

## CAG Award for Geography in the Service of Government or Business Dr Donna Williams



Donna Williams, Program Manager, Atlas of Canada and an active and dynamic member of both the CAG and the CCA for the past twenty-five years, is an ideal candidate to receive the 2012 CAG Service to Government Award for four distinct reasons:

- First is her longstanding commitment to the National Atlas of Canada through both good and difficult times. She has made numerous and varied contributions to its development, reshaping and ongoing production; her leadership in rethinking the design and delivery of the Atlas to take advantage of new on-line possibilities led to an innovative user-centred design approach and ensured not only the survival of the Atlas project but its blossoming into a highly innovative pedagogical, outreach and reference tool. Some relevant examples are the Northern Settlements map and the Aging Population map for the 5th edition; her work with Tydac Systems, a private sector firm, to develop a prototype school atlas; and her oversight of the production of the module The Territorial Evolution of Canada, 1867-1999.
- Second is her proactive engagement in re-conceptualizing the relationship between the Atlas and the Web, making both classic and innovative geographic data sets and concepts readily available, appealing and relevant to a wide variety of audiences in Canada and around the world. Some relevant examples include: her participation in the mid-1990s in strategic planning for the first online version of the Atlas (6th edition) and her organizing and overseeing of the newly formed Atlas of Canada project within the Geomatics for Connecting Canadians Program.
- Third is her consistent and important engagement in diverse opportunities for bridge-building and mutual knowledge exchange between geographers in the academy and in the federal government (especially Natural Resources Canada and Industry Canada). Some relevant examples include: her support for the development of the National Atlas on Schoolnet – a joint Industry Canada/Natural Resources Initiative; her work with the Canadian Council on Geographic Education to organize and run workshops with teachers to establish their needs for Schoolnet Atlas; her involvement in the Atlas portion of the organization committee for the 2006 GeoTech conference in Ottawa; and her participation as Research Associate at Carleton University's Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre.
- Finally we want to highlight her persistent and dynamic commitment to examining and highlighting important gendered dimensions of various geographic and cartographic activities and issues, and drawing out their implications for professional practice and public policy. Some relevant examples include: her editorial activities for the Women and Geography Newsletter of the CAG; her key role as consultant to the ICA Task Force on Women in Cartography leading to joint authorship of The Participation of Women in the International Cartographic Association: Report and Recommendations; her preparation and leadership of two seminars on Gender and Cartography: Experiences from Other Disciplines in 1993 in Cologne/Kohn, Germany; her recent research activities pertaining to the gendering of spaces of competitive youth sport.