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

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

Toponymic education**Dissemination and promotion of Indigenous place names****Summary****

An estimated 30,000 official place names in Canada have origins in Indigenous languages and cultures. Efforts are ongoing by the federal, provincial and territorial naming authorities of the Geographical Names Board of Canada to research, restore and promote traditional names that reflect Indigenous heritage. Natural Resources Canada maintains the national database of place names on behalf of the Names Board.

In 2022, Natural Resources Canada released the Indigenous Geographical Names Dataset, which identifies official geographical names with origins in Indigenous world views. It contains core spatial data for each name, along with the Indigenous language of origin identified with an International Organization for Standardization standard. The data are presented through an interactive web mapping service on the web pages of the Names Board and are available to download as open data.

Working in partnership with the Innu Nation of Labrador, the Geographical Names Board of Canada has incorporated audio recordings of pronunciations of over 400 Innu-aimun language place names in the public search tool of the national database. A corresponding interactive index map helps to ensure that users are able to find the records, learn the names and hear their pronunciation.

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

** The full report was prepared by Sarah Bannon and Carla Jack, Natural Resources Canada. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/84/CRP.84, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.

