

COUNCIL OF CHAIRS OF CANADIAN EARTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS CCCESD

26 October 2023 – Notes from Meeting

Present: James Brenan (Dalhousie), chair, Karl Butler (UNB), Sam Butler (Saskatchewan), Ed Cey (Calgary), Andrew Conly (Lakehead), Joel Cubley (Yukon), Fiona Darbyshire (UQÀM), Michelle DeWolfe (Mt. Royal), John Greenough (treasurer), Galen Halverson (McGill), Dan Layton-Matthews (Queen's), Penny Morrill (MUN), Des Moser (Western), Tim Patterson (Carleton), Rob Raeside (secretary), Jamie Robbins (Regina), Dave Schneider (Ottawa), Ian Spooner (Acadia), Matthew Steele-MacInniss (Alberta).

Online: Erin Adlakha (St. Mary's), Janok Bhattacharya (MacMaster), Jay Cullen (Victoria), John Johnstone/Carole Ptacek (Waterloo), Pedro Jugo (Laurentian), Jason Loxton (Cape Breton), Glyn Williams-Jones (SFU).

Guests: Katherine Boggs (CFES), Deanne van Rooyen (incoming secretary)

1. **Welcome:** James Brenan opened the meeting at 11 a.m. EDT. This year's edition of [Departmental Notes](#) is posted for reference.

2. Statistics

R Raeside reviewed the annual statistics collection (<https://cccesd.acadiau.ca/rep2022.html>). Responses were received from 29 out of 38 departments. The 2023 survey will be initiated on 1 December, with a due date of 31 January, 2024. The decline in enrolments in our departments overall has levelled off, but in the undergraduate Geology-Geophysics-Geological Engineering programs subset it continues to decline. The number of faculty in our departments remains at the historic maximum of 586, and the number of women in undergraduate programs has now passed 50%.

3. Finances

John Greenough presented a summary of the finances, which have remained level with the previous year. Treasurer's report attached.

Interactions between Canadian Earth Science departments and geoscience professional

Craig Nichol (UBC-Okanagan) joined the meeting online to provide an update on the survey of best practices for student advising regarding professional registration. His PPT file is posted as [2023_Nichol.pdf](#).

4. Input from Geoscientists Canada

Andrea Waldie provided the following input:

- Geoscientists Canada's Service Agreement with EGBC, where Geoscientists Canada's office have been housed since 2007, will terminate March 31 as EGBC reorganizes their focus and structure under the Professional Governance Act
 - GC is currently in the process of locating new offices and service support
- After six years at GC, CEO Andrea Waldie will be retiring May 31, 2024 – A PR will be coming out announcing the retirement in the next couple of weeks
 - The Board will be undertaking a CEO search shortly
- CGSC held a Council meeting this past Saturday, Oct 21. Some topics discussed included:
 - The new text of the Geoscientist in Training Guide (and approval of that text), a guide designed for post-secondary geoscience students and recent grads to support them as they move toward professional registration. The text will go to the GC Board for approval early November, and then the booklet design and printing process will be initiated

- Craig Nichol provided a presentation Earth Science Departments and Regulator Communications in support of students and professional registration. A report on this topic will be brought to the GC Board in November by Brent Ward, Chair of the Canadian Geoscience Standards Council. A question to CCCESD, is there any particular element or elements of Craig's recommendations that you would like brought to the attention of the Board – something the CCCESD thinks would be a good element for GC to potential direct resources to or that CCCESD would like to work with GC and the regulators on?
- A discussion on AI and professional geoscience was also initiated at the CGSC meeting. No outcomes or results to report at this time.
- Geologize Ltd.'s Practical Geocommunication Course – This critically acclaimed course, designed to teach effective geoscience communication to the public, is still available for free through the geoscience regulators in Canada to all P.Geo., P.Eng., GITs, EITs, MITs, and student members of the geoscience regulators. Students need only to become student members of a regulator and ask for access to the course to gain free access.

5. Report from Chairs

A round-table review elicited issues arising from the departments and schools represented in the meeting.

Friday, 27 October

6. CFES matters

Katherine Boggs (for CFES president, Imad Alainachi) provided an [overview](#) of the work of CFES, emphasizing the facilitation of public awareness of Earth science and Earth science literacy.

Katherine Boggs (CFES International Affairs Director, Mt. Royal University) provided an overview of the National Geoscience Research Plan ([PPT file](#), page 24)

7. Visit from NSERC

Sarah Overington (Director, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences Division), Nicolas Desforges (Program officer, Geosciences Evaluation Group) and Tiffany Lancaster, Program Officer, Northern Research Scholarship) provided an update on NSERC's activities and a review of the previous year's results – the PPT file is available at https://cccesd.acadiau.ca/2023_NSERC.pdf.

8. Visit from the Geological Survey

Geneviève Marquis, Director, Central Division, provided an overview of GSC activities. The presentation is available at https://cccesd.acadiau.ca/2023_GSC.pdf.

9. Visit from CFI

Olivier Gagnon and Natalee Rubec provided an overview of CFI's operations. The PPT file is available at https://cccesd.acadiau.ca/2023_CFI.pdf.

10. Round Table Discussion

Discussions focused on the incorporation of Earth Science in Environmental Science programs and EDIAR issues involving harassment and student safety. Specific reference was made to consult with Susan Lomas of [MeTooMining](#).

11. Request for funding from Geoscience Pathway

As part of her presentation, Katherine Boggs made a request for funding for the National Geoscience Research Plan. Motion: that CCCESD provide \$5000 to support an Indigenous component of the National Geoscience Research Plan. Moved by Tim Patterson, seconded Desmond Moser. The intent

is to provide funds for translation of the four-page ‘elevator pitches’ into multiple Indigenous languages. Concern was expressed that the funding may be too little, that the full document and English version of the ‘elevator pitches’ need to be seen first, that quotes would be needed for translation, and that a plan for Indigenous collaboration needs to be fully developed. The motion was defeated, but the Council strongly supports the effort and salutes the energy being put into this project. We want to take the time to get it right.

12. Executive Changes

R Raeside offered his resignation as secretary. M DeWolfe nominated Deanne van Rooyen to be secretary, seconded by J Robbins. Carried.

J Greenough agreed to continue as treasurer. A Conly nominated J Greenough as treasurer, seconded by J Cubley. Carried.

S Butler stepped down as CFES representative. J Brennan nominated D Moser as CFES rep, seconded by S Butler. Carried.

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m., 27 October 2023.

CCCESD Treasurer's Report 2022-2023

To: Members of CCCESD

Listed below are the transactions and deposits since the last CCCESD meeting on October 27, 2022, and account status as of October 19, 2023.¹

<u>Date²</u>	<u>Comment³</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
October 27, 2022	Bank balance for meeting.		\$26,369.93
December 07, 2022	Secretary (Raeside) meeting expense claim.	-\$569.09	\$25,800.84
January 18, 2023	Treasurer (Greenough) meeting expenses.	-\$325.62	\$25,475.22
January 18, 2023	Treasurer (Greenough) catering reimbursement.	-3053.50	\$22,421.72
February 23, 2023	MUN membership direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$22,571.72
February 23, 2023	Lakehead U., membership direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$22,721.72
February 24, 2023	Brandon U., membership direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$22,871.72
February 24, 2023	UNB, membership direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$23,021.72
March 01, 2023	SMU, membership direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$23,171.72
March 02, 2023	Laurentian, membership direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$23,321.72
March 09, 2023	U. Calgary, membership direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$23,471.72
March 15, 2023	U. Quebec Montreal, direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$23,621.72
March 22, 2023	U. Saskatchewan, direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$23,771.72
March 24, 2023	Deposit of 11, \$150, membership cheques.	\$1650.00	\$25,421.72
April 06, 2023	Mount Royal, membership direct deposit.	\$150.00	\$25,571.72
May 16, 2023	Deposit of 8, \$150, membership cheques.	\$1200.00	\$26,771.72
June 07, 2023	CFES Membership Fee ⁴	-\$500.00	\$26,271.72
July 20, 2023	Deposit of 1, \$150 membership cheque	\$150.00	\$26,421.72

¹ There have been no bank transactions since July 20, 2023 that I know of.

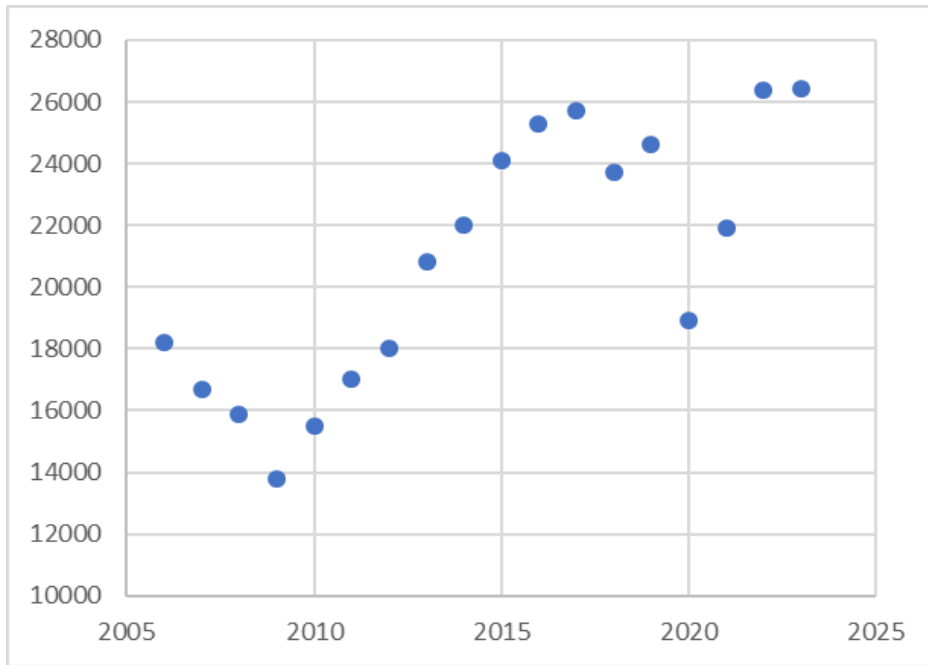
² For cheques (debits to account), "Date" is the date the account was debited by the bank. For CCCESD Membership fees, "Date" is the date the cheques (or direct deposits) appeared in the account.

³ The attached spreadsheet lists CCCESD members who paid the voluntary membership fees (\$150.00) this year (2023) for the 2022 year and compares contributions from previous years.

⁴ Cheque written Feb. 21, 2023 but not cashed and in account until June 07, 2023.

Comments: The number of membership contributions for the 2022 year (30) is slightly below the average (31.2) since we started collecting these voluntary memberships in 2009 but there have been 3 new members since 2009 and one department departed. We have recovered from the very low membership contributions in 2019 related to COVID. Our account balance is strong

(\$26,421.72) and above the pre-COVID 2017 maximum of \$25,700. It is well above the balance in 2009 (\$13,812.71) when we initiated the voluntary membership contributions. Our annual account balance since 2006 is plotted below.



My account records date back to 2006 when I assumed the treasurer position. In 2009 we initiated voluntary contributions because we lost support from the GSC and the annual operating costs, though small, were steadily reducing our account balance. The voluntary contributions resulted in our bank balance increasing until 2017. Meeting and operating costs started exceeding contributions after 2017. The somewhat low balance in 2018 significantly reflects two CFES payments in one year due to us not receiving a bill in 2017. The exceptionally low balance in 2020 is largely due to a \$5000.00 payment to Geoscientists Canada, along with poor contributions from members during the start of COVID.

Our account balance this year is the highest it has been in 17 years but nearly identical to last year (2022). This reflects two years (2020 and 2021) where we had no meeting expenses and the fact that we increased the voluntary contributions from \$100 to \$150 in the fall of 2021. Thus, contributions for the 2021 year, collected in winter 2022, went up by 50% and have been \$150.00 per institution since then.

A total of 30 members made contributions this year which translates into \$4500.00, down slightly from last year (\$4950.00). Our primary expenses are CFES membership fees (\$500) and meeting costs. The pre-COVID meeting/catering costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 averaged \$2783, but due to Rob Raeside's work they only increased to \$3053.50. Unless meeting expenses dramatically increase, the higher membership fees should allow us to have a minor annual increase in our bank balance for a few years.

Yours truly
 John D. Greenough
 Treasurer, CCCESD