



Canadian Association of Geographers
Association Canadienne des Géographes

75th Annual General Meeting
Hybrid Conference
Thursday, May 22, 1:00-2:30pm EDT

Minutes

Executive Committee at opening of the AGM:

President: Susan Elliott
Past-President: Nathalie Gravel
Secretary-Treasurer: Derrek Eberts

Division Representatives:

Atlantic: Carissa Brown
Ontario: Evan Cleave
Prairies: Christopher Malcolm
Québec: Chantal Déry
Western: Jennifer Mateer (Acting President)

Councillors:

Christopher Hewitt
Deondre Smiles
Jaimy Fischer
Jenna Dixon

Student Councillors:

Jesse Sutton
Yvon Guerrier

Welcome

CAG President Susan Elliott opened the meeting by welcoming the members in attendance, and those from the Executive committee who have joined virtually. She promoted the CAG social media picture contest and addressed using today's meeting to start rebuilding the CAG's "village". She informed those in attendance that the CAG will have asks to the membership throughout the meeting to help with building the CAG's village. Susan went over general housekeeping guidelines for the meeting and reminded the membership that meetings with the Board can be called at any time. The quorum is reached.

1. Approval of Agenda*

Motion to accept the agenda of the 2025 AGM

Jonathan Carter/Jennifer Mateer

Agenda approved with a friendly amendment to include an item 10.a) for additional relevant business.

Motion carried with 3 abstentions.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 74th Annual General Meeting*, Saturday, August 17, 2024. Hybrid.

Motion to accept minutes of the 2024 AGM

Derrek Eberts/Nathalie Gravel

Motion carried with 18 abstentions

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 2026. Congratulations to all winners, and thank you to all the departments who submitted candidates.
- c. **CAG 2025 Awards** – the recipients of the CAG 2025 awards are announced. Thank you to all who nominated a colleague for a CAG Award, all nominees were deserving of recognition.

*Written reports available at <http://www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2025>

REPORTS

4. *Canadian Geographies / Géographies canadiennes* – Editor's Report*

Agnieszka presented her report on the status of the journal for 2024. She indicated that the submission numbers for 2025 are down compared to last year and encouraged everyone to support and consider submitting to the journal. She highlighted the journal's decision to online first publication time has decreased considerably, which she believes is a selling advantage of the journal to have publications come out relatively quickly. Agnieszka took over the role of Editor-in-Chief for *Canadian Geographies* in January 2024 and among her first tasks was to reconvene the Editorial Board. The new Editorial Board features some previous members to maintain continuity and are all serving a 3-year term, effective until January 2027. She thanked Nalini Mohabir for her 3-years of service as Book Review Editor for the journal, and welcomed Dan Cockayne, who took over the role in January 2025. Agnieszka reviewed the key changes to the journal in 2024, which included transitioning to a Continuous Publication Model. This new model has papers being published directly into a numbered volume, and special sections being assembled digitally. She also discussed the move to a new article submission system, 'Research Exchange' (ReX), Wiley's in house submission portal, and acknowledged Editorial Assistant, Ellen Randall, for her work in integrating the new system. In addition to these changes, Agnieszka also reviewed the updated decision harmonization, and update of the journal description. She thanked Susan, Phil, and Martin for their contributions to the journal description update. Agnieszka then highlighted the two published specials from last year, one bilingual special and one French special, guest edited by French Editor, Martin Simard. Going over journal stats for 2024, Agnieszka addressed the signing of the transformational agreement with the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), and the option for authors to publish open access (OA). In 2024 *Canadian Geographies* published 28 OA papers, 27 of which, were published under the terms of the new transformational agreement. 70% of the top 10 most viewed papers in 2024 were OA publications. The journal received 66 original article submissions (excludes Book Reviews, In Memoriam, or Addresses). One bilingual submission was counted twice, once for each submission language. Original research articles continue as the dominant form of submissions in 2024 at 74.5%, with the majority of submissions coming from Canada. Of peer review eligible original manuscripts, accepted 22 papers, 2 were under review, 12 were in the process of being revised, 9 rejections, and 18 desk rejections. The journal made 358 review requests, receiving a 43% reviewer invitation acceptance rate while using a 2-reviewer system for rendering decisions. In terms of timeline to decision, the median days to 1st decision is 25 median days, a 34-day reduction compared to the previous year. 22 median days to final decision, a 51-day reduction, and 58 days to online publication, a 71-day reduction. Agnieszka noted that this may not be a sustainable metric, attributing the decrease in decision time to her first year heading the journal and the frequency at which she accessed the system to monitor manuscripts. Reviewing the Bibliometrics and Rankings of the journal, she reported a small dip in impact factor. Down to 1.4 in 2023 from 1.8 in 2022, noting that the formula used to determine impact factor has changed. Full text views increased by nearly 10,000 compared to 2023 with 40% of traffic coming from Canada, followed by the USA, Europe, and China. Agnieszka reviewed the top 10 most viewed papers and most cited papers in 2024 and concluded her report by revealing the top Altimetric scores, which identifies article popularity through news media (23.8%) and social media mentions (50.8%).

Agnieszka clarified the difference between a desk reject vs reject. A desk reject is when the EIC decides not to send a submitted paper for a review for reasons including, but not limited to, the quality of the paper, suspicion of AI generated paper, or the EIC is unable to identify at least one Canadian reviewer for the paper. A reject is when a paper goes out for review and the reviewers recommend rejection of the paper.

Susan indicated that as a result of the Editor experience on the current CAG Board, the CAG will be organizing a session at the 2026 Conference at the University of Victoria on how to get published.

Motion Carried by Electronic Vote (Post-Meeting Business)

Motion: To receive the *Canadian Geographies* Editor's report

Date of Vote: May 26-30, 2025

Vote Result: Carried – 57 in favour, 2 Abstained

5. Officers' Reports:

Susan addressed the upcoming 2026 Elections for the CAG and the search for a new Secretary-Treasurer, and requested that Derrek continue his role as Secretary-Treasurer for another term.

a. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

i. Financial Statements 2024*

*Les rapports écrits sont disponibles à <http://www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2025>

Derrek reviewed the predicted deficits of the 2023 and 2024 proposed budgets noting that despite the prediction, the CAG produced a sizable surplus in 2023 as a result of the royalties from Wiley. Given the singular nature of a royalty payment this size, Derrek remained conservative in his projection for 2024. However, he reported that the CAG had once again produced a surplus in 2024 due to the royalty payment provided by Wiley. Derrek then presented the audited financial statements with a focus on the impacts resulting from the two major changes implemented by the CAG in 2024. 1) The Board's decision to reduce how much was placed in capital investments and establishing an organizational reserve fund; 2) Honouring the motion from the 2024 AGM to divest from any funds supporting military industrial complex or indirectly linked to the war in Gaza. Capital gains were realized when divesting from the original investments resulting in substantial growth in the CAG's short-term investments. Derrek reported a slight increase in CAG revenue for 2024, indicating that membership revenue had increased due to logistics in how affiliate membership payments were received, despite membership numbers not actually increasing. Student membership numbers remain consistent and healthy. However, the CAG continues to face challenges with retaining student members beyond their academic years. Derrek reported on the editorial support that the CAG continues to receive from Wiley, noting that the funds are received in US dollars and that fluctuations are anticipated because of the USD-CAD exchange rates. The CAG revenue also benefitted from the profit sharing of the 2024 Conference and a one-time bequest issued to the Association. Derrek addressed increases in CAG expenditures, identifying inflation as a notable cause for the increase. The CAG also provided additional funding for travel support to Students, CAG Award winners, and Board members to attend the 2024 CAG Conference compared to 2023. Given the increase in spending in 2024, the CAG is still well positioned financially, recording a surplus of nearly \$34,000.

Motion Carried by Electronic Vote (Post-Meeting Business)

Motion: To accept the 2024 Financial Statements

Date of Vote: May 26-30, 2025

Vote Result: Carried – 56 in favour, 3 Abstained

ii. Budget 2025

Derrek presented the budget, with actual revenues and expenses for 2024 and estimates for 2025. Despite having resolved the logistics of affiliate membership payments and the jump in revenue in the previous year, he anticipates a decline in membership revenue for 2025. He projects that publication revenue will remain consistent to that received in 2024. This amount received by the CAG is a function of the USD-CAD exchange rate and fluctuates accordingly. Overall, Derrek proposed a decrease in revenue for 2025, as he is budgeting for a slight drop in royalties from Wiley and anticipates the conference to generate a smaller surplus than last year. His proposed budget also predicts an increase in expenses for the CAG in 2025 due to three main factors. 1) Publication expenses are scheduled to increase in 2025 because of increased honorarium payments to *Canadian Geographies* French Editor and Book Review Editor; 2) Office expenses are expected to rise due to salary increases and inflationary pressures on operating costs; and 3) travel expenses are projected to increase as a result of the large number of applicants for the CAG Student Travel Grant. He does, however, anticipate some cost saving on Executive travel due to the centralized location of this year's conference. Derrek's proposed budget projects a modest surplus of \$3,500 in 2025.

Derrek received a question about a 5-year projection concerning membership revenue and the CAG's response to declining membership numbers. Memberships are the second most important category in generating revenue for the Association, but there is a lack of optimism in forecasting the next 5-years as Faculty and Department heads retire and no new staff are being brought in as replacements. Susan addressed this directly indicating that the upcoming proposed special initiatives are a reinvestment in the association and its membership and ideally will attract/re-attract members to join. She also addressed developing planned giving programs to build up an endowment over time, as well as the dedicated CAG Membership committee that is being reformed to help address membership issues and promote the benefits of being a member.

Derrek detailed the process for reinvesting the CAG's funds in response to the motion from the 2024 AGM. The list of publicly traded companies to be divested from was provided to the CAG's Investment Advisor at BMO to create a personalized portfolio that honours the 2024 motion and continues to align with CAG ideals.

Motion to accept 2025 Budget

Derrek Eberts/Chris Hewitt

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Derrek reviewed the organizations decision to assign a reserve fund of \$250,000 after identifying that the capital investments of the CAG were too large. In line with setting up the reserve fund, the CAG Executive, in consultation with the Board, agreed to use the extra money from the capital investments to fund Special Initiatives in order to reinvest in the Association. Derrek presented the four items from the Special Initiatives package in which the CAG believes it can reasonably sustain. 1) Website redesign – a one-time expense, budgeting up to \$15,000. A call for proposals will be assembled and distributed. 2) Secretariat Assistant to the Executive Assistant – budgeting for \$25/hour at half time and one-time startup costs up to \$5,000. 3) Reinvigorate the Study Group initiatives – budgeted at \$15,000. A terms of reference and application process will be established to assist with funding and decision making. 4) Support the D&I Committee with funding for honoraria to Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Budgeted at \$2,000, or \$500 per Knowledge Keeper per year. In total, the Special Initiatives would account for an additional \$62,000 expense to fund the proposed one-time and on-going initiatives in 2025. As a result of funding these Special Initiatives, the impact on the 2025 proposed budget now projects for a deficit of \$58,500. However, Derrek clarified that the Special Initiatives are being funded by separate investment assets, and not operational revenue. The support for on-going initiatives will be reviewed periodically to ensure sustainability or to make adjustments as the surplus of funds gradually depletes.

Jaimy Fischer, as Co-Chair of the D&I Committee provided clarification on the funding request for Knowledge Keepers. Each Knowledge Keeper is scheduled to receive \$250 for 4 meetings per year. A total of \$1,000 each conflicting with the proposed \$500 per Knowledge Keeper as outlined in the package. Derrek explained that going over the \$500 threshold has reporting implications for the CAG. The total amount of funding proposed in the package does not change. However, the CAG will need to issue T4 slips to Knowledge Keepers receiving more than \$500 in honorarium. This discussion will resume offline with the Board.

Zoe thanked the CAG for reintegrating the Study Group specialty funding program and encouraged members and students in attendance to contact their Study Group chairs and start discussing ideas for events.

Motion to accept the Special Initiatives package	Derrek Eberts/Sarah de Leeuw
	Motion carried

Motion to appoint Andrews & Co. for 2025	Derrek Eberts/Evan Cleave
	Motion carried

b. President's Report*

Motion Carried by Electronic Vote (Post-Meeting Business)

Motion: To receive the CAG President's report

Date of Vote: May 26-30, 2025

Vote Result: Carried – 58 in favour, 1 Abstained

6. Division Reports

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

Motion Carried by Electronic Vote (Post-Meeting Business)

Motion: To receive all Division reports

Date of Vote: May 26-30, 2025

Vote Result: Carried – 54 in favour, 5 Abstained

7. National and International Affairs

- a. The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS)
- b. The International Geographical Union (IGU)

OTHER BUSINESS

*Les rapports écrits sont disponibles à <http://www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2025>

8. Update on Motion to affirm the CAG's commitment in support of the Palestinian People

Susan reviewed the motion raised at the 2024 AGM and emphasized the importance of properly addressing each item. She reiterated Derrek's previous point of working with the CAG's investment advisor to respond to the first item concerning the divestment from funds supporting military industrial complex or indirectly linked to the war in Gaza. Susan explained that the CAG believed the best approach to address the remaining items and develop a process for future issues, was to form an internal taskforce of CAG Board members. However, she noted the challenges in recruiting volunteers despite efforts over the past 10 months and invited volunteers from the floor to join a taskforce led by a member of the CAG Board. She then invited American Association of Geographers (AAG) Past-President, Glen MacDonald, to speak about how the AAG addresses similar matters.

Glen shared insights from his experience addressing complex and divisive issues within the AAG, particularly regarding engagement with the military and related funding. Due to the complexity and diversity of opinions among members, the AAG established a task force to explore the issue and produce a thoughtful report for the membership. Glen emphasized that such matters cannot be resolved in a single meeting and benefit from a structured, deliberative process. He also noted that the AAG requires 30 days' notice for motions from the floor, which are shared with members in both English and French. This practice ensures fairness, transparency, and adequate time for members to consider and respond to motions before they are debated.

Following Glen's comments, Susan reflected on the importance of having a sister organization like the AAG to consult with on important matters and proceeded to request for volunteers from the floor and a member of the CAG Board to respond to the remaining items of the 2024 motion.

The membership approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee, chaired by Evan Cleave, to draft a statement and respond to the outstanding items from the 2024 motion. Dr. Ebru Ustundag volunteered to join the committee and will assist in assembling additional volunteers to support its work. As Chair, Evan will represent the CAG and provide regular updates to the CAG Executive.

9. Updates on special CAG Committees and initiatives

- a. Decolonizing & Indigenizing the Professional Association* (Jaimy Fischer)
- b. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility*
- c. CAG Governance Committee (Susan Elliott)

Susan requested volunteers from the floor to populate the committee and assist with updating the CAG Constitution and Bylaws. No volunteers came forward.

- d. CAG Membership Committee (Nathalie)

Motion Carried by Electronic Vote (Post-Meeting Business)

Motion: To receive the Decolonizing and Indigenizing Committee report

Date of Vote: May 26-30, 2025

Vote Result: Carried – 52 in favour, 7 Abstained

Motion Carried by Electronic Vote (Post-Meeting Business)

Motion: To receive the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee report

Date of Vote: May 26-30, 2025

Vote Result: Carried – 55 in favour, 4 Abstained

10. Nominations from the floor to the Elections Committee

In 2026 the CAG will be seeking nominations for a Secretary-Treasurer, two Councillors, and a Francophone Student Councillor. The Elections Committee is composed of four members: Vice-President as Chair, two members chosen from the floor at the AGM, and one member of the Executive Committee.

CAG members Chris Hewitt and Jaimy Fischer volunteered from the floor.

- a. Other relevant business.

Motion submitted in advance from Zoe Meletis proposing that the CAG Executive should:

*Written reports available at <http://www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2025>



- 1) Review its own governance documents and recall that it is meant to be a membership-responsive and membership-serving organization.
- 2) Allow motions from members in good standing from the floor at its AGMs given that:
 - a. it is meant to be a member-facing, member-responsive organization;
 - b. it is funded by members;
 - c. its members only meet as a group once a year; and
 - d. it is a democratic, non-profit organization.

Amendment to item 2 above – change Allow motions to Confirm motions.

This past year the CAG requested motions from the membership to be submitted in writing in both English and French, 7 days in advance of the AGM to promote a fair and equitable revision process. However, this clause was not listed in the CAG by-laws. Susan affirmed that the CAG has recognized that its Constitution and Bylaws are outdated and reiterated the need to populate the Governance committee to address these issues.

Friendly amendment to the motion, the CAG Executive should:

- 1) Review its own governance documents and recall that it is meant to be a membership-responsive and membership-serving organization.
- 2) Create space in the AGM agenda to ensure time for motions from the floor during the AGM.

Zoe Meletis/Sarah de Leeuw

Motion carried with 2 opposed and 1 abstention

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Jenna Dixon

Executive Committee at closing of the AGM:

President: Susan Elliott

Vice-President: Evan Cleave

Secretary-Treasurer: Derrek Eberts

Division Representatives:

Atlantic: Carissa Brown

Ontario: Jesse Sutton

Prairies: Christopher Malcolm

Québec: Chantal Déry

Western: Shannon Fargey (Acting President)

Councillors:

Christopher Hewitt

Deondre Smiles

Jaimy Fischer

Jenna Dixon

Student Councillor:

Ben Woodward

Yvon Guerrier

Philip Thibault (CAG Executive Assistant – Adjoint exécutif de l'ACG)