



2019 ANNUAL REPORT, WESTERN DIVISION, CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS

Submitted: Claire Hay, President

Date: 10 May 2019

The 61st Annual Meeting of the WDCAG was held at the University of Victoria on the traditional territory of the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples on March 8-9, 2019. The theme of this year's conference was *Language in Action*. The conference also supported sustainability initiatives in conference materials and programming. This conference had an attendance of 289 including 211 (mostly undergraduate) students. The meeting began on Friday with a variety of field trips in the Victoria area including a Surfriders Cadboro Bay Beach Cleanup, the cultural/historical landscape stories of SNIDZEŁ (Tod Inlet), and Victoria urbanism. The keynote was given by Dr. Onowa McIvor, Director of the NETOLNEW Research Partnership at the University of Victoria, who shared her wisdom and thoughts on *Revitalizing Indigenous Languages and Lands*. On Saturday, students and faculty presented 71 oral presentations, 10 workshops and panel discussions, and 53 poster presentations. The conference also included executive meetings, the AGM and a banquet. The banquet was held at the Songhees Wellness Centre in Esquimalt on the unceded territory of the Songhees people of the Lekwungen Nation. The WDCAG Executive and membership extends its thanks to Cameron Owens and Ken Josephson for their dedication to organizing a fantastic conference and to all student volunteers.

Each year, the WDCAG acknowledges the outstanding student research being conducted across the division. Awards are presented for posters and oral presentations for undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels. Student presentations were judged by faculty and winners were announced during the banquet. A special thank you to chief judge, Sophia Carodenuto for all of her assistance. The winners are:

Best poster presentations:

- **Undergrad** - *Brittany Coulter (University of Victoria) "Mid-Holocene Advance of Camp Glacier, Haultzuk Icefield, Southern British Columbia Coast Mountains"*
- **Masters** - *Nicholas Parlato (University of Northern British Columbia) "Mountains of Paperwork, Forests of Laws: Challenges in Forming 'Territories of Traditional Nature-Use' in Southern Yakutia"*
- **PhD** - *Christine Todd (University of Victoria) "Tourism Geographies and Alternative Imaginaries: Unsettling Discourses and Destination Branding"*

Best oral presentations:

- **Undergrad** - *Katie Hughes (University of Victoria) "A Volumetric Analysis of Tsunamigenic Landslides at Harrison Lake"*
- **Masters** - *Darcen Esau (University of British Columbia-Okanagan) "Impact of Environmental Imagery in Wine Labeling on The Sensory Taste of Wine"*
- **PhD** - *Aimee Benoit (University of Lethbridge) "Belonging: A Conceptual Lens for Exploring Socio-Spatial Inequalities in Neighbourhoods"*

Annually, the WDCAG presents awards for scholarly distinction, teaching excellence and service to the discipline. This year, the following colleagues were recognized for their achievements:

- J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence – Dr. John Belec, University of the Fraser Valley
- The William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction - Dr. Rubin Rose-Redwood, University of Victoria.



The WDCAG AGM was held during the conference with a 23 members in attendance. The following members comprise the executive for the upcoming year.

President	Claire Hay (UFV)
Past President	Leith Deacon (Guelph)
Vice President	vacant
Secretary/Treasurer	Craig Coburn (Lethbridge)
Members at Large	Steven Marsh (UFV) David Jordan (TWU) Henry Frew (Carrick House Consulting) Ivan Townshend (Lethbridge)
Student representatives – BC	Glen Thielmann (UNBC) Travis Gingerich (SFU)
Student representatives - Alberta	TBA TBA
Western Geography	Joanne Moyers (KingsU; Human editor) Craig Coburn (Lethbridge, Physical/GIS editor)
Archivist	TBA
Awards Officer	David Jordan (TWU)
Newsletter Editor	Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic)
Webmaster	Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic)
BC Education Chair	Tom Waldichuk (TRU) Pam Shaw (VIU)

At the AGM, we recognized 2 colleagues who passed away over the year; Dr. David Chuenyan Lai (Victoria) and Dr. John Shaw (Alberta). Members also approved the WDCAG Statement of Values and Ethics (attached). The next meeting will be held in central BC with a location to be announced soon.

Respectfully,

Cl Hay

Associate Professor, Geography and the Environment
University of the Fraser Valley
WDCAG President



The Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers' Statement on Collegial Conduct and Respectful Exchange – approved March 9, 2019

The Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) and its members acknowledge and affirm that the conduct of geographic activity and the communication of geography involves a wide variety of ethical considerations. The broadest purpose of this statement is to encourage WDCAG leadership and members to consider and critically engage with ethical matters in their professional practice, both as articulated within the scope of what follows and in relation to one's field of scholarship and/or professional circumstances. As a division, the WDCAG and its members value respect, fairness, and professional integrity. As members of the WDCAG and the wider community of geographers, it is our responsibility to uphold the dignity of all persons, to recognize a diversity of intellectual commitments and projects, and to respectfully address colleagues, peers, students and the wider public in written, spoken, and electronic communication. WDCAG leadership and members should exemplify these values in their interactions with others that we encounter through our various professional contexts and activities. The WDCAG and its members are therefore committed to the maintenance of a safe, friendly and inclusive environment at WDCAG forums and business for all participants. Collegiality is integral to written and in-person exchange, and an expression of our commitment to the discipline, to the research and informed views of other practicing geographers, and to the experiences and perspectives of our students and the wider public. The WDCAG is committed to ensuring safe, respectful, and informed exchange among all members and participants at WDCAG events. Discrimination and harassment of others are prohibited, and every effort will be made to provide equal opportunities and ensure the dignity of all members. We recognize that civility does not imply homogeneity or the absence of disagreement. The growing use of electronic forms of communication raises special challenges in this regard, as these can undermine community by facilitating the wide and sometimes anonymous dissemination of statements that are hurtful, embarrassing, or of unreliable veracity. Therefore, WDCAG leaders and members shall not use electronic communication systems with the intent to embarrass, intimidate, or misrepresent (i.e., 'cyberbullying'), and moderators of electronic exchange among WDCAG members and participants in WDCAG events will strive to ensure the maintenance of these standards. The WDCAG does not intend for this statement to cover the range of ethical considerations confronted by geographers in their professional practices. The activities of geographers are diverse, as are the situations within which they learn, research, teach, exchange, and engage with the world's problems and challenges. As such, this statement should be viewed as a guiding document and interpreted relative to similar standards and guidelines within specific professional communities (e.g., public servants, university faculty, engineers) and/or that oversee the research enterprise in this country and beyond (e.g., University and Tri-Council standards for research with human and animal subjects, The Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami National Inuit Strategy on Research, The World Health Organization Ethical Standards and Procedures for research with human beings).

Therefore, members of the WDCAG and participants in its activities are expected to abide by the values and ethics outlined here, and WDCAG executive and Annual Meeting organisers will take these values into account when considering all WDCAG matters, such as nominations to the Executive, and eligibility for WDCAG awards.

Adapted from:

The American Association of Geographers
The University of California Berkeley
California State University
Smithsonian Museum