



2009

# The role of national names authorities – standardization criteria ...

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# Aims today

- Responsibilities of a national names authority
- Some criteria for names standardization
- Sample forms
- Some types of problems to consider
- Publicity – promotional dvd from South Africa



# Names authorities ...



Names discussions:

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





# Responsibilities of a names authority

- Responsibilities and scope of decisions?
- Developing policies and guidelines to support names approval or rejection
- Making decisions/recommendations on names
- Assuring minutes, names decisions ... are made generally available
- Other tasks?
  - displays, talks, workshops
  - promotion in media, conferences





## ... impact of decisions

- Board looked to for independent unbiased judgement
- Decisions may affect highway signs, laws, maps, etc.
- Decisions are important to future generations
- Integrity and effectiveness of board at stake
  - Slow and sure!
- ..... avoid political interference





# Policies and principles - 1

- Develop according to country's needs
  - current and long-standing local usage
  - univocity / multilingual areas
  - duplication in small area?
  - variations in spelling in associated features?
  - derogatory and pejorative names
  - generic terminology





## Policies and principles - 2

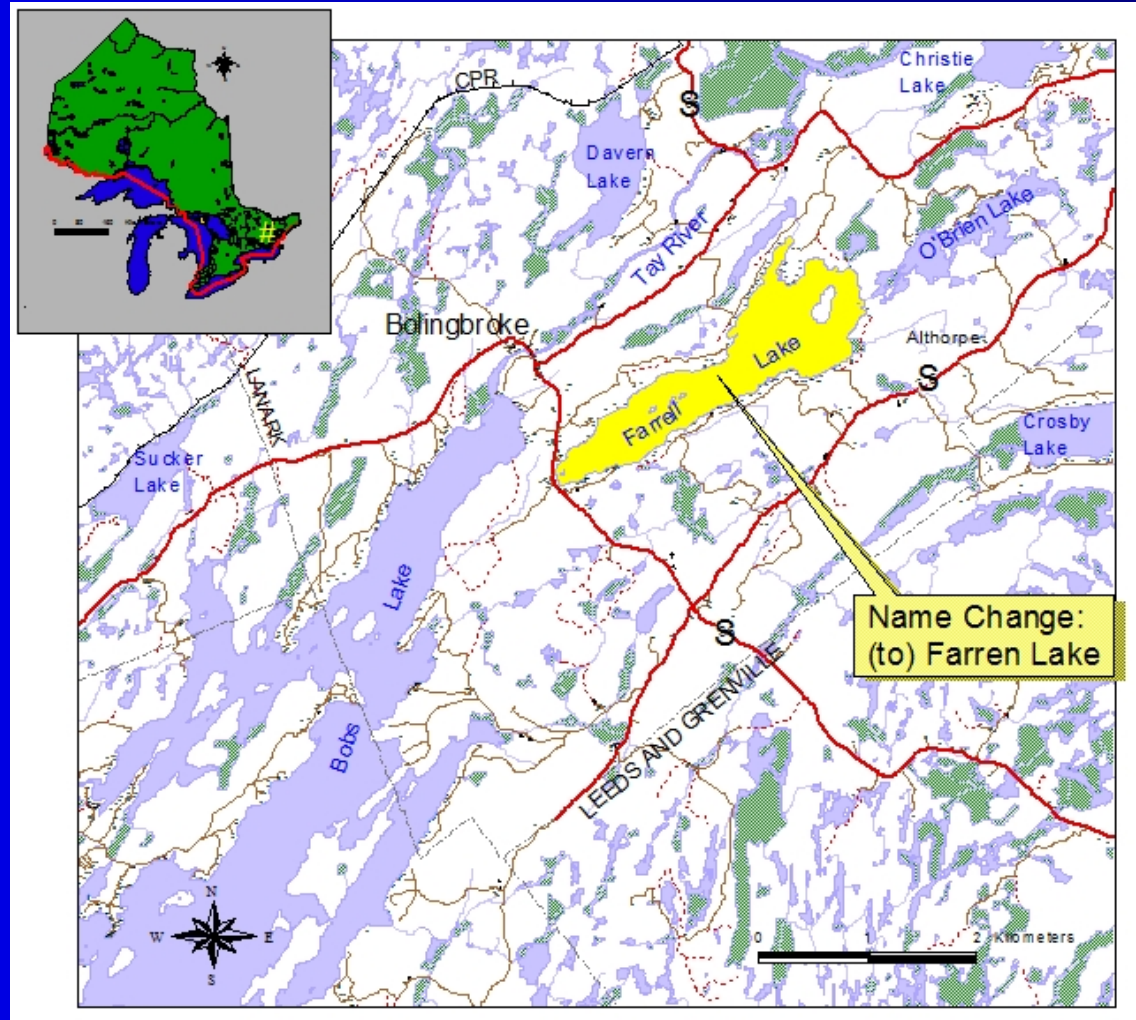
- generic terms for part of the whole
- statutory names
- commercial names
- personal names and commemoration
- preferred types of names where no local use
- use of council resolutions
- areas of restricted naming
- changing names





# Ontario examples

- Agenda for a Board meeting
- Sample name submission
  - (name change Farrell Lake to Farren Lake)





**5.1 Name Change: Farren Lake, F/2000/012**

**Requester:** The Township

**Proposal:** Newly amalgamated municipality requests that the name of the lake which has been in common use for the last 40 or 50 years be reinstated as part of the 911 addressing project (see application - Appendix 104.5.1-1).

**Background:** Current official name Farrell Lake replaced former official name Farren Lake on October 25, 1971. Farrell Lake was approved by the Ontario Geographic Names Board **on the recommendation of, and from information supplied by the former Township.** (see 1971 decision background - Appendix 104.5.1-2). Newly formed municipality passes motion to re-instate the name Farren Lake - wondering why name was changed in the first place???

**Name Origin:** Previously approved as Farren Lake in the 1962 Gazetteer. Farren Lake appears on older editions of 31C/16 and 31C. Changed to Farrell Lake 25 October 1971 on 31C/16. Name in well-established current local and common usage, since at least 1950.

CONTACT/SOURCE	NAME	ADDRESS	1ST CHOICE	USAGE	COMMENTS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	AW
<b>FOR:</b>						
Business - Local - Real Estate Corporation	*****	WESTPORT	Farren Lake	50+ years	Only name known	104.5.1-3
Corporation - Federal - Local Outlet	*****	MABERLY	Farren Lake	80+ years	Only name known	104.5.1-4
Govt - Local - MNR	*****	KEMPTVILLE	Farren Lake	27 years	Only name known - also on Fish Stocking List	104.5.1-5
Public - Local - Cottager	*****	KINGSTON	Farren Lake	10 years	Only name known	104.5.1-6
Public - Local - Cottager	*****	OTTAWA	Farren Lake	none provide	Always	104.5.1-7
Public - Local - Cottager	*****	OTTAWA	Farren Lake	30+ years	Only name known	104.5.1-8
Public - Local - Property Association	*****	OTTAWA	Farren Lake	24+ years	"Farrel Lake" not used	104.5.1-9
Public - Local - Resident	*****	WESTPORT	Farren Lake	10 years	Only name known	104.5.1-10
Unidentified Respondent - Local	*****	Unknown	Farren Lake	25 years	Only name known	
Unidentified Respondent - Local	*****	Unknown	Farren Lake	30 years	Farrell Lake name in use over 30 years ago	104.5.1-11

**AGAINST:  
DID NOT RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE OR NEUTRAL:**

Govt - Local - OPP	*****	PERTH	N/A	N/A	Did not return questionnaire	
Public - Local - Resident	*****	MABERLY	N/A	N/A	Did not return questionnaire	
Public - Local - Resident	*****	MABERLY	N/A	N/A	Did not return questionnaire	
Public - Local - Resident	*****	MABERLY	N/A	N/A	Did not return questionnaire	
Public - Local - Resident	*****	MABERLY	N/A	N/A	Did not return questionnaire	
Public - Local - Resident	*****	MABERLY	N/A	N/A	Did not return questionnaire	
Public - Local - Resident	*****	WESTPORT	N/A	N/A	Did not return questionnaire	
Public - Local - Cottager	*****	WESTPORT	N/A	N/A	Did not return questionnaire	
Review	3 cottagers and 2 local residents	VARIOUS	N/A	N/A	Returned by Post Office - undelivered	

\* Contact/Source provided by requester

**DECISION:** Proposal Approved as is \_\_\_\_\_ Proposal Approved with changes \_\_\_\_\_ Proposal Deferred \_\_\_\_\_ Proposal Denied \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS/CHANGES: \_\_\_\_\_



Ontario

The Ontario Geographic  
Names Board/ La Commission  
de toponymie de l'Ontario

MNR District/  
District du MNR

**Kemptville**

Name of Geographic  
Feature/Nom d'entité  
géographique

Provincial Map/  
Carte provinciale

10 18 3800 49550

Serial Number/  
No de série

**F/2000/012**

Federal Map/  
Carte fédérale

31C16

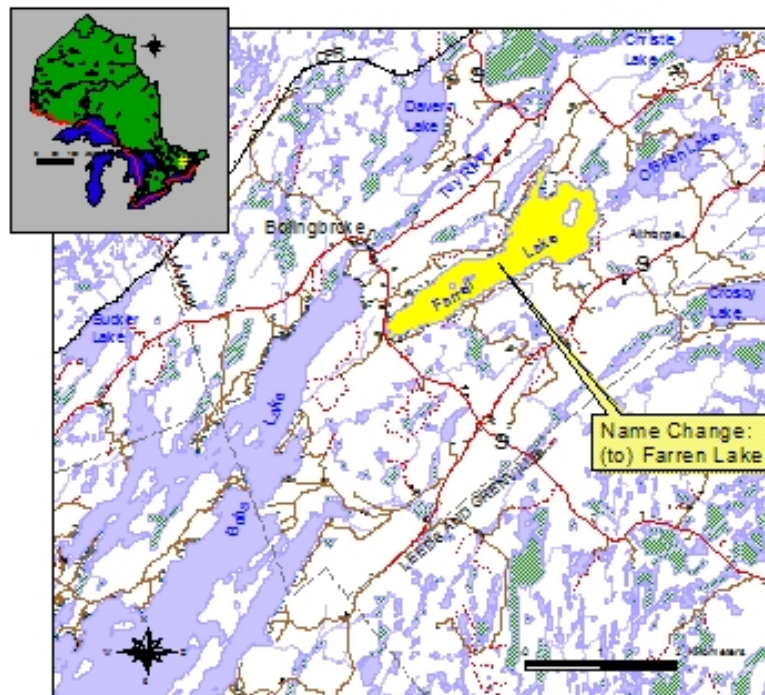
Meeting Date/  
Date de la réunion

**June 27 2000 (104th)**

Decision Date/  
Date de décision

**August 22 2000**

The following name of a geographic feature has been considered by the Ontario Geographic Names Board and pursuant to Section 3(3) of the Ontario Geographic Names Board Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 is recommended to the Minister for approval under Section 4 of the above Act. Le 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(3) de la Loi sur la Commission de toponymie de l'Ontario, L.R.O. 1990, chap. O.18, est recommandé au ministre pour approbation selon l'article 4 de la loi sus-mentionnée.



#### Farren Lake

Lake (861); South Sherbrooke(geo.tp); Bathurst Burgess Sherbrooke(locom.un.); Lanark(reg.tolty./dist.); approximate centre at 44°45'28" - 78°29'55" - UTM = 18 381386 4968367(datum = NAD27); record status = A6; unique key = FBD PY; Not: Farrell Lake (FBD QD), nor Farrons Lake (FBD QP), nor Farrel Lake (FBD QH), nor Farrens Lake (FE8RN), nor Fallan Lake (FBD KU), nor Sherbrook Lake (FCNNQ)

MNR recommended form of name for use in French text applications -- lac Farren

Name in well-established current, local and common usage, since at least 1960.



# Some sample documents and forms

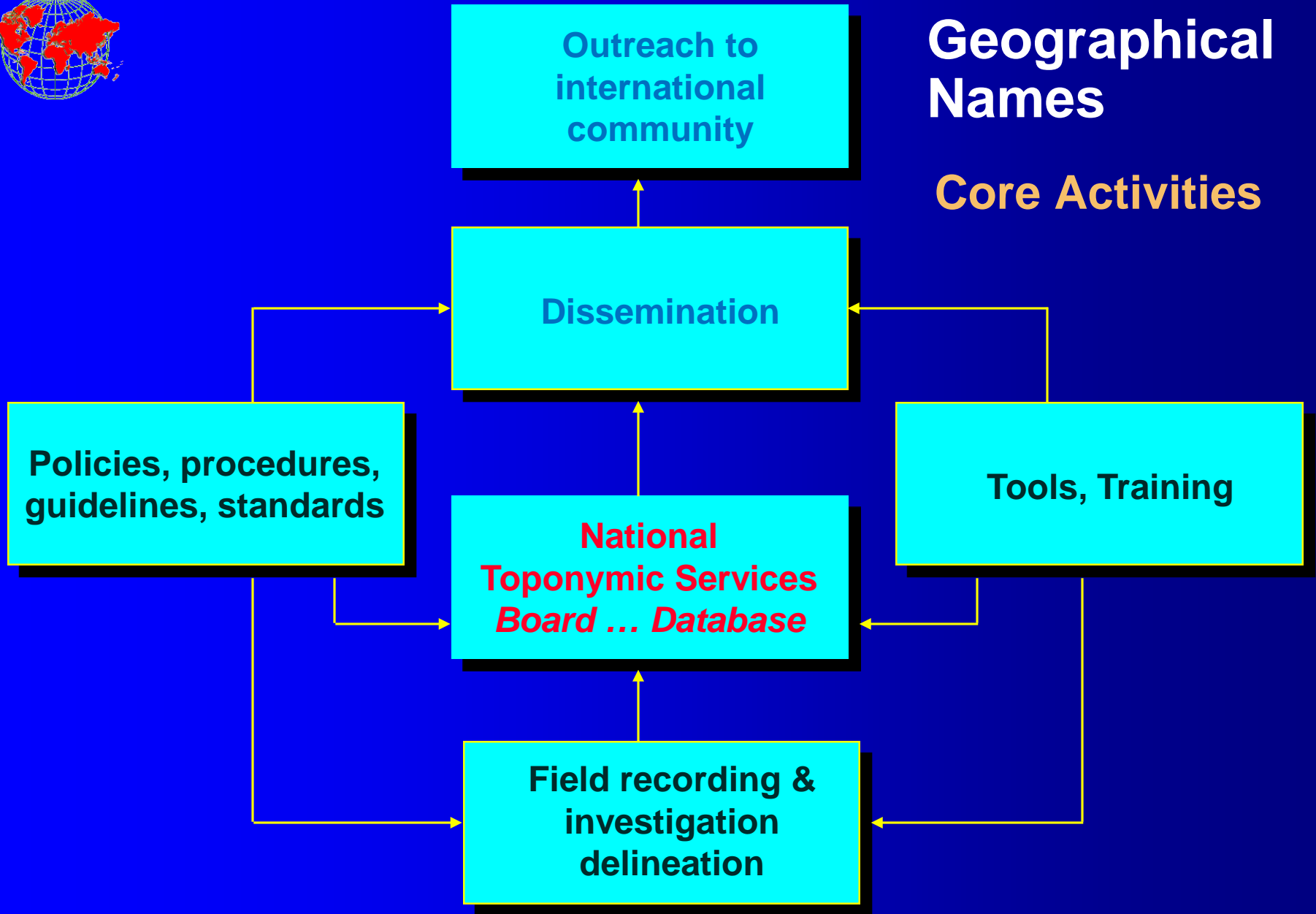
- Act for a names board (e.g. Ontario, Canada)
  - Terms of Reference
- Naming principles
  - Procedural Guidelines
- Forms for public submissions
  - New Zealand, South Africa
  - Canada - undersea features
- Detailed naming process
  - New Zealand





# Geographical Names

## Core Activities





# Some thoughts on name decisions

Types of problems encountered



# ... for the Board and Secretariat

- Where do we start?
- Language and spelling
- How much evidence is needed for a name to be approved?
- Changing names
- Type of feature/application of a name
- The public and the politics





# Where do we start?

- Perhaps all names on a published map could be considered official
  - then add and modify
- May be starting from card records





# Language and spelling

- Unwritten language
- Differences in spelling
- Multiple names in the same language
- Multiple languages
- Romanization







... one name, or more?





# How much support?

- How many people? Who?
- How much evidence?





# Changing names

- Names recorded with incorrect spelling
- Names well known
- Names locally used or names of “colonial”/military/historical use
- Names now considered derogatory or pejorative
- Names that are no longer known





# Type of feature / application of name

- What is extent of named feature?
  - geographically
  - toponymically
- What type of feature is named?
- What are the correct coordinates?





# The public and the politics

- What public input should be involved in the naming process?
- How does the Board avoid political interference?

