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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2023 session**

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Governments on the situation in their countries and
on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names****Report of Canada****Summary****

Since the 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the Geographical Names Board of Canada, Canada's national coordinating body for place naming authorities, has made progress toward achieving the goals set out in its 2020–2025 strategic plan. The 125th annual general meeting of the Names Board in 2022 was held in person for the first time since the beginning of the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The strategic plan includes several priorities: review role; mandate and governance; enhance internal and external communication and collaboration; and improve database content and management. Recognizing that 2023 represents the halfway point of the plan, the focus has been largely on enhancing communications and improving the national database, as well as addressing emerging priorities, such as derogatory place names.

The communication and educational tools released in 2022 included an additional 125 names on the interactive map entitled "Stories from the land: Indigenous place names in Canada"; and a short video celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Names Board.

The United States of America-Canada Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was revitalized with activities that included a virtual discussion forum on national principles, sharing processes on addressing derogatory place names and engagement with Indigenous governments and communities.

Canada actively participates in the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and attended the sessions it held in 2021 and 2022.

* GEGN.2/2023/1.

** The full report was prepared by Carla Jack and Steve Westley, Natural Resources Canada. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/85/CRP.85, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.



National database work included tagging place names with Indigenous origins and updating language of origin fields to better reflect the presence and diversity of Indigenous place names in Canada. This work has resulted in the public release of a thematic dataset of Indigenous place names containing over 20,000 official place names, with more being added on an ongoing basis. A pilot project in partnership with the Innu Nation of Labrador to incorporate audio files into the national dataset was undertaken in 2022, which added the pronunciation of over 400 official names in the Innu-aimon language. Projects are under way to evaluate and modernize the national database system and its contents.
