

**COUNCIL OF CHAIRS OF CANADIAN EARTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS
CCCESD**

CARLETON UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA,
15-16 OCTOBER 2015

Present: Pete Hollings (Lakehead, chair), Janok Bhattacharya (McMaster), Mary Lou Bevier (UBC), Katherine Boggs (Mt. Royal), Sam Butler (Saskatchewan), Sharon Carr (Carleton), Guoxiang Chi (Regina), Marc Constantin (Laval), Stan Dosso (Victoria), Mostafa Fayek (Manitoba), Joel Gagnon (Windsor), John Greenough (UBC-Okanagan/Treasurer), John Hanchar (MUN), Ed Hornibrook (UBC-Okanagan), Pierre Jutras (St. Mary's), Al Mucci (McGill), Russ Pysklywec (Toronto), Rob Raeside (Acadia/CCCESD), Ian Spooner (Acadia), Brent Ward (SFU).

1. Welcome: Pete Hollings opened the meeting at 1 p.m.

2. Finances

J Greenough presented a summary of the finances, noting that this year has been a low-spending year. Treasurer's report attached.

3. Statistics

R Raeside reviewed the annual statistics collection (<http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/2014summary.pdf>), noting that responses were received from 34 out of 39 departments. He noted ongoing rising numbers of students across the board in undergraduate programs. Students from about 18 universities appear to have responded to the AGI survey of workplace destinations of graduates. The analysis will be presented at the AGU in December.

4. News and Views from Departments

See Departmental Notes document for submitted notes on departmental issues. Some other issues noted in discussion:

Acadia – only cross-disciplinary appointments are being approved in the university.

INRS – this group has not been involved in CCCESD – agreed to invite them to participate, through the director of Earth/Water/Environment Division.

McGill – very high admission standards are limiting the numbers of students in program. Field schools increasingly being funded by alumni donors.

Field work issues: many field schools are now run outside of Canada; in some courses participants are advised to obtain extra insurance. Further discussion concerned liability on field work and field trips, boating procedures, safety in labs, alcohol on field trips, accessibility for people with disabilities. M Fayek offered to distribute an Essential Skills document used at UManitoba. Are universities interested in opening up space for other students?

Fund-raising: several departments reported on increased expectations for departments to do fund-raising among alumni.

UManitoba: Tri-Council auditing procedures have resulted in significant increases in administration.

Environmental Science programs – are CCCESD members aware of Canadian College and University Environmental Network.

Increasing use of student success facilities or disability services – agreed that such access is increasingly required, and is generally managed by the university. Accessibility for people with disabilities is legally mandated. Field trips can be videotaped for people who cannot access outcrops.

5. Canadian Version of Earthscope

K Boggs spoke about Earthscope as a geoscience unification project after the manner of Lithoprobe, requesting that heads and chairs open discussions about Earthscope in their departments/schools. Timing of the current Earthscope project runs out in 2018, so in order to piggyback on the US project, it would be necessary to start up grant-raising in Canada in 2016. The presentation is available at http://cccesd.acadiau.ca/Earthscope_2015.pdf

6. Visit from NSERC

The ppt file presented is available at

Dave Bowen (Team Leader, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division), Liz Boston (Director, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division), Tiffany Lancaster, Program Officer, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division, and Kenn Rankine (Program Officer, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division) attended the meeting. In his presentation, D Bowen reported:

- New president Mario Pinto has spearheaded the development of a strategic plan, NSERC 2020 (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/doc/NSERC2020-CRSNG2020/Summary_e.pdf) with goals of:
 - science awareness, fostering a science and engineering culture
 - building a diversified and competitive research base in the Discovery Grants program, with diversity of people and institutions
 - bridging the generational gap (a new focus)
 - strengthening the dynamic between discovery and innovation
 - going global (this will require injection of new funds)
- NSERC has relaunched its website with particular development of the Discovery side
- Open Access to published material is now implemented, for all work done under new grant awards. It was noted that publishers are commonly charging a \$3000-5000 fee per article for this access, although some researchers have suggested that posting a pre-published Word-style article is possible. The next step will be to make data available.
- Research Tools and Instruments now uses the common c.v. on Research Portal, but Northern Supplements and Ship Time still use Form 100.
- The Discovery Grants program evaluation area:
 - The Discovery Grant accelerator supplement program has had the definition redefined to include more early/mid-career awards
 - Expect changes in the first renewals area (no details)
 - HQP/training – better instructions provided for evaluation groups emphasize the quality of training
- Discovery Grants budget allocation committee has been struck, and consultation will be invited with the aim to launch the results for the 2018 awards
- Discovery Frontiers – a theme for a new project is being considered
- CGS-M – feedback is requested on the current competition model
- Postdoctoral Fellowships – offers are up from 130 to 180, at \$45,000
- Women in Science and Engineering – a draft action plan and policy statement has been released
- Discovery Development grants – these offer \$10,000 for up to 2 years for established researchers who are not funded but who have quality applications. It is expected universities will provide additional support. Three were awarded this year in Earth Sciences.
- Team grants are being phased out – these are few, and difficult to evaluate
- Paid parental leave for scholarships and fellowships and for people paid from Discovery Grants has been extended from 4 to 6 months

- D Bowen provided an overview of the 2015 results (see http://cccesd.acadiiau.ca/2015_NSERC.pdf)
- Research Tools and Instruments has increased its quota and budget to \$25M/a, with ~30% success rate, average award ~\$100,000. Smaller awards appear to be more difficult to get – expect a questionnaire on this soon.
- Northern Supplements appear to have plateaued at \$2.1M/a

7. Visit from the Geological Survey of Canada

Donna Kirkwood, Director General of the GSC Central and Northern Branch of GSC, and Bernard Vigneault, Director Central Branch, provided an overview of GSC activities (provided at http://cccesd.acadiiau.ca/CCCESD_GSC_2015.pdf):

- focus is on collaboration with universities, although mechanisms are becoming increasingly constrained
- mission and vision available as a document on GSC website
- details of priorities in pdf document annex
- university collaboration emphasizes science expertise and student training
- collaboration can be in several forms: direct collaborations (no exchange of funds), grant programs (e.g., GEM-2, TGI), student bursary programs (RAP) for graduate programs, adjunct professorships (these are becoming more formalized in the GSC), student hiring programs (FSWEP, co-op).
- expressed concerns about ability to communicate effectively with users of information
- TGI 2015-2020 (TGI-5) now in place, mainly a continuation of goals of TGI-4, focusing on existing mining camps. Long term outcomes are developing new knowledge, methodologies and models, addition of scientific knowledge in mining areas, and a replenished pool of highly qualified personnel.
- TGI renewal involved input from internal and external stakeholders (academia, provincial surveys, industry)
- TGI-5 has increased emphasis on source-to-ore investigations
- four project areas continue as gold, Ni-PGE-Cr, base metals, U & specialty metals
- call for agreements are upcoming, posted on Geoscan; priority areas in current knowledge gaps
- Geo-mapping for Energy and Minerals (GEM) is in mid-program, with major field camp commitment in 2015 (14 field camps)
- PDF pilot program is replacing current status, so that post-docs are classified as employees for insurance purposes: jobs.gc.ca
- in questioning, collaboration with the Provincial and Territorial Surveys was encouraged (R Naylor)

8. Presentation by Geoscientists Canada

Brent Ward, member of Canadian Geoscience Standards Board, gave an overview of GC activities:

- currently almost 14,000 registered professionals, dominated by Alberta, Ontario and BC
- produced Competency Profiles for Entry to Practice in 2014, as an alternative route to registration for people without a traditional / Canadian academic background, but yet to establish how to evaluate these competencies
- intent to produce a short course on Professional Reliance – Public Reporting and the Role of the Geoscientist, to be delivered in Earth Science programs in universities.
- Presentation available at http://cccesd.acadiiau.ca/GeoscientistsCanada_Oct15.pdf

9. Visit from Sandra Zohar and Olivier Gagnon, Senior Program Officers, CFI

S Zohar and O Gagnon presented on the upcoming consultations exercise for CFI, following the recent \$1.33B budget allocation. Major topics were the JREvans Leaders Fund, Innovation Fund, Cyberinfrastructure Fund, College-Industry Innovation Fund, and Infrastructure Operating Fund. JRELF has a new allocation of \$198.5M for 2017-2020, to attract and retain researchers. They led a question and discussion session on the major topics.

10. Next year

It was recommended that some of the groups: Committee of Provincial and Territorial Geologists, MITACS, CSPG ambassadors, and CFES be invited to future meetings as time allows.

10. Executive Changes

It was agreed to continue with the current executive. It was agreed to provide funds to pay for airfare for the treasurer to attend the meeting if he so wishes to do. Thanks were expressed to Sharon Carr for hosting the group. The meeting next year will be held at the University of Ottawa.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3.10 p.m

CCCESD Treasurer's Report 2014-2015

To Members of CCCESD;

Listed below are the transactions and the account status as of October 6, 2015.¹

<u>Date²</u>	<u>Comment³</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
October 23, 2014	Bank Balance at last meeting (Oct. 30).		\$21984.02
November 12, 2014	Catering at CCCESD.	-\$360.47	\$21623.55
November 18, 2014	Catering at CCCESD.	-\$232.18	\$21.391.37
November 19, 2014	Raeside reimbursement for CCCESD.	-\$585.31	\$20806.06
February 27, 2015	Direct deposit membership fee	+\$100.00	\$20906.06
March 19, 2015	Deposit 23 membership cheques	+\$2300.00	\$23206.06
April 7, 2015	Deposit 4 membership cheques	+\$400.00	\$23606.06
May 25, 2015	Deposit 2 membership cheques	+\$200.00	\$23806.06
July 21, 2015	Deposit 3 membership cheques	+\$300.00	\$24106.06
October 6, 2015	Bank Balance for meeting (Oct. 15, 2015). ¹		\$24106.06

¹ There have been no transactions since October 6, 2015 that I know of.

² For cheques (debits to account) date is the date the account was debited by the bank. For CCCESD Membership fees, Date is the date the deposit appeared in the account.

³ The attached spreadsheet lists those that paid the voluntary membership fees (\$100.00) this year (2015) for the 2014 year and compares contributions from previous years.

John D. Greenough

Treasurer CCCESD