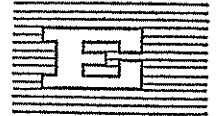


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TERMINOLOGY IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Terminology and the Geographical Terminology Commission **/

Document presented by Canada

Abstract

One of the most important tasks of the Toponymy Commission is the standardization of geographical terminology in collaboration with the French Language Office.

In order to fulfil its mandate adequately, the Toponymy Commission established in 1979 a Geographical Terminology Commission (CTG), whose task is to make a list of those technical words and expressions used in geography for which a standard must be set.

The Commission is composed of geographers, linguists and terminologists. It meets on a monthly basis to consider the terminological documents which are prepared by the Toponymy Commission in accordance with a rigorous methodology developed by the French Language Office. Members make proposals for standardization (obligatory use) or recommendation (suggested use), which they submit to the Toponymy Commission and later to the Office's Terminology Commission and Administrative Board. Upon approval, the terms and their definition are published in the official Gazette.

From 1979 to 1981, CTG's work focused on generic terms used in the names of thoroughfares ("street", "avenue", "boulevard" and the like). Since the end of 1981, the Commission's work has focused on toponymy-related geographical terms, such as "falls", "river", "stream" and "lagoon". Some 250 such terms are to be approved between now and the summer of 1983.

*/ E/CONF.74/1.

**/ Prepared by Mr. Jean-Yves Dugas, staff member at the Quebec Toponymy Commission.