

5 February 2021

Original: English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2021 session**

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 6 (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****Recognizing women with Canadian place names****Summary****

Geographical names are the result of the interaction between people and the lands that they know or inhabit. Names are given to geographical features such as mountains, lakes and islands for purposes of identification and referencing, or to remember persons and events. In a landscape that is predominantly named after men, there are notable examples across Canada of geographical features named for women.

Natural Resources Canada and the Geographical Names Board of Canada will launch an interactive map highlighting a selection of geographical features named for women from diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds who have been commemorated through place names for various reasons. The map will offer a sample of close to 500 official place names approved by the federal, provincial and territorial naming authorities of the Board.

This interactive map is the first national commemorative map to present geographical features named for women. Preserved in each name is a woman's association with a landscape or a place, and collectively they reflect a diversity of women's histories and cultural origins.

* GEGN.2/2021/1.

** The full report was prepared by Kristina Kwiatkowski, Geographical Names Board of Canada secretariat, Natural Resources Canada. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/58/CRP.58, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.

