



2009

Processing the names in the office and organizing a board

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Aims today

- Following a process
- Indicate some different models for names authorities ... membership, secretariat, some legalities
- Preparing material for a board meeting
- Follow up after decisions
- Some secretariat tasks



Process

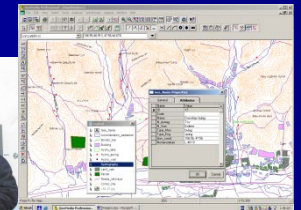
- Gathering names
 - field collection from local use
 - other sources



- Processing in office
 - to database, etc.




- Official recognition
- Modifying the records
- Dissemination





Path to follow

- Assuming a data base structure – enter records, make cross-references to old or variant names (manual)
 - Organize meeting and present documents to support acceptance (or refusal) of names
 - Gazetteers, mapping, GIS, atlases, media, web searching ...
 - Prepare materials for decision-making on names (spelling, application, etc.)
 - single / by map sheet
 - Process the results of name decisions ...
 - ... and make data available for use
- 



Official recognition - decision-making

- Who should decide about the names?
 - Which names to make official?
 - How to spell the names?
 - One name for a feature?
 - Extent of feature named?
 - Delineation/geometry
- Consider establishment of a board



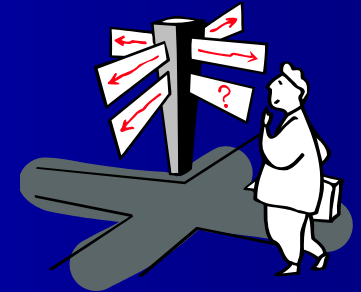


Who decides on what names?

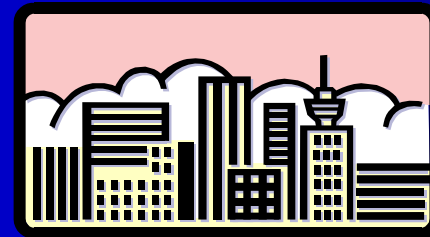
- Friends and family



- Local community



- Province / state



- National level



- International level





Basic premises

- Geographical names should be clear and unambiguous
- Each country has control over the geographical names in its own territory
- Nationally recognized names are the basis for international use





Justifying a national programme?

- Not always easy to justify the benefits in financial terms
- Considerable money and time are spent on different programmes; overlapping efforts
 - little coordination and conflicting results
- Consolidated, small nucleus of dedicated people
 - at less cost
 - more consistent information in government documents
 - names more readily available to general public



Support from the United Nations

- UN resolution I/4a 1967 underlines need to establish national agencies ... again V/15 1987
 - Importance of toponyms in spatial data infrastructure ... UN Regional Cartographic Conferences, 2000, 2001 and UN res. VIII/6, 2002
 - Preservation of toponyms as elements of identity and cultural heritage ... VIII/9 and IX/4 + link with UNESCO





Some types of names authorities

- The choice depends on the nature of the country
 - (1) Default if no names board?
 - (2) Centralized national names board
 - all decisions under one roof
 - by sub-committees: feature types, language ..
 - (3) Decentralized to regional names boards
 - with central umbrella coordinating authority
 - with regional committees
- *Is it a board, a council*



(1) Default scenario

**National
Mapping Agency**

**National
Hydrographic
Office**

Advantages:

- Need for names; related expertise
- Collect names during field survey
- Available finances

**Military
Mapping**

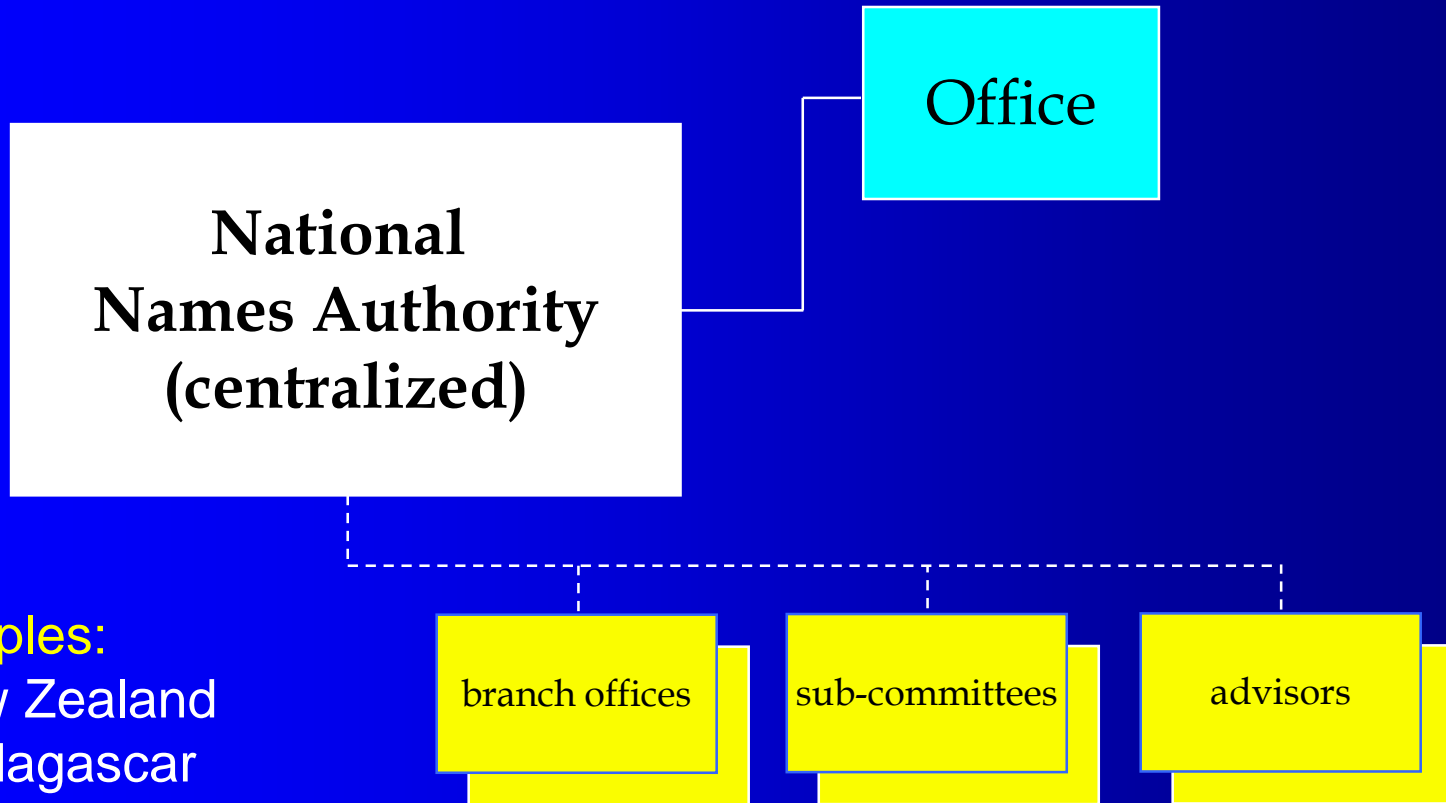
Disadvantages:

- Follow mapping agenda
- Decisions usually for maps only
- Lack of breadth of expertise in toponymy
- Political pressures?

Municipalities



(2) names authority (centralized)



Examples:

New Zealand
Madagascar
Ireland
Estonia
Hungary



Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names



Responsibility - Under Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development

Legal basis - Decree 1989 and 1992

Decisions – physical and transport features

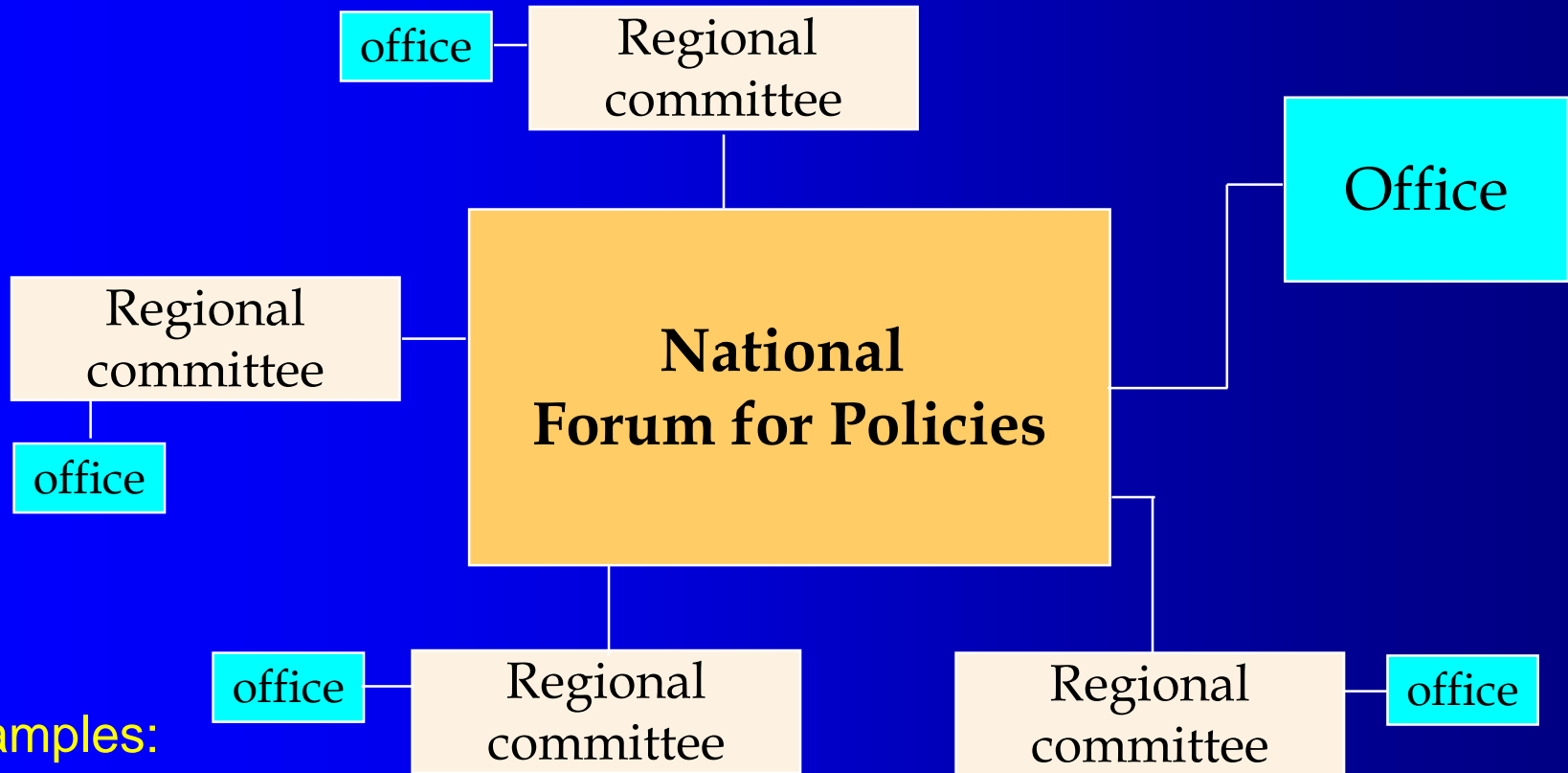
Advice – administrative names; treatment of names outside Hungary

Members – national mapping, departments of both domestic and foreign affairs; transport; geographical science, education and higher learning; experts in linguistics; local authorities, minorities; major map publishers; national press

Meetings – 3 to 5 times a year



Names authority (decentralized)

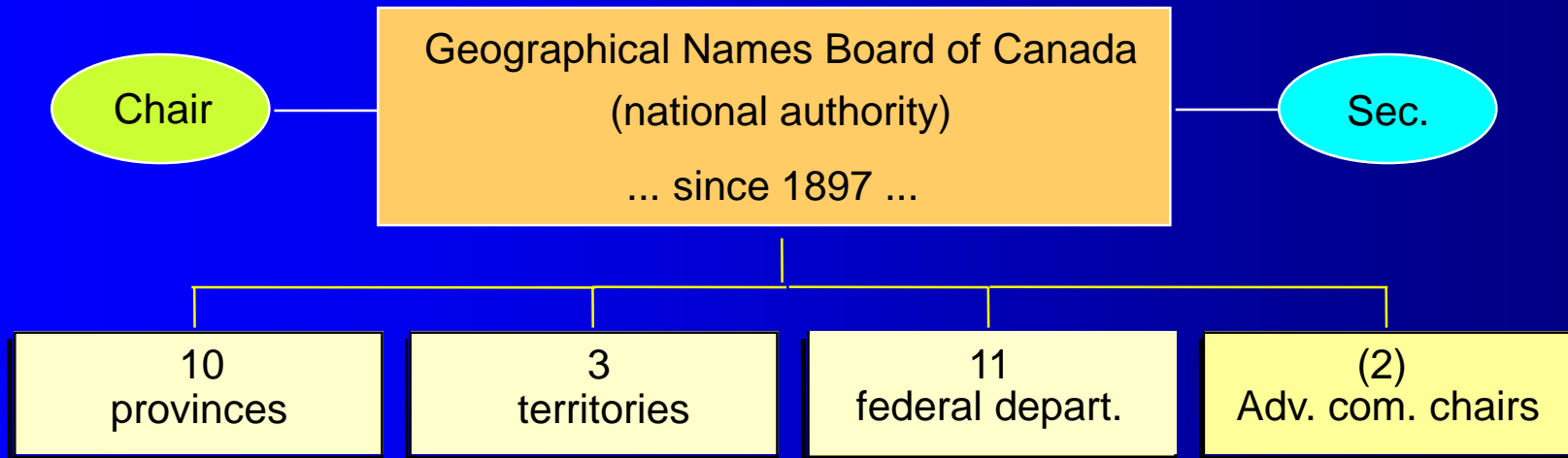


Examples:
Australia
Canada



Geographical names - Canada

Administrative structure





GNBC ...

- ✓ Forum for discussion
- ✓ Development of policies
- ✓ International, United Nations activities
- ✓ Receive advice on toponymic problems
- ✓ Work on common projects
- X .. Name decisions



Provincial and territorial names authorities



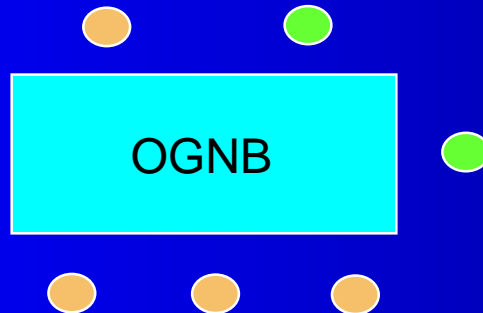
- Some have administrative structures
- Some have names boards

- Public appointees
 - academia
 - First Nations
 - Northern Ontario
 - francophone rep.

ONTARIO

*Advisory to
Minister*

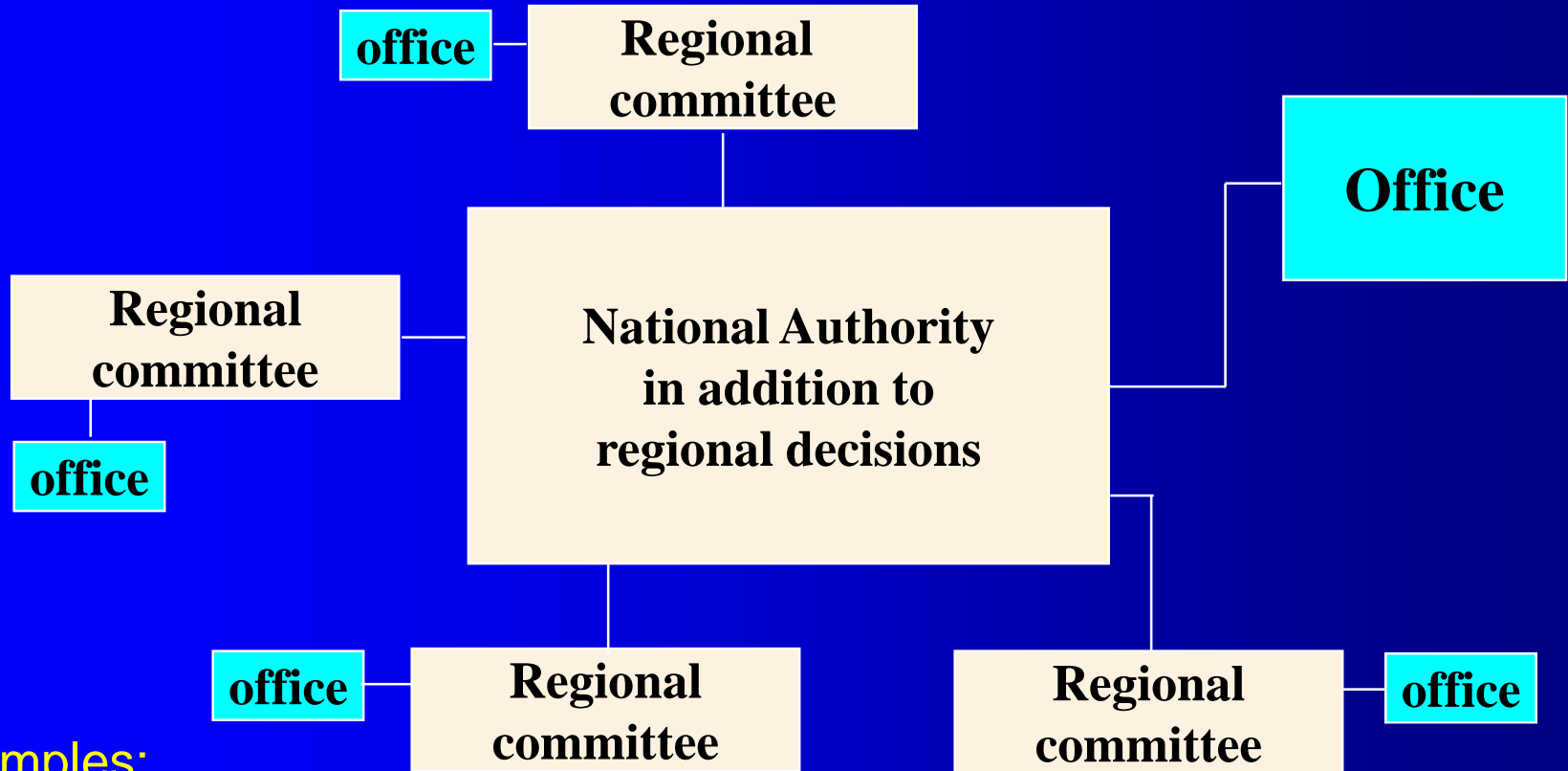
●
Chair



● Ex officio
Ministry of Natural
Resources



Names authority (central & regional)



Examples:

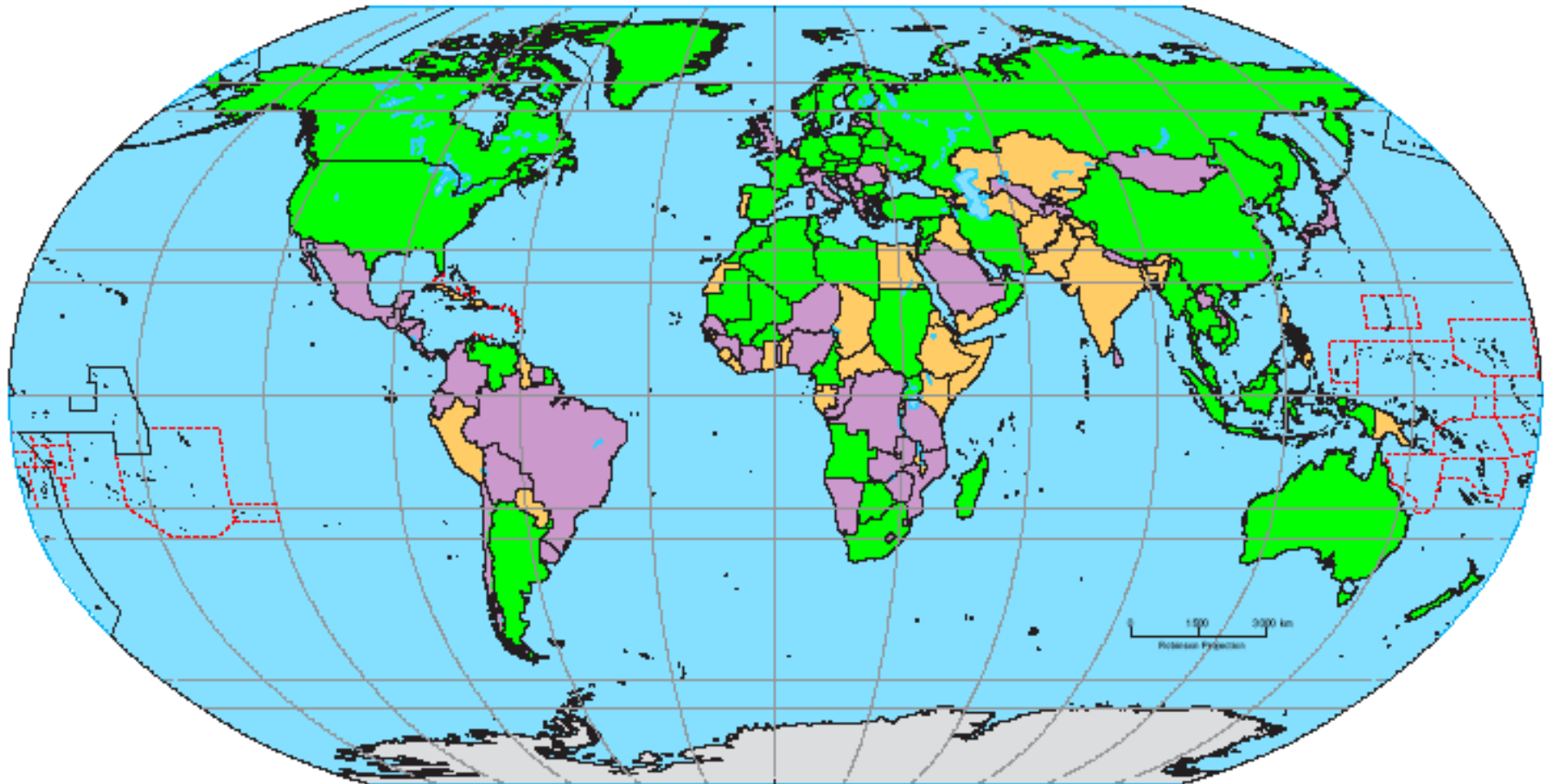
U.S.A.

South Africa



Names authorities – January 2009

Geographical Names Authorities



■ With national names authorities

■ No national names authorities

■ Status unknown

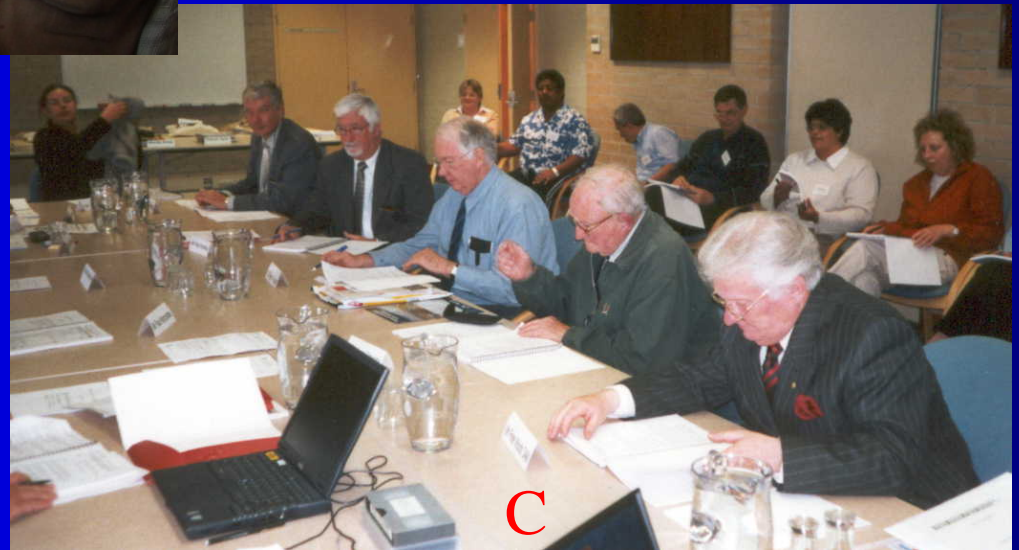


Names authorities - meetings



Names discussions:

- A. Mongolia
- B. Canada – advisory committee
- C. Australia – NSW board





Composition, mandate

- **Number of members:**
 - usually 6-18 44 in Madagascar (1973)
- **Types of members:**
 - national / regional / municipal governments
 - cultural and language groups
 - non-government experts (e.g. universities, scientific academies, publishers, historical societies)
- **Mandate:**
 - natural features; populated places; municipal units – towns, etc.; streets; buildings; ephemeral features
 - features in parks, on indigenous lands; marine features
 - exonyms





Legal and other considerations

- Try to have names authority established by law, act, etc. (try to keep up to date)
- Appointments of chair, members
 - by whom and for how long?
- Lead department? Secretariat?
- Who pays for participation of members?
- Is the names authority advisory or has it the ultimate decision-making role?
- Is there an obligation for government to use these names? Is this binding?
- Writing of mandate/terms of reference?



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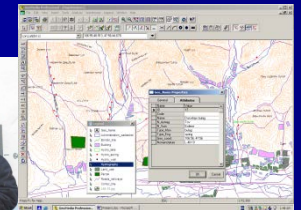
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Authorizing the toponyms 1

- Before meeting
 - Consistent preparation of documents for board meeting
 - ... name explanation, map, sources used, etc.
 - ... difficulties – language, grammar, application, more than one name known
 - Likely temporary record in data base
 - Indicate application of name to feature
 - Distribute in advance




As submitted to Board – Ontario, Canada



	The Ontario Geographic Names Board/La Commission de toponymie de l'Ontario	Name of Geographic Feature/Nom d'entité géographique	Serial Number/No de série	Meeting Date/Date de la réunion
	MNR District/ District du MRN	Provincial Map/ Carte provinciale	Federal Map/ Carte fédérale	Decision Date/ Date de décision
Ontario	Parry Sound	10 17 6200 49650	31D14	March 5 2004 (115th) May 18 2004

The following name of a geographic feature has been considered by the Ontario Geographic Names Board and pursuant to Section 3(8) of the Ontario Geographic Names Board Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.16 is recommended to the Minister for approval under Section 4 of the above Act/La nom d'entité géographique qui suit a été pris en considération par la Commission de toponymie de l'Ontario et, en vertu du paragraphe 3 (8) de la Loi sur la Commission de toponymie de l'Ontario, L.R.O. 1990, chap. O.16, est recommandé au ministre pour approbation selon l'article 4 de la loi sus-mentionnée



Local Name: Wesley Island

Wesley Island
 Island/Ile(2300); Wood (geographic township); Gravenhurst (municipality); District Municipality of Muskoka; Morrison Lake; approximate centre at 44°52'05" - 79°27'58" – UTM = 17 621175 4969221(datum = NAD27); record status = A1; unique name key = FETDO

MNR recommended form of name for use in French text applications - ile Wesley

Name in well-established current local usage since the 1960's. After early owners including the late George and Ida Wesley who were among the original cottagers and pioneering families on Morrison Lake.

Reference number

Map sheet number

Date

Feature delineation

Approved name

Feature type

Location

Status

Background



Authorizing the toponyms 2

- After meeting
 - Modify the database records
 - Prepare decision list for signature
 - To Deputy Minister? To gazette/newspaper?
 - Necessary to address feedback?
 - Minutes of meeting to be made available
 - Contact those submitting names
 - Ensure names available for mapping, web, etc.





Why are some boards ineffective?

- No one reason! Some suggestions:
 - Lack of
 - commitment of management, particularly in the lead department (resources)
 - Secretariat as focal point
 - interest/commitment of board members
 - good advisors on subjects of concern
 - clear direction/mandate
 - consultation with local community and provision of feedback
 - availability of decisions and their use by government



Secretariat support

- Core group
 - professional/technical
- Focal point for national toponymic activity
- Leadership; organization; communication
- Prepare materials, meetings, follow-up
- How many people?
 - depends on whether other staff for database, media contacts, some committee preparations





Some Secretariat tasks - 1



- Liaison with board members, gov., public
- Organize board meetings (how often?)
- Prepare board documents
- Recording and archiving minutes / decisions
- Signatures, posting ... distribute decisions
- Ensure name decisions are in the records
- Answer enquiries



Some Secretariat tasks - 2



- Develop forms and information sheets for name proposals
- Provide support for Board appointments
- Take responsibility for Board budget
- Provide leadership in activities associated with the Board ... workshops, gazetteers
- Keep aware of international activities