

Ninth Session  
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**PROGRESS IN CANADA IN AUTOMATING  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAME INFORMATION**

(Prepared by Alan Rayburn)

Progress in Canada in Automating  
Geographical Name Information

Submitted by Alan Rayburn

Heads of national delegations who attended the Third UN Conference in Athens were each sent a copy of CANOMA, Volume 6, number 1, which was dedicated to the symposium on the automation of geographical names held in Ottawa in June, 1980. Additional copies of CANOMA are available for other experts at the Ninth Session and extra copies can be mailed to other persons or agencies on request.

It is projected that the National Toponymic Data Base will be automated at the end of December 1981 and be fully operational by March 1982. The work is proceeding on schedule with, as of January 31, 1981, 160,000 of the total of 350,000 current approved names in Canada entered into the automated data base. This includes all the names of the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In the next eleven months the records for Saskatchewan, Alberta, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and Quebec will be entered.

The automated data base is to be used in the printing of names lists by the cartography teams of the Surveys and Mapping Branch for the production of new and revised maps. When fully operational the automated data base will provide lists for 700-800 map manuscripts at the 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 scales required each year.

The Surveys and Mapping Branch of the Department of Natural Resources in the province of Ontario is investigating the establishment of an automated toponymic data base. Quebec reported on its automated system, ~~ONOMA~~, in CANOMA, volume 6, number 1. Manitoba has its names automated and produces an updated directory of geographical names every two years.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Feature Nomenclature the Canadian Hydrographic Service has produced a provisional list of 3,429 undersea feature names approved by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. The information has been produced in an automated data base and will be revised and updated as new decisions are made.