United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
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Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*
National and international standardization of geographical names: names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation

Commemorative naming in Canada

Summary**

Commemorative geographical names provide a visible and enduring way to remember the stories associated with participation in wars and battles and to recognize the personal sacrifice and heroism of armed forces personnel and civilians involved in conflicts. Over several decades, the federal, provincial and territorial naming authorities of the Geographical Names Board of Canada have officially adopted thousands of commemorative names for places and features throughout the country, such as towns, lakes, rivers, mountains, islands and parks.

In November 2018, the Geographical Names Board of Canada released Canada’s Commemorative Map, an interactive, online presentation of text, images and videos that highlights official geographical names of locations named to honour war casualties, significant battles, military units and ships. Clickable points on the map display details on the person, thing or event that the location is named to commemorate, along with a photo and links to other authoritative information. Additional commemorative geographical names will be added in future releases of this evergreen interactive map.

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* GEGN.2/2019/1.
** The full report was prepared by Steve Westley, Geographical Names Board of Canada Secretariat, Natural Resources Canada. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/1st_session_UNEGGN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/74/CRP.74.