



74th Annual General Meeting
Hybrid Conference
Saturday, August 17, 4:00-5:30pm NDT

Minutes

Executive Committee at opening of the AGM:

President: Nathalie Gravel

Vice-President: Susan Elliott

Secretary-Treasurer: Derrek Eberts

Division Representatives:

Atlantic: Carissa Brown

Ontario: Evan Cleave

Prairies: Christopher Malcolm

Québec: Chantal Déry

Western: Craig Coburn

Councillors:

Heather Castleden

Sinead Earley

Christopher Hewitt

Deondre Smiles

Student Councillors:

Leena Lamontagne Dupuis

Jesse Sutton

Welcome

CAG President Nathalie Gravel opened the meeting by welcoming the members in attendance, and those from the Executive committee who have joined virtually. She thanked everyone for taking time to participate in the 74th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and went over some general housekeeping guidelines for the meeting. The quorum is reached.

1. Approval of Agenda*

Motion to accept the agenda of the 2024 AGM

Evan Cleave/Chris Hewitt
Motion carries

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting*, Wednesday, May 10, 2023. Hybrid.

Motion to accept minutes of the 2023 AGM

Evan Cleave/Chris Hewitt
Motion carried

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 2025. Congratulations to all winners, and thank you to all the departments who submitted candidates.

c. **CAG 2024 Awards** – the recipients of the CAG 2024 awards are announced. Thank you to all who nominated a colleague for a CAG Award, all nominees were deserving of recognition.

Susan introduced the Eric Creighton Mentorship Award to the members in attendance. This new CAG Award will begin seeking nominations in 2025. Eric's colleagues and friends presented a proposal to the CAG for an award in honour of Eric's memory.



REPORTS

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

Agnieszka presented her report on the status of the journal for 2023, as stewarded by past Editor-in-Chief (EIC), Emeritus Professor, Nadine Schuurman. Agnieszka took over the role of EIC in January 2024. Highlights from the journal in 2023 included updating the name and introducing the new logo and cover design, translating the new author guidelines to French, and the signing of the transformational agreement between Wiley and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN). This agreement gives all authors at Canadian based institutions the opportunity to publish Open Access (OA). The agreement has generated a 100% increase in OA publishing, from 12 in 2022 to 26 in 2023. As a result, OA papers received 3x the views and 2x the citations. Agnieszka indicated that download numbers have become less relevant and that online views have become the more important metric. The journal published two special sections last year, both featuring guest editors. In 2023 the journal received 84 total submissions, 29 Book reviews, and 55 original submissions. Of these original submissions, 15 were French manuscripts, a record number in French language submissions over a 10-year trend. Agnieszka reported that original submission numbers were slightly down compared to the submission peak from 2021. However, current year submissions are trending upward with 53 as of the end of June 2024, a 32.5% increase compared to the same time last year. The journal sent out a total of 341 review requests, and received a reviewer invitation acceptance rate of 32%, a 45% decrease in from 2022. The journal will continue the practice of using 2 reviewers for making decisions on papers. Agnieszka highlighted the improvement to the journals time to decision, 59 median days to 1st decision, 73 median days to final decision, down 129 days from 2022, and 139 days to online publication, down >200 days from 2019-22. The total journal views are slightly down compared to peaks in 2021 and 2022, but significantly above the long-term trend. Current year usage sits at 84.8K as of the end of June 2024, a 15.9% increase YTD. The journal achieved a record impact factor at the end of 2022 of 1.8. Agnieszka revealed the top altimetric scores, which identifies article popularity through social media. A significant driver of the scores is driven by X(Twitter) but anticipates the altimetrics to become less significant in the near future.

Motion to receive the *Canadian Geographies* Editor's Report

Susan Elliott/Derrek Eberts
Motion Carried

5. Officers' Reports:

- a. Secretary-Treasurer's Report
- i. Financial Statements 2023*

Derrek expressed his thanks to past Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Leydon for his help with the transition into this role. Derrek presented the audited financial statements noting the differences from 2022 to 2023 and the modest increase in CAG assets. He addressed a small adjustment to the previous year's final reported numbers, detailing the discovery of a GIC held by one of the CAG's Study Groups. The review engagement also discovered the 2022 reported assets were higher than actual, as two CAG investment accounts were counted twice. The 2022 assets should display \$76,000 less than reported. These discoveries were adjusted and corrected for 2023. Derrek presented a summary of the CAG's liabilities, commenting on the funds held in trust, Regional Division/Study Group funds, and restricted revenue, of which are not accessible for day-to-day CAG operations. The Association's deferred revenue is composed primarily of the 50th anniversary account, which is reserved for funding student travel to Annual Conferences. Overall, the CAG's assets are experiencing healthy growth, and the Association is in a good position with its net assets & liabilities.

The CAG's total revenue saw growth in 2023. However, the Association continues to struggle with membership revenue, which has once again declined compared to the year prior. Student membership numbers remain consistent and healthy, whereas Regular member numbers are dropping as the CAG is challenged with retaining student members beyond their academic years. Wiley remains an important revenue stream for the CAG, providing a fixed publishing grant to cover annual editor expenses, as well as shares of royalty revenue. Both sources are provided in US dollars and are dependent on the currency exchange at the time of transfer. Royalty revenue has proven to be an unpredictable factor for the CAG, as the total amount received was significantly more than projected in the 2023 proposed budget. While the

*Les rapports écrits sont disponibles à <http://www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2024>

total revenue surpassed the expected budget presented in 2023, Derrek is cautious to rely on continuous growth in future year's due to the unprojected increase of royalties.

The major expenses in publications and office operations decreased in 2023 due to one-time cost savings. The CAG paid less in professional fees as consultation with past Executive Coordinator, Kathryn Laferriere, have ceased with Philip fully engaged and occupying the Executive Assistant role. The publication of GeogNews has been included in the Executive Assistant contract, and despite Editor wages increasing in 2023, Editorial fees decreased compared to 2022. Travel expenses increased as a result of returning to in-person conferences. The CAG resumed funding travel expenses for executive members and the student travel grant.

Motion to accept 2023 Financial Statement

Evan Cleave/Camille Ouellet Dallaire
Motion carried

ii. Budget 2024

Derrek presented the budget, with actual revenues and expenses for 2023 and estimates for 2024. A decrease in revenue is projected for 2024 as membership numbers continue to decline and the uncertainty with projecting royalty revenue. Until future data proves otherwise, Derrek anticipates the royalty amounts from 2023 as being an anomaly and will return to the projectable amounts from previous years. The profit sharing from this Conference is expected to produce a better return than 2023, but not enough to significantly impact the estimated revenue for 2024. Expenses for 2024 are projected to increase due to a number of changes in the budget. The CAG did not have to issue the course buyout for the journal EIC in 2023, and new EIC, Agnieszka Leszczynski, was not eligible to receive the course buyout for 2024. However, publication expenses will still increase by \$10,000 in 2024 due funding a research grant for the EIC, instead of the course buyout. Office expenses are expected to increase due to normal office operations and the recent renegotiation of Phil's contract. The new contract includes a salary increase and annual wage increases to accord with cost-of-living expenses. Additional expenses are related to travel and the Annual Conference itself with the return to in-person meetings. If the royalties do not perform as they had in 2023, Derrek anticipates a deficit of \$4,825 for 2024. Derrek later clarified that the 2024 revenue also includes a one-time bequest of \$10,000 that the CAG is expected to receive.

Based on questions and feedback from the floor, the CAG Executive committed to review expense spending for supporting the Study Groups and membership activities. This opened the question on if the CAG has a reserve fund. Derrek specified that the CAG does not have a dedicated reserve fund but does have capital investments that could potentially function as a reserve. The Executive will review this further internally to identify a reserve and investigate if money from investments can be reinvested into the Association and its membership. It is the responsibility of the Executive to assume fiduciary responsibility and long-term sustainability of the Association.

Motion to accept 2024 Budget

Chris Hewitt/Pete Whittington
Motion carried

Motion to appoint Andrews & Co. for 2024

Cynthia Morinville/Chris Hewitt
Motion carried

b. President's Report*

Nathalie presented a summary of her President's report highlighting her second year as CAG President and the projects and plans realized over her term. Executive Assistant, Phil, has also completed the second year in his role and is now fully immersed in the duties as Executive Assistant. Nathalie is proud of the efforts introduced in making bilingualism a priority for the CAG and hopes to see this institutional change continue beyond her Presidency. She believes the CAG is in very capable hands as VP, Susan Elliott, transitions into the role of President. Nathalie acknowledged Derrek's impact as new Secretary-Treasurer for the CAG, assisting with sound decision making for the sustainability of the organization. She congratulated Derrek on his appointment as the new Dean of Luther College in Regina. Due to the ease and flexibility of virtual meetings, the CAG Executive now meets five time per year, instead of the

*Written reports available at <http://www.cag-acg.ca/cag-agm-2024>

previously two annually scheduled meetings. This allows for more regular updates and interactions between the CAG Executive and its expanding committees. We have maintained regular contact with our membership through the CAG website, CAGlist, Geognews, the Newsletter and our newly overhauled Social Media presence. Thanks to the efforts of Social Media Coordinator, Satveer Dhillon, the CAG has realized a significant increase in social media presence and engagement. The annual Department Chairs meeting was held virtually in January, hosting over 30 department heads to exchange developments and successes from the previous year. As a result of inflation and increasing costs, a motion was passed at the 2023 AGM to increase all membership dues by 5%, apart from Student and Post-doc memberships. They remain unchanged. This increase took effect as of January 2024. The CAG Elections were once again held to fill the upcoming vacancies to the Francophone Student Councillor position and 2 Councillor positions. The successful candidates, Yvon Guerrier, Jaimy Fischer, and Jenna Dixon, will commence their roles following the AGM. There are now four specialty Committees under the CAG umbrella, two of which, have formalized into Standing Committees (D&I and EDIA Committees), one remains informal (The Membership Taskforce), and one new committee was formed to review and streamline the governing structure of the Association (The Governance Committee). These four Committees are committed to improvements across the organization and its membership. Nathalie reviewed the structure of the CAG Board of Directors and the continued efforts to implement new Indigenous councillor positions with the help of Heather Castleden and the D&I Committee. Nathalie addressed the upcoming CAG Conferences and announced the hosts for 2025 (Carleton University) and 2026 (University of Victoria). Nathalie reviewed the Associations membership data, comparing numbers from previous years, noting total membership numbers remain unchanged from last year. One challenge the CAG faces is in retaining student members beyond graduation. Nathalie concluded her report by welcoming Susan into her upcoming role as CAG President, and thanked previous CAG President, Neil Hanlon for the motivation and positive changes started during his term. She also thanked outgoing the Board members for their dedicated work to the CAG.

Motion to receive the President's Report

Susan Elliott/Arn Keeling
Motion carried

6. Division Reports

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

Motion to receive all Division Reports

Dipto Sarkar/Bernard Momer
Motion Carried

7. National and International Affairs

- a. The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) -Nathalie is the CAG representative to the CFHSS.
- b. The International Geographical Union (IGU) -Nathalie Gravel as President reports to the IGU annually. Nathalie announced the recent signing of the Jena declaration by the CAG to further align with the IGU.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Updates on special CAG Committees and initiatives

- a. Decolonizing & Indigenizing the Professional Association*
- b. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility*
- c. CAG Governance Committee*

Susan informed the membership that the CAG Governance committee will be reopening the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association with the purpose of correcting the naming structure for the governing body

of the CAG and ensuring that all language and information is uniform across the organization. She shared that the details will be shared with members by email up completing the process.

d. CAG Membership Committee*

Motion to receive all the reports

Chris Hewitt/Derrek Eberts
Motion carried

9. Nominations from the floor to the Elections Committee

In 2025 the CAG will be seeking nominations for a Vice-President and an Anglophone Student Councillor. The Elections Committee is composed of four members: Past-President as Chair, two members chosen from the floor at the AGM, and one member of the Executive Committee. CAG members Cynthia Morinville and Elijah Bisung volunteered from the floor.

Motion to appoint nominees to the elections committee

Derrek Eberts/Chris Hewitt
Motion carried

Motion from the floor presented in English by Nicole Van Lier and in French by Cynthia Morinville

Motion to Affirm the CAG's Commitment to Human Rights, Decolonization, and Academic Freedom in Support of the Palestinian People. (Full amended motion available below in both official languages)

Cynthia Morinville/Ben Woodward

Derrek addressed item a. of the motion regarding divesting from any military or Israeli affiliated investments. He does not anticipate any issues with identifying military related investments. However, is unsure if the CAG could identify with enough detail investments that include Israeli companies directly or indirectly linked to the ongoing genocidal war in Gaza.

Friendly amendment to item a. to include published lists of publicly traded companies that are to be divested from.

Razz Routly/Deondre Smiles
Motion carried

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Carissa Brown

Executive Committee at closing 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: Julie Young

Councillors:

Christopher Hewitt

Deondre Smiles

Jaimy Fischer

Jenna Dixon

Student Councillor:

Jesse Sutton

Yvon Guerrier

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

Motion to Affirm the CAG's Commitment to Human Rights, Decolonization, and Academic Freedom in Support of the Palestinian People

Presented at CAG AGM on August 17, 2024, St John's, NL

Whereas, the ongoing genocidal war in Gaza and the violent crackdown in the West Bank are being perpetuated against the Palestinian people, with direct support from the Canadian government;

Whereas, the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) has a responsibility to uphold human rights, academic freedom, and social justice within the academic community;

Whereas, the CAG has committed itself to advancing decolonization, equity, diversity, and inclusion through the formation of ad-hoc committees;

Whereas, the CAG has demonstrated its commitment to human rights and freedom of expression through previous statements in support of the people of Ukraine and other key issues of academic freedom (e.g., Statement on Academic Freedom, drafted on Monday, March 29, 2021 and currently published on the [CAG website](#))

Whereas, Palestinian and global allied academic groups, associations, and unions have called upon international organizations to take decisive actions in support of the Palestinian people;

Therefore, be it resolved that the CAG Board and the Executive Committee take the following actions to express CAG's support for the Palestinian people:

- a) **Disclose and divest** from any of its investments, if at all, in the military industrial complex at large as well as any Israeli companies directly or indirectly linked to the ongoing genocidal war in Gaza. A list of publicly traded companies that are to be divested from have been published by the [American Friends Service Committee](#) and the [UN Human Rights Council](#).
- b) **Issue a public statement** that supports the Palestinian people, and that condemns the Israeli actions in Gaza as a continuation of systematic ethnic cleansing, racial discrimination, and crimes against humanity, which have been ongoing since the 1948 Nakba. The statement should reflect the expertise within the CAG community, comment on the current urbicide and scholasticide in Gaza, and clearly identify the ongoing situation as genocidal.
- c) **Send a communique** to university presidents, research centers, and academic institutions across Canada, urging them to provide substantial support for and protection of Palestinian students, faculty, staff, and their allies. This includes defending their rights to academic freedom and freedom of speech, and taking a stand against anti-Palestinian racism, as well as the harassment, demonization, and silencing of Palestinian voices. The statement should take a stand against the ongoing criminalization and often forceful removal of student encampments by police agencies, including at Memorial University (MUN), the host for this year's CAG 2024.
- d) **Appeal directly** to the Government of Canada, through correspondence and media platforms, to cease all support for Israel. This includes ending financial, military, political, and diplomatic support; imposing an arms embargo on Israel; and calling for an immediate ceasefire, as well as the lifting of the blockade and siege on Gaza.

Motion pour affirmer l'engagement de l'ACG envers les droits de l'homme, la décolonisation et la liberté académique en soutien au peuple palestinien

Présentée lors de l'Assemblée générale annuelle de l'ACG le 17 août 2024, à St John's, Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador

Considérant que la guerre génocidaire en cours à Gaza et la répression violente en Cisjordanie sont perpétrées contre le peuple palestinien, avec le soutien direct du gouvernement canadien;

Considérant que l'Association canadienne des géographes (ACG) a la responsabilité de défendre les droits humains, la liberté académique et la justice sociale au sein de la communauté académique;

Considérant que l'ACG s'est engagée à promouvoir la décolonisation, l'équité, la diversité et l'inclusion par la formation de comités ad hoc;

Considérant que l'ACG a démontré son engagement envers les droits humains et la liberté d'expression à travers des déclarations précédentes en soutien au peuple ukrainien et à d'autres questions liées à la liberté académique (par exemple, la Déclaration sur la liberté académique, rédigée le lundi 29 mars 2021 et actuellement publiée sur le [site de l'ACG](#));

Considérant que des groupes académiques palestiniens et alliés à travers le monde, ainsi que des associations et syndicats, ont appelé les organisations internationales à prendre des mesures décisives en soutien au peuple palestinien;

Par conséquent, il est résolu que le Conseil et le Comité exécutif de l'ACG prennent les actions suivantes pour exprimer le soutien de l'ACG au peuple palestinien :

- a) **Divulguer et désinvestir** tous ses investissements, s'il y en a, dans le complexe militaro-industriel dans son ensemble ainsi que dans toutes les entreprises israéliennes directement ou indirectement liées à la guerre génocidaire à Gaza en cours. Une liste des entreprises cotées en bourse dont il faut se désinvestir a été publiée par le Comité de service des amis américains ([American Friends Service Committee](#)) et le [Conseil des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies](#).
- b) **Émettre une déclaration publique** en soutien au peuple palestinien qui condamne les actions israéliennes à Gaza comme une continuation du nettoyage ethnique systématique, de la discrimination raciale et des crimes contre l'humanité, qui se poursuivent depuis la Nakba de 1948. La déclaration doit refléter l'expertise au sein de la communauté de l'ACG, commenter l'urbicide et le scholasticide actuels à Gaza, et identifier clairement la situation en cours comme génocidaire.
- c) **Envoyer un communiqué** aux présidents d'universités, centres de recherche et institutions académiques à travers le Canada, les exhortant à fournir un soutien substantiel et à protéger les étudiants, les professeurs, le personnel palestiniens, et leurs alliés. Cela inclut la défense de leurs droits à la liberté académique et à la liberté d'expression, ainsi que la prise de position contre le racisme anti-palestinien, le harcèlement, la diabolisation et la suppression des voix palestiniennes. La déclaration doit s'opposer à la criminalisation continue et à l'éviction souvent forcée des campements étudiants par les agences de police, y compris à l'Université Memorial (MUN), hôte de l'ACG 2024.
- d) **Faire appel directement** au gouvernement du Canada, par correspondance et via les plateformes médiatiques, pour la fin immédiate du soutien à Israël. Cela inclut la fin du soutien financier, militaire, politique et diplomatique; l'imposition d'un embargo sur les armes contre Israël; et l'appel à un cessez-le-feu immédiat, ainsi que la levée du blocus et du siège de Gaza.

