

**Twenty-third Session
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

**Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda:
Other toponymic issues**

**Possible research topics to be undertaken by the Advisory Committee on
Nomenclature, Policy, and Research**

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The Advisory Committee on Nomenclature, Policy, and Research of the Geographical Names Board of Canada, at its annual meeting in September 2005, identified four areas in which research projects were desirable and where results would assist geographical names managers and administrators in their work. Without prejudice to other domains in which toponymic research could be carried out, the following areas were judged of paramount importance to the work of the Geographical Names Board of Canada at the present time.

1. Aboriginal toponymy

- Training First Nations to undertake field work in their communities
- Establishing partnerships between government and Aboriginal Groups for toponymic research
- Development of interoperational font sets for Aboriginal languages
- Promotion of standardized writing systems through involvement of Aboriginal Studies programs in universities

2. Cultural aspects of geographical names

- Inventory of toponymic research carried out by ethnic-based cultural societies
- Involvement of language programs in universities in ethnic-based toponymic research

3. Field work, including undersea features

- Involvement of local historical and cultural organizations and scientific groups in carrying out field work in their geographical areas of interest
- Promotion of field work by university researchers in areas where a requirement for official names has been identified or where no names have been recorded.

4. Historical topic

- Role of toponymy in the history of ethnic groups in Canada
- Toponymy as a witness of settlement history in Canada

A Working Group has been struck to examine these projects and will be reporting to the Annual Meeting of the Geographical Names Board of Canada in June 2006.

Comments and suggestions from experts in the international community would be greatly appreciated and should be sent by e-mail before May 31, 2006 to:

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Chair

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