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

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity,
including Indigenous, minority and regional languages and
multilingual issues****Addressing derogatory geographical names in Canada****Summary****

The Geographical Names Board of Canada is addressing derogatory, discriminatory and harmful geographical names that appear in the official names data.

A working group of the Board has been established to engage in discussions on best practices and ongoing efforts in addressing, rescinding and replacing derogatory names.

Several naming jurisdictions in Canada have taken proactive action to rescind derogatory names. Certain offensive names have been removed from national base maps, and content warnings have been applied to the national names database and downloadable data.

The paper provides an outline of some of the actions taken over the past two years by the Board and its federal, provincial and territorial naming authorities to respond to the issue of derogatory names, and racist place names in particular.

* [GEGN.2/2023/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Carla Jack and Sarah Bannon, Natural Resources Canada. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2023/83/CRP.83.

