

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Few organizations with a history as deep as the Royal Canadian Geographical Society remain as vibrant today. Our resilience and growth speak to our capacity to meet national and global change with the insight and clarity Canadians of all ages rely upon. What can help us make sense of changing weather patterns, biodiversity loss, and attacks on science and our very sovereignty? Geography can, and I am extremely proud of how the entire RCGS team has risen to the challenges of this historic moment.

We delivered exceptional content and programming this year, including a bestselling issue of *Canadian Geographic* revealing the inside story of the Society-led search for *Quest*. We also are very proud of our 50 giant floor maps teaching thousands of Canadian students about everything from the human and physical geography of the Great Lakes to career opportunities in the energy sector. We launched exciting new multimedia projects, including "Right of Passage," a partnership with Parks Canada raising awareness of the importance of ecological connectivity in wildlife conservation, and "Weaving Our Stories of Language and Land," a partnership with the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages spotlighting work to reawaken and protect Indigenous languages.

With recent events and our continued relationship with the United States, our organizational mission took on

CEO'S LETTER

Nearly a century ago, in 1929, a remarkable group of Canadian innovators came together to form the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS). They were drawn from all regions of the country and from all sectors of society. They had one shared purpose for the new Society: to "be a unifying influence upon the life of Canada."

Their intention was for the RCGS to touch all Canadians, "to count among its members all men and women who have complete faith in their country, and who recognize it as a duty and a privilege to learn more about Canada" — and to help spread that knowledge at home and abroad.

The RCGS continues to fulfill that mission, in the pages of *Canadian Geographic*, the country's number one paid magazine by readership; through Canadian Geographic Education, with a network of over 28,000 classroom educators; and through the Trebek Initiative and our expedition and research grant programs, which inspire knowledge about and passion for our country.

The events of the past year — with a U.S. President threatening economic pressure to remove Canadian sovereignty, and implying it would somehow be desirable to be downgraded to the status of the 51st state — only serves to underscore the important role fulfilled by the RCGS, *Canadian Geographic*, and Canadian Geographic Education.

Within days of Donald Trump's remarks, former prime minister Stephen Harper used the Society as a platform to call on Canadians to embrace our shared history and identity and also suggested the country might need to take a temporary financial hit to ensure its survival. Harper said he "would accept any level of damage to preserve the independence of the country." A writer in the *Globe and Mail* said those words marked a "pivotal shift in our national consciousness. After years of casual denigration of national symbols and identity, Canadians are rediscovering their patriotic resolve in the face of external pressure."

A new significance. We have an opportunity to remind Canadians and the world of all the things that make us great and distinct, and how by rallying around shared histories and values we can secure a bright future for our country and its diverse peoples. The *Our Country/ Notre Pays* project launched in time for Canada Day. It is a beautiful celebration of the places and memories we hold dear. *Canadian Geographic's* May/June and July/August issues also made powerful statements in support of continuing our cross-border friendship.

I was thrilled to see the long-running Canadian Geographic Challenge return to the Alex Trebek Theatre live in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. It is so wonderful to see Canada's Centre for Geography and Exploration living up to its name and engaging curious Canadians with a steady stream of exhibits, talks and educational programming.

Our 100th anniversary draws ever closer, and I am looking forward to seeing momentum building at all levels of the organization to position us for a strong and vibrant second century. On behalf of the Board of Governors, thank you and congratulations to all who have had a hand in our success.

Hon. Lois Mitchell,
President

Soon after, on the eve of his opening of the Canadian Parliament, the King visited Canada House where he and the Queen were joined by RCGS Honorary President Chief Perry Bellegarde on a giant floor map of the country, created by Canadian Geographic Education in collaboration with Parks Canada. It was an unmistakable demonstration of the King's great affection for Canada and an implicit rebuttal of those who would question Canadian sovereignty.

At the same time, *Canadian Geographic's* editorial team was working on a deeply inspiring project that will continue right up until our 100th anniversary in 2029: *Our Country/Notre Pays*, which celebrates Canada by asking notable Canadians to choose and describe their favourite place in the vast country. A series of companion videos features Canadian explorers, authors, musicians and actors reflecting on what Canada means to them.

A special issue of *Canadian Geographic*, with a poster map showing Canada at the centre of the world, followed. The issue was almost entirely dedicated to questions of sovereignty, identity, resilience and strength, and was anchored by a feature written by anthropologist and ethnobotanist Wade Davis. "Our landscape is a map of dreams," wrote Davis, "a mystic endowment essential to our identity."

And then, on Canada Day, at a celebration held on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, we honoured one of the greatest Canadians, Joni Mitchell, with the RCGS Gold Medal. Her message was an uplifting one: "I have never been happier or prouder to be a Canadian than I am right now."

This is the RCGS's our founders intended, an organization that instills faith in our country and its enormous potential, fulfilling its mandate so beautifully reflected in our motto: *Ducit amor patriae* — love of country leads me.

John Geiger
Chief Executive Officer

PROGRAMS

AWARDS

To recognize outstanding achievement in the fields of geography, education, science and exploration, and for volunteering to assist the Society, the following awards were given in 2025 to individuals who have made a special impact.



GOLD MEDAL
Awarded to **Joni Mitchell**, a Canadian and American singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and painter, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to Canadian and international culture.



CHARLES CAMMELL MEDAL
Awarded to **Stephen Fry**, English actor, broadcaster, comedian, director and writer; and to **John Pollack**, a former senior research scientist for the B.C. provincial government and former RCGS Governor who served for many years as Chair of the Expeditions Committee.



LAWRENCE J. BURPEE MEDAL
Awarded to **Stephen Fry**, English actor, broadcaster, comedian, director and writer; and to **John Hemming**, historian, explorer and expert on the Incas and Indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin.



SIR CHRISTOPHER ONDAATJE MEDAL FOR EXPLORATION
Awarded to **Gregory Horne** in recognition of his exploration and scientific research in remote Arctic regions by way of ski mountaineering, cave exploration, canyoneering and high altitude climbing.



CAPT. JOSEPH-ELZÉAR BERNIER MEDAL
Awarded to **Ron Hallman** in recognition of his leadership as President and CEO of Parks Canada and strong support of the Society's mission and programs.



MARTIN BERGMANN MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCTIC LEADERSHIP
Awarded to the **Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre**, in recognition of their work in Arctic leadership through research, multimedia, land-based programming and culture and heritage to empower the community and youth.



LOUIE KAMOOKAK MEDAL
Awarded to **Jeremy Dutcher**, a classically trained Indigenous tenor, composer, musicologist, performer and activist; **Susan Aglukark**, a Juno Award-winning Inuk singer and songwriter; and **Kenn Harper**, an educator, businessman and historian whose powerful body of work has shed light on the Arctic.



ALEX TREBEK MEDAL FOR GEOGRAPHIC LITERACY
Awarded to **Claude Tremblay Brun del Re** in recognition of her long service to the geography education community, particularly through her participation in AGEE / I'AGEO and work with the Ontario Ministry of Education.



GILLES GAGNIER MEDAL FOR INNOVATION IN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION
Awarded to **Andre Boutin-Maloney**, who transformed the town of Fort Qu'Appelle Sask. into a living classroom through a public-facing, GIS-powered walking tour called Finding Common Ground: A Treaty Walk (8. Roll) of Fort Qu'Appelle.

The following distinguished individuals were made Honorary Fellows this year: Christian Bok, Morrie Neiss, Patrick Lahey, Louise Penny, Ashley Parry-Jones, Mona Fortier, Michel Miraillet, Craig Cohon, Mike Savage, Hayden Christensen, George Stroumboulopoulos.



NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee approved a call to Fellows for nominations and met on September 10, 2025. As is the usual practice during the meetings, the Committee reviewed the Society's specific leadership and governance needs and carefully assessed any new and reserved nominations. The Committee is committed to the continual strengthening of the Board of Governors as it navigates a challenging national and international non-profit landscape to deliver on the Society's mission at the highest possible level.

There were eight submissions in the 2025 call for nominations, plus applicants retained and considered from the previous year's call for nominations. Three (3) new Governor positions were recommended for full terms (3 years), with two (2) additional Governor positions recommended for staggered terms (1 year and 2 years respectively).

The committee recommends the Chair, the Hon. Lois Mitchell, be renewed for a second full term (3 years).

RESEARCH GRANTS

The Research Grants Committee awarded \$30,000 in funding to seven applicants.

The James Bourque Northern Doctoral Scholarship was awarded to Neil Brubacher of the University of Victoria (*Leveraging C- and L-Band Synthetic Aperture Radar to Estimate Arctic Sea Ice Thickness*), and the James Maxwell Human Geography Scholarship was awarded to Aderinola Olajimi of Memorial University (*Racialised Labour in Nova Scotia Mines: Black Geographies of Labour, 1880-1960*).

Additionally, the Committee awarded Graduate Research Scholarships to five students: Camille Slack of the University of Ottawa (*Infrastructure Development and Community Food Security in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: Impacts of the*

Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway), Jordan Seider of the University of British Columbia (*The Influence of Altered Vegetation Community Composition, Structure and Phenology on Caribou Movement in Northern Yukon*), Grace Johnson of Simon Fraser University (*Water Track Development on High Arctic Permafrost Hillslopes*), Micah Eckert of the University of British Columbia (*Capturing Flood and Erosion Dynamics to Understand Rapid Coastal Change in the Western Arctic*), and Adam Garbo of the University of Ottawa (*The Life Cycle of Icebergs: Glacier Thickness Mapping, Iceberg Production, and Drift Dynamics in the Canadian Arctic*).

The Committee unanimously decided that there were no applications worthy of receiving the Independent Research Grant for 2025.

EXPEDITION GRANTS

The Expeditions Committee consists of nine experts with extensive expeditionary experience in mountaineering, ocean exploration, paddling, speleology, and related fields.

In February 2025, the Expeditions Committee supported seven grantees with \$40,000 in funding. The Expedition of the Year grant went to Bruno Forest, who sought to complete a 1,200-kilometre canoe expedition on the Northern Fur Route, from Tadoussac to Waskaganish aboard canvas-covered cedar canoes. Major grants were also awarded to Ray Zahab (Trans-Ellesmere Expedition),

David Greene (Across Ungava: Ski Expedition), Joseph Frey (HMCS Canada Expedition 2025), and Kirk Safford (White Rabbit Connection Project). The Women's grant was awarded to Kathleen Goulet (Azimut Ungava), the Natalie Gillis Adventure Photography and Expedition Grant was awarded to Shira Biner (Raising the bar for Female+ First Ascents: A Climbing Expedition on Baffin Island), and the David Sawatzky Cave Exploration Grant was awarded to Erin Bartlett (Argo Project).

COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

The College of Fellows is the voting body of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. The Annual General Meeting is a meeting of this body, at which the Fellows receive and approve reports by the President, Treasurer and Auditors. On this occasion, the Fellows also elect the Officers, Governors and Fellows of the Society.

In light of these essential responsibilities, the College of Fellows should be composed of individuals both interested in the Society and willing to contribute to its mandate "to make Canada better known to Canadians and to the world." Only Fellows of the Society may bring forward nominations for the College of Fellows. In 2025, the Fellows Committee is pleased to recommend 25 individuals for election to the College of Fellows:

STEVE BURROWS — OSHAWA, ONTARIO
JACK CARLSON — OTTAWA, ONTARIO
WAI YIN CHEUNG — KINGSTON, ONTARIO
MADIGAN COTTERILL — TORONTO, ONTARIO
JENNIFER DERBACH — VANIER, ONTARIO
DIEGO ANDRES GARCIA — RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO
TAMMY HARRIS — RICHMOND, ONTARIO
RICHARD HEINZL — OAKVILLE, ONTARIO
TASHA HUBBARD — EDMONTON, ALBERTA
STEPHANIE JAFFRAY — LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA
DAVID LANDRY — TORONTO, ONTARIO
ANDREA MANDEL-CAMPBELL — EDMONTON, ALBERTA
TROY MCMULLIN — OTTAWA, ONTARIO

TOM MCPHERSON — SECHLT, BRITISH COLUMBIA
ANN MITCHELL — TORONTO, ONTARIO
HEATHER PRINGLE — VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA
JODY ROBBINS — CALGARY, ALBERTA
RILEY SCHNURR — OTTAWA, ONTARIO
ALIZA SOVANI — TOULOUSE, FRANCE
SARAH WALSH — PORTUGAL COVE, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
XANDER WANG — CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
KENNETH WHYTE — TORONTO, ONTARIO
ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH — TORONTO, ONTARIO
MATTHEW WOODWARD — LONDON, ONTARIO
ERIK YEO — TORONTO, ONTARIO

ADVANCEMENT

Ducit amor patriae (Love of country leads me) is the motto of the RCGS. The maple leaf is at the heart of everything we do and became the focal point for our fundraising efforts this year. With so much strain being felt by media organizations across the country, we decided to put a major focus on fundraising for the magazine to establish a strong foundation for the future.

We were heartened when several family foundations listened closely to our "highest needs" at the RCGS and supported the high-quality journalism that *Canadian Geographic* has been known for since 1930.

The **Norhpine Foundation**, the **Trottier Family Foundation** and **Power Corporation of Canada** have committed to support *Canadian Geographic* over the next five years to help us reach our 100th anniversary in 2030. Our donors want to see us continue to reach more than 4.4 million readers each month and ensure Canadian journalists, photographers and videographers continue to tell Canada's story.

With over 28,000 teachers in our educator network, donors wanted to get behind the long-running Can Geo Challenge. **Kensington** generously supported this year's competition, allowing us to bring finalists from across Canada to Ottawa for the first time since the pandemic. Kensington's support also allowed us to send four bright young geographers to the International Geography Olympiad in Bangkok, Thailand.

Finally, we were thankful to the **Audain Foundation** for their support of a new program focused on wildlife photography and conservation in British Columbia. Our first two beneficiaries are Ryan Tidman of Vancouver and Maxime Légaré-Vézina of Quebec City, who respectively became our inaugural Audain Wildlife Conservation Fellow and Audain Emerging Photographer-in-Residence. Tidman will capture the unique behaviours of coastal sea wolves, while Légaré-Vézina will shoot a yet-to-be determined assignment for *Canadian Geographic* magazine.

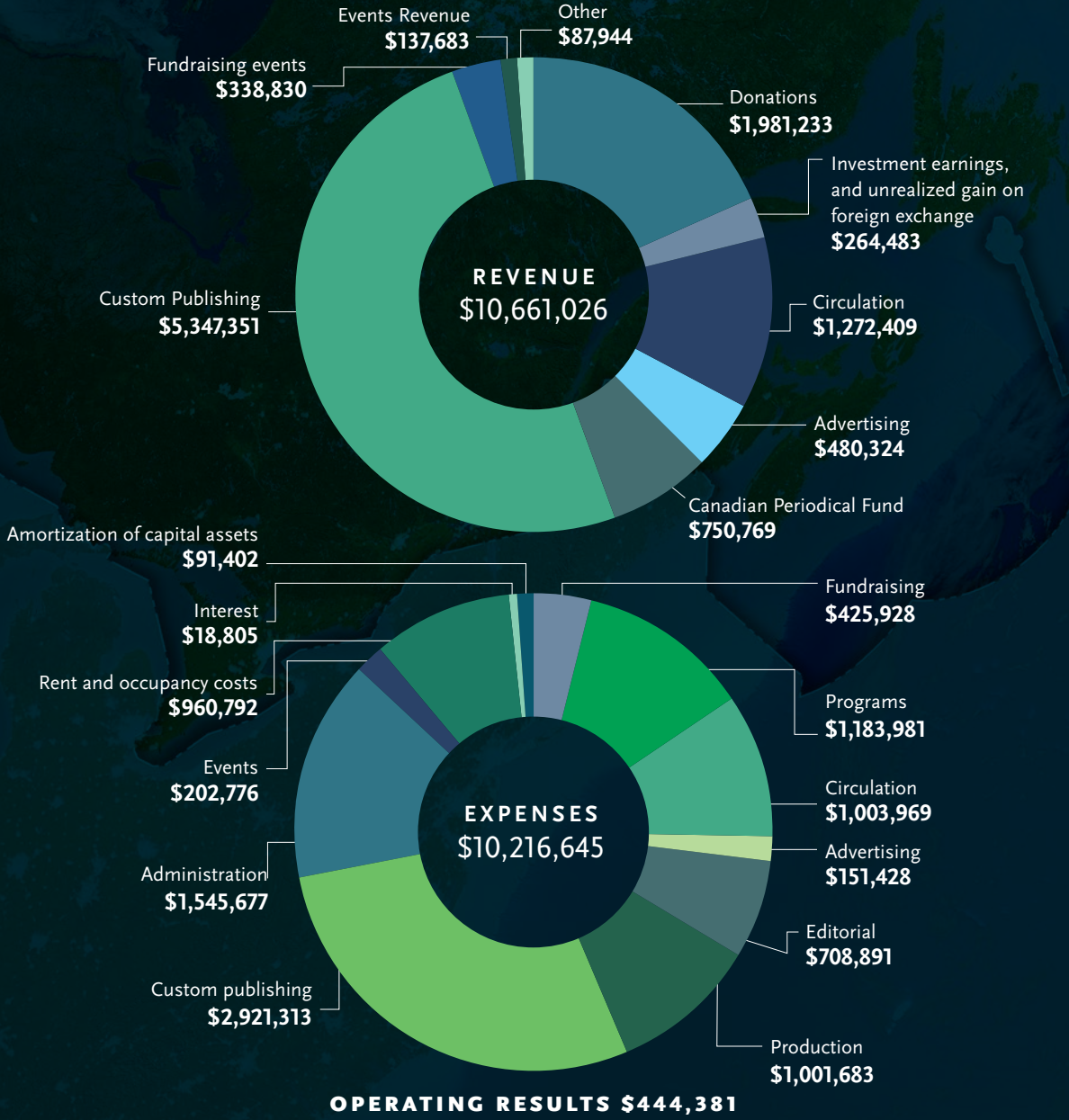
TREBEK INITIATIVE

In 2024-25, the Trebek Initiative awarded six grants for projects across Canada that pair discovery with storytelling. Filmmaker Nicole Holman joined Canada's largest offshore expedition with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and representatives from coastal First Nations communities to document one of the least explored and most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet. Wildlife researcher and photographer Liam Brennan documents climate change impacts in the Bay of Fundy to better support sustainable management practices in the region. Researcher Robert Masaki Hechler is working with Indigenous fisheries to evaluate the health of wild salmon in relation to heat stress, while also developing a novel non-invasive genomic testing method. Working alongside the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), filmmaker Sam Rose Phillips is developing a feature-length documentary and impact campaign about learning to coexist with wolves in Nuw-chaah-nulth territory. Photographer Samantha J. Stephens highlights the devastating loss of Ontario's freshwater turtles caused by road mortality and solutions being implemented by biologists and community members. Filmmaker Mitch Bowmille is developing a documentary that deepens our understanding of the world's southernmost population of polar bears living on the east coast of Wiinipaaakw (James Bay). Since 2021, the Trebek Initiative, a partnership between the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the National Geographic Society, has funded 45 projects to help preserve Canadian and Indigenous land, wildlife, water, history and culture.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Full audited financial statements will be available at rcgs.org after the Annual General Meeting of the College of Fellows.



HONORARY OFFICERS

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Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., O.Q., C.D., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

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Chief Perry Bellegarde, S.O.M.



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COMPENSATION
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VICE-PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND PUBLISHER Nathalie Cuertier
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MONITOR RELATIONS ASSOCIATE Laura Cooper
DONATING AND PHILANTHROPY COORDINATOR Emily Hallman
BUILDING CARETAKER Mike Marshall
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Darlene Pelletier



EDITORIAL

Canadian Geographic continues to hold its own in a challenging media marketplace, ranked Canada's #1 paid magazine for the second year in a row. The editorial team has made several incremental improvements to the website to enhance the digital presentation of our content, and our app also received a major facelift this year to make our digital issues more interactive and appealing.

Canadian sovereignty and cross-border issues were major themes of our coverage in the first half of 2025. Other significant stories/topics we tackled this year in print and online included the 2024 Jasper wildfire, the impact of climate change on Canadians' mental

TRAVEL PARTNERSHIPS

Canadian Geographic Adventures, a curated collection of Canadian travel operators offering small-group, guided travel experiences, had a successful year. Over the last 12 months, guests have explored five Canadian provinces and the coast of Alaska, accompanied by RCGS travel ambassadors.

Outstanding experiences included cultural learning and immersion with the Klahoose Nation in B.C.'s Desolation Sound at Klahoose Wilderness Resort, small ship expedition cruising in Haida Gwaii, the Salish Sea, the Great Bear Rainforest and Alaska with Maple Leaf Adventures, and picture-perfect moments in the Arctic and the coast of Newfoundland with Adventure Canada. Adventurous guests rafted the Nahanni river with Nahanni River Adventures, and eager birders

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION

Geographic education in Canada stands at a crossroads. While geography has never been more vital — helping Canadians understand climate change, Indigenous land rights, migration, and global interconnections — its presence in schools is uneven and fragile. In some provinces, geography is taught as a dedicated subject through high school; in others, it is absorbed into "social studies" and disappears after middle school. Many teachers delivering geography have little formal training, and the subject often loses ground to STEM and career-focused curricula. As a result, Canadian students are graduating with declining skills in spatial reasoning, map literacy, and geographic analysis — competencies urgently needed in today's geospatially driven world.

Can Geo Education is working to close these gaps, delivering Giant Floor Maps, digital tools, professional development, and national programs that keep geography alive in classrooms. Strengthening geographic education is essential to preparing young Canadians for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century — and we are up to the challenge.

Canadian Geographic Challenge

For more than three decades, the Canadian Geographic Challenge has been inspiring students to see the world through the lens of geography. Entering its 31st year, the Challenge remains one of Canada's most popular and impactful academic competitions, with a refreshed website and marketing campaign launching in 2025 to expand its reach to new educators while continuing to energize long-time participants.

The 30th anniversary year was a milestone, engaging more than 10,000 students in Grades 4 to 10 nationwide. Between October and April, participants tested their knowledge through a series of quizzes designed to spark curiosity and build confidence. The top 20 senior finalists gathered in Ottawa from May 31 to June 2 for the first in-person National Final since the pandemic. After a weekend of fieldwork, exams, and spirited discussions, **Mark Cherwick** (Grade 9, St. John's) claimed the national title, joined in the top five by **Eric Yuan** (Calgary), **Mason Slobodin** (Ottawa), **Jevon De Silva** (Markham), and **Edward Clark** (Hamilton).

On the world stage, **Eric Lu** (Vancouver) earned a silver medal and **Raashid Azeem Ahmed** (Oakville) took bronze at the 2025 International Geography Olympiad in Bangkok, alongside teammates

health, the importance of ecological connectivity for biodiversity conservation, the ongoing problem of poor water quality on First Nations reserves, and the end of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Writer Karen Pinchin was awarded gold in the science and technology storytelling category of the Digital Publishing Awards for her 2024 cover feature on great white sharks in Canadian waters. We received two additional DPA nominations and three National Magazine Award nominations for work published in 2024 — a testament to the quality and relevance of our journalism.

checked exotic birds off their lists on excursions in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and British Columbia with Eagle-Eye Tours.

Cunard continued as the official luxury cruise partner of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 2025. This summer, RCGS speakers were welcomed on board the luxurious Queen Elizabeth as part of Cunard's enrichment program for the Alaska season. Voyages transited north up the B.C. coast to Alaska, exploring the fiords and glaciers of this spectacular region. RCGS speakers shared stories of adventure, exploration, science, and the wonders of the natural world.

Aarush Behal (Oakville) and **Harry Lu** (Markham). Challenge alumni continue to excel; most recently, **Ryan Sharpe** appeared as a contestant on *Jeopardy!* — proving the enduring impact of this flagship program.

Giant Floor Maps

The Giant Floor Map program remains one of Can Geo Education's most engaging initiatives. In 2024–25, it recorded **428 bookings**, with **49 maps** circulating nationwide and reaching urban and rural schools, First Nations communities, homeschool groups, conferences, and events such as **World Ocean Day at Toronto Metropolitan University** and the **opening of Maamawi iyaawag Public School in Oshawa**. Looking ahead to 2025–26, the program is on track to exceed bookings and expand its offerings, ensuring continued growth in geographic literacy.

The Biinaagami Giant Floor Map has been a standout success, sparking professional development workshops, fostering new connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators nationwide, and extending impact beyond the classroom through free resources such as the Biinaagami special issue delivered to all *Canadian Geographic* subscribers.

Virtual engagement

Can Geo Education's suite of virtual programs continues to break down barriers and bring real-world expertise into classrooms that might not otherwise have access. Flagship initiatives such as **Marine Month in Canada**, **Adopt a Ship**, and the **Aviation Nation Classroom Contest** connect students directly with professionals working in marine science, shipping, aviation, and related fields. These interactive sessions provide career insights, spark curiosity, and help students see the relevance of geography in their future pathways. By leveraging technology, these programs ensure equitable access, reaching schools across Canada, from major urban centres to remote and underserved communities.

The staff of Can Geo Education extend sincere thanks to the members of the Executive Committee, the Board, Fellows, sponsors, donors, partners, and educator members from across the country with special thanks to the R. Howard Webster Foundation, the Trebek Family Foundation, and Kensington.



BASECAMP (FORMERLY CUSTOM PUBLISHING)

Basecamp builds upon our established tradition of engaging a wide range of funders and partnerships to support meaningful work that fulfills the Society's charitable objectives. Below are brief descriptions of some of the larger projects undertaken this year.

BIINAAGAMI: OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GREAT LAKES

The Society continued to collaborate with Swim Drink Fish on a program to engage and educate Canadians about the importance of the Great Lakes and to encourage advocacy on their behalf. Sponsored by Royal Bank of Canada and Mark Pathy, FRCCS, and guided by Indigenous ways of knowing, Biinaagami features a giant floor map that employs augmented reality to reveal the Great Lakes watershed like never before, along with extensive learning materials that are available to teachers through the Can Geo Education network.

PARKS CANADA – ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

CGE worked with Parks Canada to create an interactive website highlighting the importance of ecological corridors and connectivity. This site was supplemented with educational StoryMaps and print and digital articles in *Canadian Geographic*.

MÉTIS NATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

CGE worked with its longtime client, the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, to produce a documentary on its pursuit of a treaty with Canada, to achieve the Métis' long-standing dream of self-government.

DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

CGE worked with the Department of Canadian Heritage on several projects, including:

- **Our Country:** This project involved the creation of a digital map of Canada, overlaid with more

than 60 of the "Our Country" stories that have appeared in *Canadian Geographic* over the last 15 years.

- **GeoMinutes 2025:** This project created eight GeoMinutes, in both English and French, celebrating eight anniversaries of historical significance, along with supporting educational materials.
- **Nunavut 25:** This project, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Nunavut becoming a territory, consisted of 10 stories about the people, geography and history of Nunavut, published in English, French and Inuktitut on a dedicated landing page and in a special edition of *Canadian Geographic*.
- **RCAP 100:** This two-year project focused on 2024 as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate the Royal Canadian Air Force and its members' history of courage, sacrifice and service on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Project components included a feature-length documentary film, *Wings of Honour* (now available on CPAC), a commemorative website, a giant floor map, lesson plans, and six GeoMinutes.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

The Society worked with the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages to produce a giant floor map of Indigenous languages in Canada, showing the presence and movement of Indigenous languages, as well as a digital version of the map

which will be supplemented by many video interviews with Indigenous language speakers. The project also involves an ongoing series of stories on Indigenous languages in *Canadian Geographic*.

CANADIAN COAST GUARD – OPEN WATERS YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

With the support of the Canadian Coast Guard, the Society has developed the "Open Waters" project with the goal of encouraging young people to develop interests in marine science and conservation and to seek careers in those areas. This project includes an interactive website and community workshops intended to connect experts in the Canadian marine industry with youth in those communities.

In addition to the projects described above, the Society continued to foster strategic partnerships with the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, the Donner Foundation, Electricity Human Resources Canada, the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta, the Minto Foundation, the North Family Foundation, Ocean Networks Canada Society, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Rideau Hall Foundation, Scotiabank, the University of Ottawa and many others.



CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC FILMS



Passage project with Parks Canada. A partnership with Canadian Heritage/Commemorate Canada supported an additional slate of eight GeoMinutes, which were broadcast through a partnership with the Canada Public Affairs Channel (CPAC). A further developing partnership with TVO will see these Minutes reaching even broader exposure starting in late 2025.

Recognizing the urgent need for a platform for Canadians to express their love for their country, *Our Country/Notre Pays* established itself as a key national engagement platform for the Society emphasizing our shared values, cultures, and deep connections to the land. Out of this timely program a series of 30-second video testimonials emerged, showcasing a cross-section of passionate Canadians speaking to their love of country. Made possible with the support of

BMO, the series includes testimonials from Margaret Atwood, Tomson Highway, Adam Shoalts, William Shatner and Paul Shaffer. The series will eventually total 12 separate testimonials, and hopes to gain broad public exposure in the form of televised Public Service Announcements starting in the fall of 2025.

The period also saw the commencement of production on two feature films overseen by director Robert Barrett. *dreamMACHINE* is a story built around the legacy of the legendary Avro Arrow. The film reveals a number of fascinating new perspectives, and is slated for release in early 2026. *Métis Rising* is being produced in partnership with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, and features a number of citizens whose collective efforts continue to pave the way for a stronger, self-governing Métis Nation. Finally, *Guardians of the Land*, an Indigenous-led documentary about Indigenous Guardians caring for Canada's lands and waters, neared completion at the end of the reporting period. A co-production partnership between the RCGS, the Indigenous Leadership Initiative and RedCloud Studios, the film was led by the talents of acclaimed filmmaker Jennifer Podemski. It was also made possible through support from the **Donner Canadian Foundation**, **Nia Tero** and with special thanks to the Heiltsuk Nation and Innu Nation.



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