review brought with it many changes to our



editorial workflows. Dr. Ellen Randall, the journal's long-serving Editorial Assistant, was absolutely instrumental in shepherding us through all the changes that were involved. This transition has also meant more standardization across Wiley titles that apply to us as they do to other journals in Wiley's portfolio. For instance, we no longer have the ability to set bespoke resubmission deadlines – these are now a standard 30 days for minor revisions and 90 days for major revisions, although we regularly grant extensions at authors' requests. Similarly, we have lost our bespoke email templates (reviewer invitation, manuscript decision, etc.), but we do have the ability to edit sections of stock templates for various tasks. With the erosion of bespoke services have however come some gains in efficiencies in administering the journal.

- And third, in 2025, we fully transitioned over to a 'continuous publication' (CP) model, a change which started to take effect at the very end of 2024. This means that articles are directly published into a volume/issue when published online, rather than being published in an initial 'online first' or 'early view' format only to be subsequently assigned to a numbered volume/issue. We still continue to publish four volumes a year (each volume closes at the end of a three-month window – end of March, end June, end of September, end of December). The change lies in issues differing in size depending on the flow of finalized manuscripts/corrected proofs entering production within any one issue window. Additionally, papers that are part of special issues (SI) may not get published in separate issues and may even straddle volumes, rather than individual SI papers being held back until the SI is finalized. SI papers are published effectively in real-time, and are assembled together in a virtual special issue at a later date (once the final participating manuscript has been published).

With our transition to REx Review (which includes the editorial portal), we no longer have access to the same metrics we did as when we interfaced with, administered, and edited the journal via ScholarOne (also known as 'Manuscript Central'). In previous years, Annual Reports provided detailed breakdowns of submissions by submission type, as well as by language (whether a French or English manuscript). Wiley however does not parse data out in as great detail – instead, these reporting details were drawn from data that we ourselves recorded and were able to reconstruct through ScholarOne. Given the change to the new system, commencing in 2025, we are changing the way we report metrics and statistics to the Association in our annual reports, providing less detail about submissions and instead including enhanced detail about manuscripts actually published in a given calendar year. To continue to track and report on manuscript submissions in comparable detail to previous years would have required us to manually collect our own data. Given the administrative load associated with this task – in particular at a time of greater-than-

normal administrative burden associated with full-scale transition to REx – we have shifted towards reporting on data the way it is aggregated and presented to us by Wiley.

## Emphases in 2025

### Special Issues

In 2025, we did not publish any special issues. This may be unusual vis-à-vis the most recent years previous, but it is not historically anomalous from a longer-view perspective of the journal. We do however currently have four special issues in progress. These are at various stages of development: one nearing completion, one past the mid-point, one in initial stages of progress (manuscripts submitted at in first round of review), and one that has been approved and set up in the system but is yet to accept any submissions. These special issues will be reported on in years in which they are finalized. We expect between one and two of the above-mentioned in-progress specials will be finalized in 2026.

### 'Editor's Pick' Articles

We continued our practice of selecting outstanding manuscripts published in our journal as 'Editor's Pick' articles that are profiled by the Association and, where not published Open Access, are made free to read for one month. With a few except, we met our aimed-for schedule of profiling up to two articles every second month.

### Changes to Word Limits for Select Manuscript Types

Effective 2025, we increased our standard word limits for *Research Articles* and *Review Articles* by 1,000 words, from 7,500 words inclusive to 8,500 words inclusive. This was enacted in response to frequent requests from authors for expanded word count allocations, and it also brings us into closer alignment with word limits at other journals in disciplinary Geography (7,500 words inclusive of all text was comparatively low). For *Research Articles*, we also set a word count floor of 5,000 words. Setting a range of 5,000 – 8,500 words for *Research Articles* indicates to authors that we remain open to receiving shorter papers, which is especially important given that we are a whole-of-discipline journal and some subfields produce and submit shorter papers owing to pedagogical practices and convention. We did not specify a word count minimum for *Review Articles* as

these submissions tend to be longer owing to comparatively expansive citation practices and longer reference lists.

Our shortest submission type remains the *Viewpoint – Point de vue*, for which we updated the description in our Author Guidelines to clarify that *Viewpoints* are not intended as a vehicle for advancing novel theorization nor substantive empirical analyses. Our updated description of the *Viewpoint* now reads:

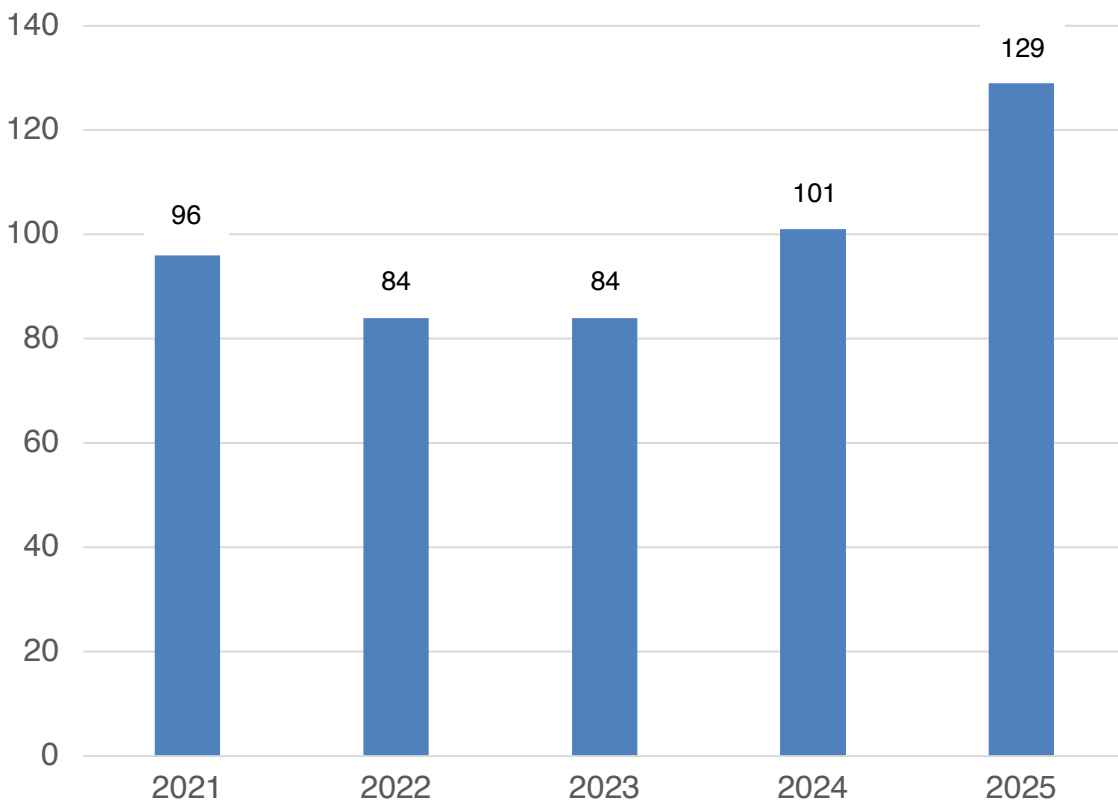
“A short article of 2,000-3,000 words that offers a particular perspective (or ‘view’) on geographical debates, problems, or issues. These articles may be provocative but should not advance novel theorization nor report on substantive empirical analyses (which should be developed as full-length Research Articles). Viewpoints must be fully referenced and will be refereed. Additionally, Viewpoints must be accompanied by an abstract in either English or French and may be supported by a maximum of 5 tables and/or figures. The 3,000-word limit includes the abstract, all text, references, captions/headings, and tables.”

## Manuscript Submissions and Dispositions

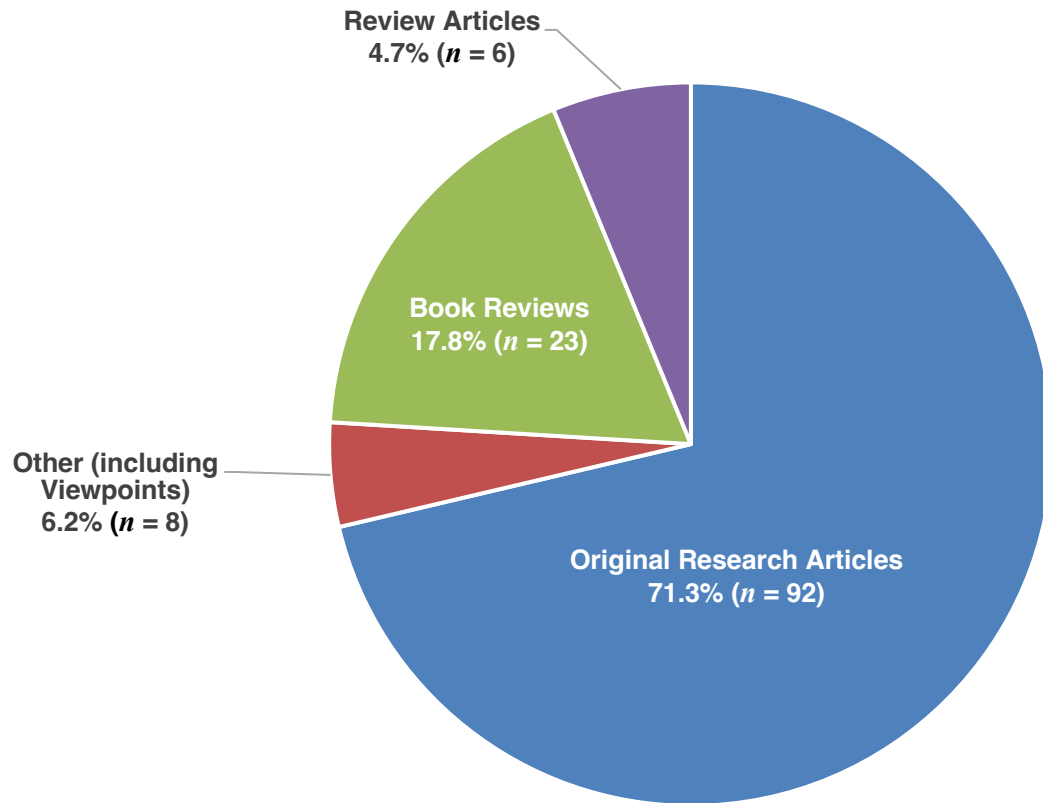
### Submissions

Our total submissions across all submission types in 2025 was **129**. This represents a 27.72% increase in submissions over recent years (**Figure 1**), a very positive trend. This significant bump in submissions is likely attributed to two special issues that were actively accepting submissions throughout 2025, and one additional special issue that began to welcome submissions towards the end of 2025.

2025 submissions broken out by manuscript submission type are shown in **Figure 2**.



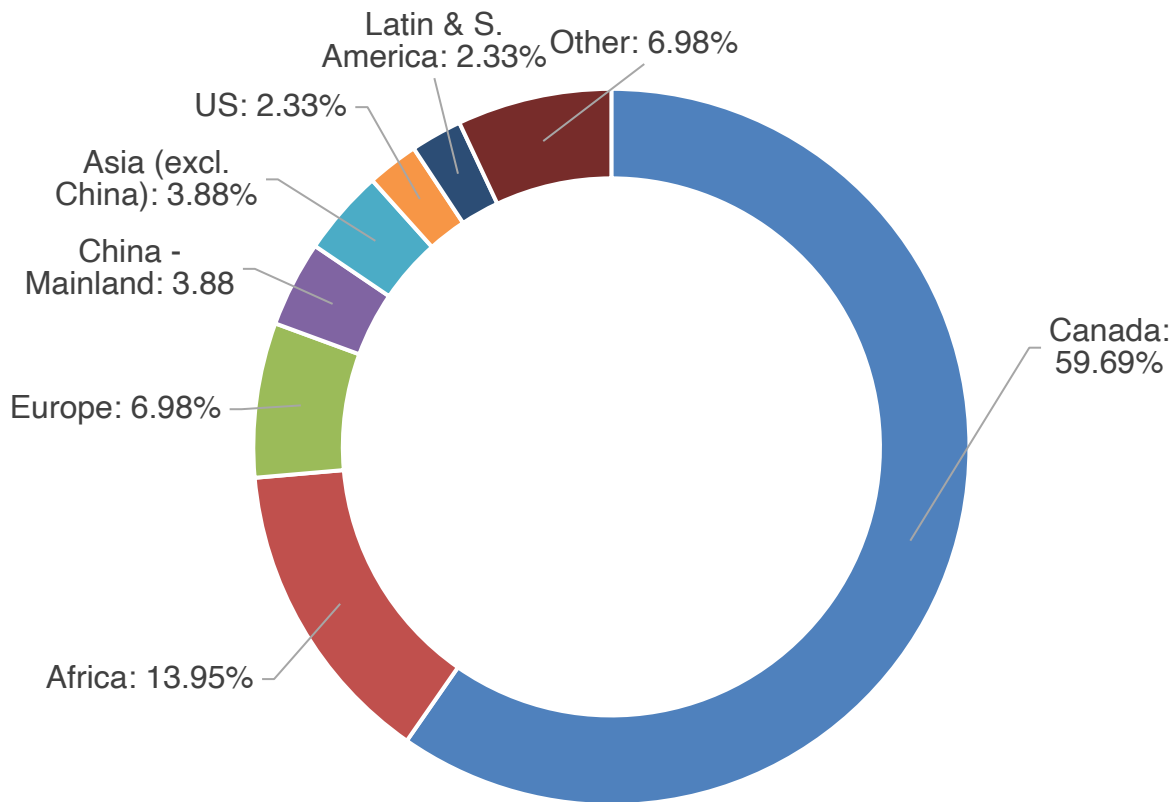
**Figure 1.** Total manuscript submissions, 2021 – 2025.



**Figure 2.** 2025 manuscript submissions by submission type.



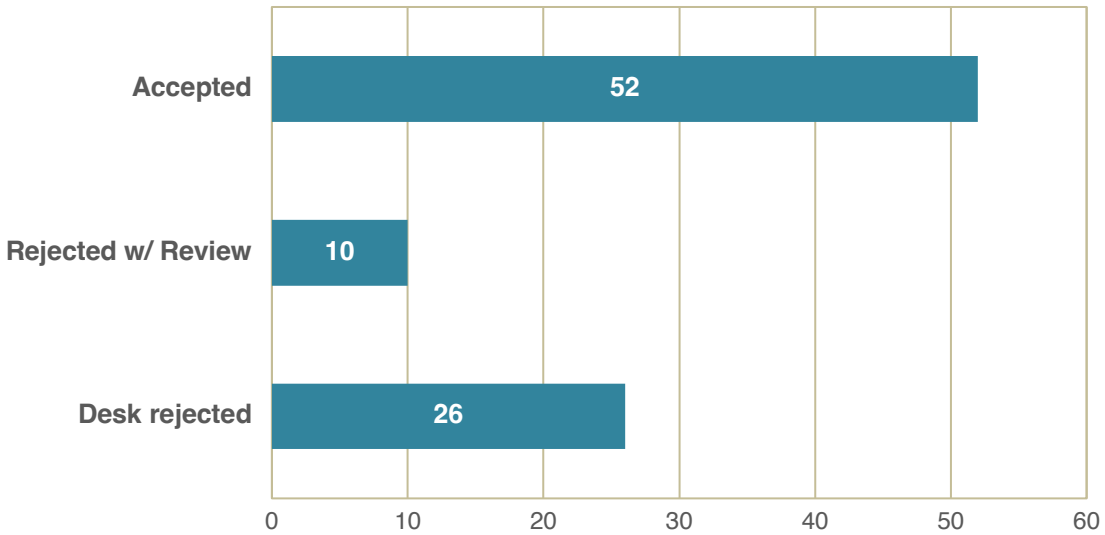
As in previous years, the vast majority of our submissions were from Canada-based scholars (**Figure 3**). This was followed by authors located in Africa (including Algeria, Morocco, Cote D'Ivoire, Benin, DRC, and Cameroon) and Asia.



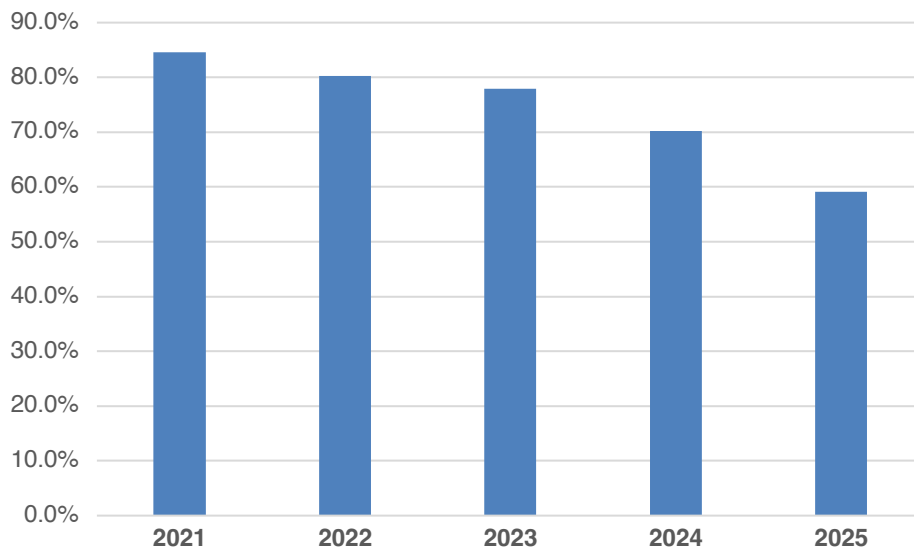
**Figure 3.** 2025 submissions by submission country/region.

### **Dispositions**

In 2025, we rendered 88 final decisions on submissions. Decisions are summarized in **Figure 4**. Our acceptance rate for 2025 was 59.1%. Our acceptance rate has steadily declined in each year over the last five years (from 84.6% in 2021; **Figure 5**), which may potentially be attributed to an increase in desk rejections of out-of-scope submissions from international authors. Notably, our acceptance rate remains very high compared to other journals in Geography.



**Figure 4.** Dispositions of manuscripts that received a final decision in 2025.

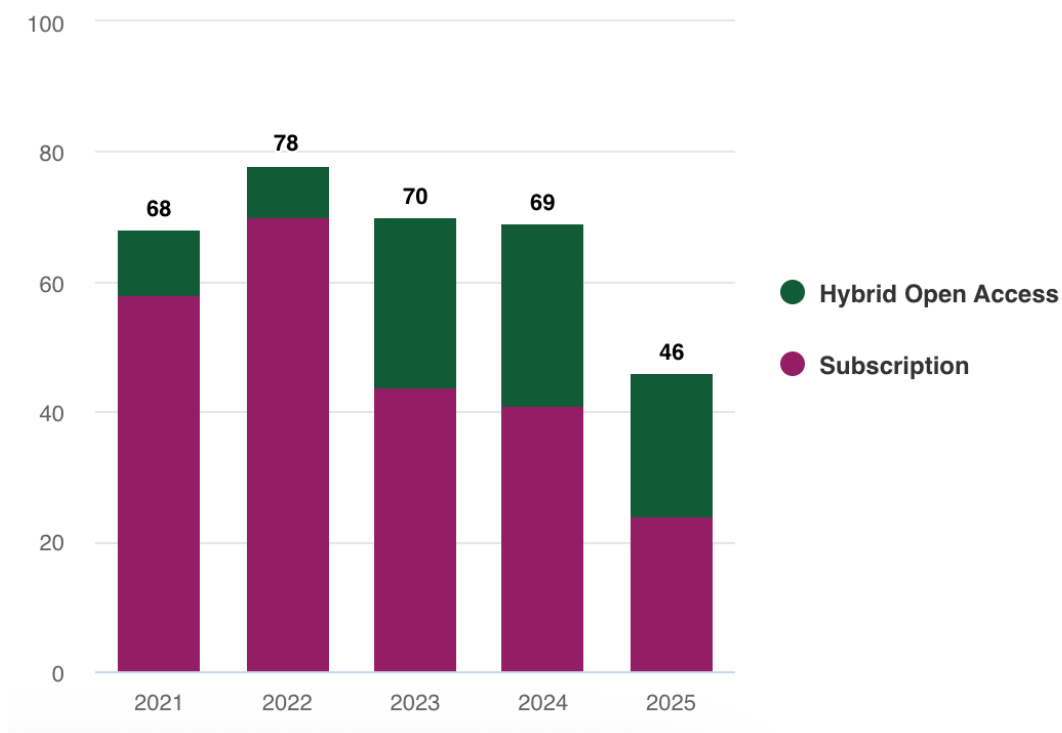


**Figure 5.** Downward trend in acceptance rate, 2021 - 2025.



## Publication Metrics

In 2025, we published 46 articles online (**Figure 6**). This  $n$  (46) represents a decrease of 1/3 compared to 2024. We do not have a definitive explanation for this year-on-year decrease, but this may be due to the increased volume of special issue submissions received in 2025. Special issue manuscripts always take longer to move through the submission-review-decision-publication timeline. They tend to take longer to secure reviewers for, and guest co-editors may take longer to reach decisions on papers, especially where they liaise with each other in decision making. Median days to review completion have held more or less constant over the last five years, and there are no delays in production timelines at our publisher's end that would explain this. The *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes* Editors also action manuscripts (first decision, inviting reviewers, rendering decisions) in a timely manner that falls well within standard turnaround times.



**Figure 6:** Manuscripts published online in 2025, as compared to 2021 – 2025.



As may be visually discerned from **Figure 6** and as is accounted for in greater detail in **Table 1** below, 2025 represented the first year where submissions were published Open Access (OA) at near parity with submissions published under a subscription model. This is undoubtedly owing to the Transformational Agreement (TA) signed between Wiley and the *Canadian Research Knowledge Network / Réseau canadien de documentation pour la recherche (CKRN/Rcdr)*, which gives authors affiliated with Canadian higher education institutions the opportunity to publish their manuscripts Open Access at no cost. Given that the majority of our submissions are from Canada-based authors, this TA is having a significant impact in driving up OA publishing in our journal. This is significant for us, with 80% of our top-ten most viewed papers in 2025 were published OA (**Table 5**). It is also important to know that not all submission types are eligible for publishing OA under the TA; for instance, Book Reviews and In Memoriam are not eligible.

Publication Year	Subscription Model	Hybrid Open Access
2021	58 (85.29%)	10 (14.7%)
2022	70 (89.74%)	8 (10.25%)
2023	44 (62.86%)	26 (37.14%)
2024	41 (59.42%)	28 (40.58%)
2025	24 (52.17%)	22 ( <b>47.83%</b> )

**Table 1.** Number and percentage of manuscripts published online in each year (2021 – 2025) by model of publication: *Subscription* (article is only available to read for those with institutional subscriptions to the journal, or via purchase of the article), and *Hybrid Open Access* (articles published open access either under the Transformational Agreement, or via payment of an Article Processing Charge [APC]).

While we are no longer able to provide detail about submission types by language of submission as in previous years for reasons explained above, we are able to report these details for manuscripts **published** online in any given year. The breakdown of manuscripts published by language of publication and manuscript type is provided in **Table 2**.



Manuscript Type	English	French
Research Article	20	5
Review Article	1	-
Viewpoint	1	-
Book Review	18	1
Other	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6</b>

**Table 2.** Number of manuscripts published online in English and French by manuscript type in 2025. “Other” includes In Memoriam, Addresses, and Introductions to Special Issues, none of which were published in 2025. Total  $n = 46$ .

## Reviewing and time-to-decision/publication

This year’s report does not present reviewer metrics – including the number of reviewer invitations sent, the number of invitations accepted, and the number of reviews completed – as the data reported to us by our publisher is potentially spurious. This is owing to the transition to our new editorial system and our having worked in an editorial capacity across two software platforms in 2025 – ScholarOne and REx (with a period of overlap between them) – which has produced uncertainty at our end about how the reviewer data was compiled. We will resume reporting reviewer metrics next year in our report for journal year 2026.

For this same reason, we have also decided not to report our timeline to decision and publication metrics for 2025. There has been uncertainty around these 2025 statistics as reported to us by our publisher earlier this year (2026), as they have acknowledged to us. Again, this is attributable to our having worked across two different editorial platforms over the course of the year, with some manuscripts being handled in both systems at various points over the course of the year. As with reviewer metrics, our timeline metrics will be reported on again starting next year (report for journal year 2026). We expect to have a much more reliable, accurate, and stable picture of both reviewing activity and timelines to decision and publication for 2026 as all manuscripts are now being handled within one single platform.



## Bibliometrics, rankings, and readership

### Impact Factor

Impact factors (IFs) and rankings are reported in late June for the preceding year. Our 2025 impact factor held steady, after decreasing somewhat in 2023 and 2024 from a historical high of 1.8 achieved in 2022 (**Table 3**). In 2024, many impact factors were downgraded across journals, so we are not alone in experiencing this.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Journal Impact Factor	0.89	1.47	1.14	1.03	1.5	1.48	1.8	1.4	1.3	TBA

**Table 3:** Journal Impact Factor, 2013-2024.

### Citation

The 10 papers with the most citations in 2025 (based on 2 years of citation) are identified in **Table 4** below.



Rank	Author(s)	Article Title	Year	Volume (Issue)	Total 2 Year Citations	FWCI* 2025	Open Access?	Special Issue?
1	Liu, D et al.	Analyzing disparities in transit-based healthcare accessibility in the Chicago Metropolitan Area	2021	66 (2)	18	2.56	Y	N
2	Das, R R et al.	Quantifying the prevalence of energy poverty across Canada: Estimating domestic energy burden using an expenditures approach	2022	66 (3)	17	2.6	N	N
3	Goodman, N et al.	Public engagement in smart city development: Lessons from communities in Canada's Smart City Challenge	2020	64 (3)	16	2.72	N	Y
4	Levenda, A et al.	Rethinking public participation in the smart city	2020	64 (2)	15	3.4	N	Y
5	Cockayne, D	The feminist economic geographies of working from home and "digital by default" in Canada before, during, and after COVID-19	2021	65 (4)	13	1.08	N	Y
6	Youdelis, M et al.	"Wilderness" revisited: Is Canadian park management moving beyond the "wilderness" ethic?	2020	64 (2)	11	1.48	N	N
7	Fan, JY & Sengupta, R	Montreal's environmental justice problem with respect to the urban heat island phenomenon	2022	66 (2)	10	1.76	N	N
8	Johnson, PA et al.	Canadian smart cities: Are we wiring new citizen-local government interactions?	2020	64 (3)	9	1.3	N	Y
9	Aldred, T-L et al.	Mining sick: Creatively unsettling normative narratives about industry, environment, extraction, and the health geographies of rural, remote, northern, and Indigenous communities in British Columbia	2021	65 (1)	9	1.17	Y	Y
10	Richmond, C et al.	Supporting food security for Indigenous families through the restoration of Indigenous foodways	2021	65 (1)	9	1.84	Y	Y

**Table 4.** Top 10 most highly cited papers in 2025, based on 2-year citation. \*FWCI = Author Field Weighted Citation Impact, a citation impact factor weighted by the field which “indicate[s] how the number of citations received by a researcher’s publications compares to the average or expected number of citations received by other similar publications. Similar publications are determined by year, type, and discipline” (Deakin University, 2023: n.p.).

## Readership

Full text views for 2025 ( $n = \sim 173.25k$ ) showed a slight decline over recent years (**Figure 7**). The full text views metric is estimated for 2025 because our publisher now only reports the number of full text views in Wiley Online Library ( $n$  for 2025 = 151.13k), but not in other sources such as EBSCOhost. However, in our publisher’s annual reporting to us, they *visualize* the views in EBSCOhost. Based on graphical interpolation, the views in EBSCOhost accounted for an additional  $\sim 22.12k$  views, bringing the total to an estimated  $n = \sim 173.25k$  for 2025.



**Figure 7:** Trends in full text views in Wiley Online Library and EBSCOhost, 2021-2025.

The top 10 most viewed papers in 2025 are identified in **Table 5**. Most of these papers – 8/10 – were published within the past 5 years (since 2021), indicating that recent excellent scholarship drives strong readership and engagement with our journal. Importantly, seven of our top ten most read articles in 2025 represent contributions by Indigenous researchers or scholarship co-produced with Indigenous community members; engage Indigenous perspectives and/or issues of concern to Indigenous communities; report on conducting research with Indigenous communities, Indigenous knowledge production, and learning; and address the topic of settler colonialism. This speaks to the importance of our journal as a destination venue for the publication of these vital works, and as a place to find, read, and engage with this scholarship.

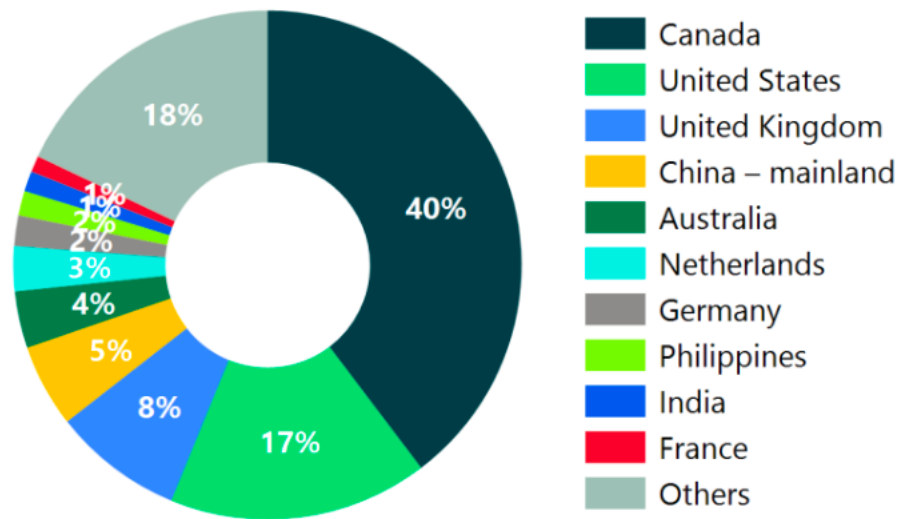
As **Table 5** further shows, 80% of the top ten most viewed papers in 2025 were published Open Access, including some prior to the signing of the Transformational Agreement. 50% of our top ten most viewed papers were also part of Special Sections – highlighting the importance of Specials in driving continued audience engagement with scholarship published in *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes*.

Rank	Author(s)	Article Title	Year	Volume (Issue)	Open Access?	Special Issue?	2023 Full Text Views
1	Pottie-Sherman, Y et al.	Navigating the housing crisis: A comparison of international students and other newcomers in a mid-sized Canadian city	2024	68 (1)	Y	Y	4,512
2	Lutz, K. et al	Examining the impacts of school bus travel on students' academic performance in two major cities	2024	61 (4)	Y	N	3,976
3	Woodward, S. et al	"It's not being 'on-the-land,' it's like we are a part of the Land": Indigenous youth share visual stories at "on-the-land" camps in the Dehcho	2025	69 (1)	Y	N	2,011
4	Barker, AJ	Carcerality and the elimination of Indigenous people in Canada	2025	69 (1)	Y	N	1,836
5	Bowra, A et al.	Indigenous learning on Turtle Island: A review of the literature on land-based learning	2021	65 (2)	N	N	1,743
6	Bernauer, W	Canadian settler colonialism: Structure, event, relationship, or process?	2024	68 (4)	Y	N	1,721
7	Richmond, C et al.	Supporting food security for Indigenous families through the restoration of Indigenous foodways	2021	65 (1)	Y	Y	1,610
8	Ramirez Prieto, M et al.	Food programs in Indigenous communities within northern Canada: A scoping review	2024	68 (2)	Y	N	1,438
9	Hoover, KC et al.	Surveillance, trust, and policing at music festivals	2005	66 (2)	Y	N	1,397
10	Castleden, H et al.	"I spent the first year drinking tea": Exploring Canadian university researchers' perspectives on community-based participatory research involving Indigenous peoples	2012	56 (2)	N	N	1,390

**Table 5:** The ten most viewed papers in 2025 on Wiley Online Library.



The top source countries for full text views are shown in **Figure 8**. 40% of our readership (full-text views traffic) was from within Canada. This tracks with both *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes* being a national association journal that publishes primarily (though not exclusively) on Canada-based research, and with the vast majority of our authors also being based in Canada (see **Figure 3**).



**Figure 8:** Top source countries and regions for full text views in 2025.

## Altmetrics and the use of media exposure to measure relevance

Large publishing houses have been tracking which articles get media and social media exposure for some time now. They report this exposure via a metric called the ‘Altmetric Score’. This is another way to measure relevance especially outside of the academic community. A number of papers published by *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes* attracted such exposure in 2025 (**Table 6**). In 2025, *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes* received 129 Altmetric mentions, of which 45.79% were driven by news media coverage; 31% from social media; 18.6% from Wikipedia; and 4.65% accounted for by other (e.g., blogs). The articles with the highest (aggregate) all-time Altmetric scores in 2025 are shown in **Table 6**.

Article title	Publication Year	Altmetric Score
Future prospects for backyard skating rinks look bleak in a warming climate	2024	55
Intensification in the city centre: Barriers to implementation in Regina, Saskatchewan	2024	54
Altering consumer practices, facing uncertainties, and seeking stability: Canadian news media framings of international retirement migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic	2022	38
Navigating the housing crisis: A comparison of international students and other newcomers in a mid-sized Canadian city	2024	33
The Index of Economic Disparity: Measuring trends in economic disparity across Canadian Census Subdivisions and rural and urban communities	2024	32

**Table 6:** Articles with the highest Altmetric scores in 2025.

## Final word & looking forward

2025 was a transitional year for the journal from a logistical perspective for the Editorial Team. We endeavoured to make this transition as smooth – and indeed unnoticeable – for our submitting authors and reviewers as possible. On this, much is owed to Ellen Randall, our Editorial Assistant, who spearheaded this transition and shepherded the Editors through all the changes this involved, and implemented all of the logistical changes that ensued. Furthermore, the continued stewardship of the journal would not have been possible without the concerted efforts of our French Editor Martin Simard, as well as our Book Review Editor Daniel Cockayne, both of whom showed full support and flexibility in navigating our editorial transition. As briefly mentioned in the highlights of this report, the erosion of our ability to use our own bespoke templates and to fully proxy in reviewers and guest editors in the new system have presented particular challenges for French language authors and reviewers. In particular, I thank our French Editor Martin Simard for devising creative strategies and solutions to navigating these linguistic challenges to ensure that



*Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes* remains an operationally bilingual journal, a choice destination for French language manuscripts, and welcomes and supports author and reviewer activity in French.

As noted in this report, we anticipate being able to provide a much more stable, reliable picture of the state of the journal for journal year 2026 (next year's report, to be delivered in 2027). The prospect of three special issues being finalized over the two years 2026 – 2027 is important as we look forward, given that special issues are a large draw for us in terms of readership and publicity for the journal.

Additional changes also loom on the horizon for *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes*. Martin Simard, our long-serving and dedicated French Editor, will be stepping down in this role at the end of 2026. Efforts to appoint a new French Editor to take over in 2027 are already underway, and we expect to be able to announce the incoming French Editor by mid-year 2026.

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