

**Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences**  
**Report to the Canadian Association of Geographers**

March 31/April 1, 2023

The annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES) was held as a hybrid meeting, with some attendees meeting in Ottawa and others attending remotely via GoToMeeting.

Interim CFES Council meetings were held in December 2022 and February 2023.

**Friday March 31, 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 ET**

The meeting was opened by CFES President Beth McLarty Halfpenny with a round of introductions from CFES Board members, Member Organizations (MOs), and Observers. The agenda and minutes from the 2022 AGM were approved.

Beth McLarty Halfpenny presented an overview of CFES activities over the past year:

- Recommended to discontinue pursuit of CanGeoRef, a bibliographic database covering Canadian geoscience literature and developed partly by CFES. Survey results suggest that Canadian geoscientists default to the global GeoRef database, so no apparent need for a Canada-specific version.
- The President of the Canadian Geoscience Education Network (CGEN) resigned recently and no replacement has been identified. The CGEN President also sits on the CFES Board as Outreach Director. Efforts to reconstitute the CFES Executive are in progress.
- Nominations for CFES Board positions President-Elect (Imad Alainachi) and Communications Director (Fiona D'Arcy) have been received.
- The Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) was admitted as a new Member Organization. Discussions are ongoing with the Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Canadian Geophysical Union regarding membership.
- CFES Past President Rachel Newrick released 3 articles highlighting Member Organizations. [An opportunity here to highlight **CAG** to the wider geoscience audience.]
- October 6 is the annual UNESCO International Geodiversity Day. Member Organizations are encouraged to use this day to draw public attention to geoscience.

The 2023 CFES Mentorship Medal will be awarded to Dr. Brendan Murphy (STFX). If you know of an individual in Canadian academia, government, or industry who is a worthy nominee for this award, please submit a nomination form at <https://www.cfes-fcst.ca/mentorship-medal>.

The primary topic of conversation centred around the IUGS IGC2028 Bid Investigation Committee Report. CFES was identified as a likely organization to lead the investigation of Canada as a potential host for this large geosciences conference and a committee was struck in 2022. Canada has not hosted this event since 1972 (Montreal). Several potential sites were identified and Calgary was chosen for the

bid. The committee is led by Katherine Boggs and Dave Eaton. While the bid itself is not due for submission until 2024, an expression of interest is due April 1, 2023, during this AGM. A vote will be needed to determine whether or to submit the EOI (tomorrow). Discussion focused around:

- Inclusion and roles of Indigenous peoples and communities in the bid. The committee has reached out to several groups including local Indigenous tourist businesses to develop land-based excursions for attendees, a major component of IGC meetings.
- Financial risks of hosting such a large event. While CFES is leading the organization of the bid, a foundation will be set up to handle the financial aspects, thus protecting CFES from any potential risks (eg, pandemic restrictions, etc.)

The day concluded with some Member Organization Reports. On behalf of the **Canadian Association of Geographers** I submitted the 2022 President's Report and briefly discussed the newly named Canadian Geographies journal.

The first day of meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm ET.

### **Saturday April 1, 2023, 9:00-5:00 ET**

The second day of the meeting started with a discussion of the CFES Audit and Governance Committee terms of reference. This is a new committee to oversee CFES operations and build in institutional memory – committee member terms will overlap several CFES Executive cycles.

Discussion about the Canada Prize and Canada Prize Award Foundation continued from the previous CFES AGM. CFES has taken over administration of this prize intended to resemble a "Nobel Prize for the Earth sciences". Though initiated in the 1980's, it gained very little traction and the original organizers handed it over to CFES in 2022. Most struggles centre around securing sufficient funding. Work continues to make this work.

The CFES website has a career page and they are looking for contributors. Across Canada, undergraduate student enrollment in geoscience programs is down, and this is one opportunity to promote the wide range of work and experiences that geoscientists do. **CAG** members that engage in the geosciences are encouraged to share their experience with students.

- An important point was made at the end of the day that "geoscience" is not limited to geology. While CFES membership is weighted toward geological organizations, there are some organizations, like **CAG**, that lean more toward Earth system science, hydrology, or meteorology. These groups tend to be underrepresented on the CFES website, which is a place where we can promote ourselves.

The financial report was presented by CFES Finance Director Keith Delaney.

- 2022-23 totals show a \$42,288.83 loss. About ¾ of this was due to consolidation and rebuild of the CFES website.
- The 2023-24 budget was presented showing a \$5847.00 deficit. Several years of budget deficits is prompting discussion of raising Member Organization membership fees.

- The **CAG** pays annual dues (\$400) to the CFES based on membership. **CAG** currently sits above the threshold for the \$400 fee bracket; depending on how CFES counts memberships, an increase in dues may be expected for 2024.
- The proposed budget was approved by Board and Council.

Two votes were taken to determine how to move forward with the IUGS IGC2028 bid:

- Motion 1: That CFES supports immediate submission of the attached Expression of Interest (EOI) to host the 2028 IGC – PASSED.
- Motion 2: That CFES encourages its member organizations to collaborate with the soon-to-be-established Canada IGC 2028 Foundation to prepare a bid to host the IGC 2028 as describe in the attached information package – PASSED.

A strategic plan brainstorming event occurred to identify how to move forward with CFES Strategic Objectives:

1. Provide coordinating role and common voice for member organization and the Earth Science community in Canada
2. Coordinate public policy advocacy on behalf of Earth Science in Canada
3. Facilitate public awareness of Earth Science and Earth Science literacy
4. Represent and promote Canadian Earth Science internationally
5. Provide service to member organizations in particular, and to the Earth Science community in general
6. Coordinate support for professional and academic organization in Canada

There was a presentation by Lesley Hymers and Victoria Stinson on the 2022 Geologist in Residence program at Pukaskwa National Park. The program was considered a success and nominations are open for the 2023 position.

During the Annual General Meeting, Janice Zink was promoted to CFES President. Calls were made to fill vacant Executive positions as well as for any potential new member or observer organizations.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 ET.

Submitted by Krystopher Chutko, CAG Representative to CFES