

Canadian Association of Geographers' Standing Committee on Decolonizing and Indigenizing the Professional Association

Annual Report (2024)

Report prepared by Co-Chairs: Jaimy Fischer and Heather Castleden

This is the second annual report of the Standing Committee on Decolonizing and Indigenizing the Professional Association. The current Committee, whose membership is noted below, continues until the 2024 AGM at which time a call for new members will be circulated via the CAGlist. The Committee's membership includes:

Knowledge Keeper, Adele ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ Arseneau (nehiyaw (Cree) Métis)
Knowledge Keeper, Edward Johnson, Huu-ay-aht First Nations
Co-Chair Heather Castleden, University of Victoria
Co-Chair Jaimy Fischer, Métis Nation, University of Toronto
CAG President | Ex-officio Member, Nathalie Gravel, Université Laval
Emmanuel Kofi Ackom, University of British Columbia
Léa Denieul Pinsky, Concordia University
Hosea Patrick, University of Toronto
Ryan Planche, Wilfred Laurier University
Carolyn Prouse, Queen's University
Sarah Rotz, York University
Deondre Smiles, University of Victoria

The Standing Committee met six times during 2023-2024; agendas and minutes are not currently posted on the CAG website but they are available by contacting either of the Co-Chairs or the CAG executive assistant. Any member of the CAG is welcome to participate in the Committee's meetings as non-voting individuals.

Major initiatives.

June 20, 2023:

We finalized our invitation to invite Knowledge Keepers to the Committee. Jaimy and Heather, as Co-Chairs, were tasked to extend invitations to Indigenous individuals in their respective circles.

Committee members took on various initiatives that they were interested in furthering (e.g., developing a proposal for a special issue to *Canadian Geographies*, developing a survey around D&I for the CAG membership, developing a template for a D&I newsletter, populating the new Living Library on the CAG website with D&I content, and applying for funding from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences to support reciprocity within our work).

Sept 22, 2023:

Our inaugural Knowledge Keepers, Edward and Adele, were welcomed to the Committee.

The CAG Executive tasked the Committee to consider the desirability and feasibility of one to two new Indigenous Executive Committee positions (regular member and student member); we discussed the matter extensively and in the following meeting made our recommendation to approve both positions.

The CAG Executive also tasked the Committee with reviewing the CAG Manual for Organizing Annual General Meetings, providing suggested edits, deletions, and additions; we reviewed the content extensively and the work was ongoing.

The Co-Chairs prepared a Committee statement for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Sept 30th, 2023) and submitted it to the executive secretary to post on the CAG website.

Nov 28, 2023:

The Committee continued to populate the Living Library with new D&I resources.

The CAG Executive formed a Governance work group; Heather and Carolyn volunteered to join the work group to ensure our Committee's voice on that work group.

The Committee's review of the CAG Manual for Organizing Annual Meetings continued; in the meantime, Heather reached out to the MUN Local Organizing Committee to offer support if needed.

Jan 26, 2024

The Committee finalized its review of the CAG Manual for Organizing Annual Meetings.

The Committee discussed the possibility of a new CAG award for D&I Service to the Profession.

May 5, 2024

The Co-Chairs proposed a special "Fireside Chat with the D&I Committee's Knowledge Keepers" at the upcoming AGM; the proposal was accepted. However, due to community commitments, the Knowledge Keepers are unable to travel to MUN in August so the committee will defer this event to a future gathering.

In planning for this event, we identified the need for additional funding as a serious barrier for Knowledge Keeper participation at our Annual Meetings. One possible solution would be to invite new and renewing CAG members to make a donation to support the costs associated with honoraria and travel to the Annual Meetings. Heather was tasked with bringing this suggestion to the CAG Executive at their May 29 meeting; the Executive welcomed the idea and invited the Committee to prepare a Concept Paper. We have submitted this paper to the executive secretary as an agenda item for the CAG Executive meeting taking place August 1, 2024.

July 26, 2024

In our forthcoming meeting, the committee will finish drafting the D&I Service to the Profession Award concept paper, conduct membership succession planning, gather items to distribution in the first edition of our newsletter, and discuss whether the CAG IPWG is able to match funds from our committee to support inclusion of the D&I Committee's Knowledge Keepers in future CAG events.

Announcing an upcoming vacancy for role of Co-Chair: Having served as chair of a CAG working group that developed the Standing Committee's Terms of Reference in 2021-2022, and serving as Co-Chair since the Standing Committee was formed in 2022, Heather Castleden will step down as Co-Chair at the conclusion of the 2024 CAG Business Meeting at the Annual General Meeting in St John's, Newfoundland. In light of her departure, we also say Klecko, Klecko to Knowledge Keeper, Edward Johnson for his important contributions to this Committee. The new Co-Chair will be responsible for inviting a new Knowledge Keeper to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimy Fischer and Heather Castleden, Committee Co-Chairs