

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

Annual Report (2026)

Report prepared by Co-Chairs: Léa Denieul Pinsky and Deondre Smiles

This is the fourth annual report of the Standing Committee on Decolonizing and Indigenizing the Professional Association. The current Committee, whose membership is noted below, continues until the 2026 AGM, at which time a call for new members will be circulated via the CAGlist. The Committee's membership includes:

Co-Chair Deondre Smiles, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, University of British Columbia
Co-Chair Léa Denieul Pinsky, Concordia University
CAG President | Ex-officio Member, Susan Elliott, University of Waterloo
Hosea Patrick, University of Toronto

The Standing Committee met four times during 2025-2026; agendas and minutes are not currently posted on the CAG website but they are available by contacting either of the Co-Chairs. Any member of the CAG is welcome to participate in the Committee's meetings as non-voting individuals.

Major initiatives.

December 10, 2025

With the D&I committee membership significantly reduced after the 2025 AGM, it was agreed that Deondre Smiles and Léa Denieul Pinsky would step in as co-chairs.

A call for new members was posted in CAG networks following the meeting, in addition to a link to the D&I Survey regarding barriers to Indigenous participation in the CAG.

March 2, 2026

Committee members met to discuss the invitation of Knowledge Keepers as per the Committee's Terms of Reference. We have not been able to generate any interest within our networks so far. It can be difficult to request the time and labour of community members given their other responsibilities, but we are diligently working to find people to step in.

April 4, 2026

Committee members met to discuss the onboarding of 3 new members: **Astou Thiam** (PhD Candidate University of British Columbia), **Desmond Oklikah Ofori** (PhD Candidate Western University), **Chrishma Perera** (PhD Western University).

April 21, 2026

At its forthcoming meeting, members went over the Committee's Terms of Reference, revisited and populated the annual workplan and sent bios and pictures for the D&I website. A significant portion of the meeting will be dedicated to discussing the Committee's objectives moving forward, based on

actions in the workplan. We also discussed gathering more responses for the D&I survey as several committee members will be attending the general meeting this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Léa Denieul Pinsky and Deondre Smiles, Committee Co-Chairs