

AGENDA ITEM 10 – POINT 10 DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR – TEMA 10 DEL PROGRAMA

GAZETTEER PRODUCTION AND NAMES PROCESSING AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL IN CANADA

Report presented by Canada*

Résumé

Depuis 1972, de nouvelles nomenclatures ont été établies pour les provinces et territoires suivants: Nouveau-Brunswick, île du Prince Edward, Alberta, Ontario et Territoire du Yukon. Un nouveau volume concernant la Nouvelle-Ecosse sera publié vers la fin de 1977 et un autre, portant sur les territoires du Nord-Ouest, en 1978. Depuis 1973, les décisions relatives à chaque province ou territoire sont publiées sous forme de suppléments cumulatifs annuels. Ainsi, pour le volume sur la Colombie britannique, dont la dernière publication remonte à 1966, un supplément cumulatif a paru en 1976 qui comprend toutes les décisions prises au cours des 10 dernières années. La nomenclature du Canada est établie par traitement automatique des textes.

On étudie la possibilité de mettre sur pied un système de restitution automatique de l'information, qui rationaliserait la manipulation des données toponymiques et qui pourrait être particulièrement utile pour le choix des noms sur les cartes.

Resumen

Desde 1972, se han producido nuevos nomenclátore para las siguientes jurisdicciones en el Canadá: Nueva Brunswick, Isla Príncipe Eduardo, Alberta, Ontario y el Territorio del Yukón. A fines de 1977, se publicará un nuevo volumen para Nueva Escocia y otro nuevo para los territorios del noroeste en 1978. Desde 1973, se han publicado las decisiones para cada una de las jurisdicciones en el Canadá en suplementos anuales acumulativos; por ejemplo, para el volumen que abarca Columbia Británica, que fue el último publicado en 1966, existe un suplemento acumulativo de 1976 con todas las decisiones adoptadas a lo largo del período de 10 años. Para realizar el Nomenclátor del Canadá, se utiliza la tecnología de elaboración del texto a base de computadoras.

Actualmente se está realizando una investigación para establecer un sistema automatizado de recuperación de la información que simplificará el manejo de datos topo-

nímicos, y que puede constituir una fuente posible para la selección de nombres por los confeccionadores de mapas.

*

* *

The Gazetteer Production and Toponymic Investigation Section of the Toponymy Division, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, integrates some of the functions shared by that Division with the Secretariat of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN), particularly the close co-operative arrangement of the federal and provincial members of the Committee. Its responsibilities include the review of geographical nomenclature for new and revision mapping by the federal Surveys and Mapping Branch, the processing of name submissions from mapping agencies and the public (including their referral to the appropriate federal or provincial CPCGN member for investigation and ruling), the maintenance of extensive card and map section files on Canadian geographical names, the answering of enquiries on location and spelling information and the compilation of the *Gazetteer of Canada* series.

GAZETTEER OF CANADA

The Surveys and Mapping Branch produces the *Gazetteer of Canada* for the CPCGN. There is a volume for each province and territory with the exception of Québec. These publications, produced under federal imprint, are distributed by two federal Government agencies: the Canada Map Office, which is part of the Surveys and Mapping Branch, and the Department of Supply and Services (Canada), which holds the copyright on all federal Government publications. (Information Canada, a federal agency mentioned as the distributor in the 1972 United Nations Conference Proceedings, was disbanded in 1976).

Since the second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1972, the following volumes of the *Gazetteer of Canada* series have been published:

New Brunswick	1972
Prince Edward Island	1973
Alberta	1974
Ontario	1974
Yukon Territory	1976

* The original text of this paper, prepared by Mary LaHam, Head of the Gazetteer Production and Toponymic Investigation Section, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Canada, appeared as document E/CONF 69/L 12

A volume for Nova Scotia will go to press before the year's end, and one for the Northwest Territories is scheduled for printing late in 1978.

In 1973 the semi-annual *Gazetteer* supplements were replaced by annual cumulative supplements. Some of these supplements are as large as the smaller volumes of the *Gazetteer*. They are costly to produce, particularly because they are distributed free of charge to purchasers of the original *Gazetteers*. Their size is largely a function of the time lag between editions for any province or territory. This lag, usually of not less than 10 years, is the inevitable result of having only a small staff devoted to gazetteer production, of using procedures (to prepare material for input) that have not changed significantly since the inception of the present gazetteer series (in 1952) and of the volume of material being generated by federal and provincial field studies.

In the process of *Gazetteer* production, every name formerly approved is verified for accurate spelling and application, all ambiguous cases being referred to the appropriate federal or provincial member of the CPCGN for investigation and ruling. Only upon completion of this long and painstaking process is the material ready for a text-processing agency to begin photocomposition for publication.

The introduction of computer-based text-processing in 1974 has streamlined *Gazetteer* production and greatly simplified the cumulative process of producing *Gazetteer* supplements. All material is now keyboarded, edited, sorted, photocomposed and published, with each year's supplement material being merged with that of earlier years in a computer environment.

AUTOMATION OF TOPONYMIC INFORMATION

The Section is attempting to take advantage of advances in information-handling technology to increase the effectiveness with which it carries out its various functions. Making use of computer-based text-processing facilities was the first step.

Early in 1977 the Toponymy Division contracted with a systems analyst to prepare a feasibility study for the automation of the names data base. His preliminary

report suggests a system that should make more efficient the production of gazetteers, the maintenance of files and the response to queries, while offering the additional capability of producing special lists in response to specific needs. It opens up the possibility of automated information exchange between the Toponymy Division (CPCGN Secretariat) and other federal and provincial agencies. A system with interactive capability would also be potentially useful to the map production units of the federal Government, particularly those involved in automated cartography, for the placement of names on maps.

It is estimated that data entry into either an in-house mini-computer system or to a computer service bureau system will require between three and five years. The present CPCGN card files contain approximately 300,000 decisions on names, arranged alphabetically within each province or territory. (This number is expected to increase to 1,000,000 by the end of the century.) When input of these records into a computer system is completed, the machine-readable file will supersede the card files. This will mean a considerable reduction in the amount of manual labour currently required for the creation, maintenance and manipulation of card records. Search time will be reduced, as the system should accommodate several terminals with simultaneous access. There will be no need for part of the file to leave the office, and hence be temporarily inaccessible, as is the case at present when cards are sent to a computer service bureau for keyboarding for *Gazetteer* production. Given the currency of such a data base, *Gazetteer* production will consist of running a computer programme to select, format and produce a phototypesetting file, which will be sent to a phototypesetter and thence to a publisher. Alternatively, in view of the rapidity with which *Gazetteer* material can be prepared with such a system, more frequent, less costly microfiche copies might be a viable means of providing current information, thus eliminating the need for cumulative supplements.

The magnitude of the task of preparing the name records for input precludes full use of a computer file for some years to come. It is anticipated that only one province or territory will be entered at a time, so that we may expect partial use within two years, and perhaps full use in the mid-1980s.

NOTES ON THE CONTENT AND FORM OF GAZETTEERS Report presented by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*

The gazetteers published by official agencies of a country serve a double purpose. Being reference publications, they are the most effective means of introducing geographical names, standardized in the language (or languages) of the country concerned, into everyday usage, both domestically and abroad. For this reason, the

publication of gazetteers is a pledge of successful work on the standardization of geographical names, at the national, and subsequently at the international, level.

Work on the compilation of gazetteers has considerably broadened in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in recent years. In the search for the most convenient variant for practical application, several types of gazetteers were elaborated, each designed for a specific circle of consumers.

First of all it is necessary to distinguish between two main kinds of gazetteers: those containing domestic

* The original text of this paper, prepared by A. M. Komkov, Vice Chairman, Permanent Joint Commission on Geographical Names, USSR, appeared as document E/CONF.69/L.20.