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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN CANADA

Presented by the Government of Canada*

1. In a country such as Canada, with an area of almost 4 million square miles (10 million square kilometres), one finds an endless quantity and variety of topographic features. They must be counted not by the thousands, but by the hundreds of thousands. Those now identified approach one half million. A much larger quantity remains to be named.
2. Historically, Canada is a very young country. Its centenary celebration coincided with the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1967. Canada has been fortunate in having had an authority concerned with geographical names for most of our first hundred years. The Geographic Board of Canada, from which the Permanent Committee has descended, was established in 1897. Each of the 10 provinces of Canada is represented on the national names committee, but each retains jurisdiction over names within its boundaries. Some have established geographical names boards of their own, without detriment to the ideal of nation-wide co-operation. A national gazetteer has been created, with a volume devoted to each province, in which the decisions on names are expressed and made available to the public. The maps produced by national and provincial programmes carefully reflect these rulings.
3. Since the first world conference, Canada has been able to produce two new gazetteers, to issue revisions of four others and to add approximately 30,000 new toponyms to our existing stock of names. We have progressed in the development of field collection techniques, so that in two years we have been able to verify the geographical names of the entire province of New Brunswick - an

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