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Eighth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names  
Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002  
Item 17 (b) of the provisional agenda"

TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION: TRAINING COURSES IN TOPONYMY

Workshop given by the geographical names section

(Submitted by Canada)"\*

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\*\* Prepared by the Geographical Names Section, Centre for Topographic Information, Natural Resources Canada

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## WORKSHOP GIVEN BY 'THE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SECTION

### Paper submitted by Canada

During the 1999 International Cartographic Association Conference held in Ottawa, Canada, staff of the Geographical Names Section gave a workshop – *Developing and Maintaining a National Geographical Names Data Base*. The workshop participants took part in an interactive workshop lasting six hours. They were also shown the CPCGN's video "*What's in a Toponym? The Story of Canada's Geographical Names*".

The 19<sup>th</sup> International Cartographic Conference and the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICA were held in Ottawa, Canada, on August 14 to 21, 1999. The conference theme was *Touch the Past, Visualize the Future*.

As part of this conference, the Geographical Names Section of the Centre for Topographic Information, Earth Sciences Sector, Natural Resources Canada, held a six-hour workshop, *Developing and Maintaining a National Geographical Names Data Base*. This workshop was aimed at those individuals involved with geographical names, mapping, carting, and GIS. The subjects covered included:

- introduction – history of Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN), CPCGN composition at that time, jurisdictional differences, and the CPCGN Secretariat
- overview of names collection in Canada
- impact of linguistic and cultural diversity on geographical names in Canada
- design and development of the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDR)
- effect of social, political, and technical issues on the CGNDB

The workshop was attended by eight participants from the following countries – Australia, Finland, United Kingdom, Zambia, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, and Canada. During this workshop, the CPCGN video "*What's in a Toponym? The Story of Canada's Geographical Names*", was shown. A demonstration of the recently re-engineered CGNDB was also given. Participation was interactive and the feedback was positive.

Copies of the workshop presentations are available from the GNBC Secretariat, Natural Resources Canada, 615 Booth Street, Room 634, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E9 Canada.

For further details on the 19<sup>th</sup> International Cartographic Conference, please see the paper on that subject under agenda item 6d.

### Note

1. The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names became the Geographical Names Board of Canada on 2 March 2000.