

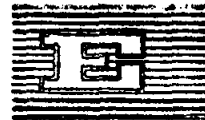
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ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL NAME AUTHORITIES*

(Submitted by the Government of the United States of America)

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ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES *

Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

The national names authority in Canada, the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, was established by federal statute in 1961 and is descended from the Geographic Board of Canada, created in 1897.

The Permanent Committee is composed of persons appointed by virtue of their positions in the federal and provincial governments of Canada. As a corporate body, it is responsible to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources of Canada, whose ministry provides the positions and accommodation for the secretariat as well as funds required for the publication of the *Gazetteer of Canada*. The federal representatives on the Committee include:

Chairman: the Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources;

Vice-Chairman: the Director, Geographical Branch;***

Members: the Director, Surveys and Mapping Branch;
the Dominion Archivist;
the Director of Operational Services and Survey,
Department of National Defence;
the Superintendent, Bureau for Translations,
Department of Secretary of State;
and a representative for the Yukon and
Northwest Territories.

Each province is represented by a member appointed by the appropriate provincial Minister. The provinces of Quebec, Alberta and Newfoundland

*Prepared by J.K. Fraser.

*** The functions of the Geographical Branch will be redistributed among other branches of the Department as of April, 1968.

have established provincial names boards and their secretaries act as the representatives on the Permanent Committee. Most of the members deal directly or indirectly with name problems, mainly in map nomenclature, and thus have a close and continuous interest in the standardization of geographical names. The Dominion Archivist and the Superintendent, Bureau for Translations, act mainly in advisory capacities on matters pertaining to their specializations.

The Permanent Committee meets in plenary session once a year in one of the provincial capitals or in Ottawa, when general matters of policy are discussed and reports presented on the progress of names standardization. In case of matters requiring immediate decision, provision is made to call a meeting of Ottawa members of the Committee.

The secretariat of the Permanent Committee was, until this year, administered by the Geographical Branch as the Toponymy Division. It is intended to move it under the directorate of the Surveys and Mapping Branch in March 1968, with the same functions and responsibilities as before. The Executive Secretary of the Committee is the Chief, Toponymy Division, which is divided into four sections: Research, Gazetteers, English Nomenclature and French Nomenclature. The secretariat is responsible for the verification and investigation of the nomenclature on all new or revised topographic maps and hydrographic charts produced by the federal mapping agencies, regional studies aimed at clarifying the local nomenclature of areas in serious need of standardization, the answering of inquiries on Canadian names, the maintenance of name records, the distribution of name decisions and the preparation and publication of the *Gazetteer of Canada*. The bilingual nature of Canadian toponymy demands that the secretariat include personnel who are fluent in French and English.

Under the federal system of government in Canada, it is recognized that each province has authority over geographical names in the territory falling under its jurisdiction. New names or name changes are approved by the Permanent Committee only after firm recommendations are received from the respective provinces. Names in the Yukon and Northwest Territories are approved by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources following endorsement by the territorial representative. Agreement is sought between the provinces and the National Parks Branch concerning names of features in national parks, almost all of which lie within provincial boundaries. Similar arrangements exist concerning names in Indian Reserves, which, like the parks, come under federal administration.

Name decisions are processed by the secretariat and circulated to mapping agencies, postal authorities and others concerned with the publication of material requiring up-to-date information on geographical names. New names, name changes, altered applications and rescissions are published according to province or territory in semi-annual *Supplements* to the *Gazetteer of Canada*.

Close liaison is maintained with the Post Office Department and with railway companies, all of which seek the advice of the Permanent Committee on matters pertaining to geographical names, in particular the opening of new post offices or railway stations. The advice of specialists in Amerindian languages is readily available through the National Museum or the

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

It is considered preferable that the position of Executive Secretary be filled by a graduate in geography with specialization or interest in historical geography. It is an added advantage for him to be fluently bilingual in English and French and also to have additional training in linguistics. He is allowed considerable authority in conducting liaison with provincial authorities and in approving names on behalf of the Committee. Matters which might create public controversy or which should have ministerial approval are brought to the attention of the Chairman at the discretion of the Executive Secretary.