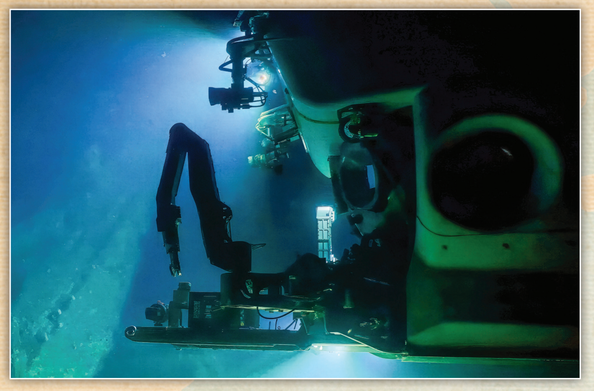
ROYAL CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Not long before this report went to the printers, I had the pleasure of touring the redesigned and reimagined Sir Christopher Ondaatje Reading Room at 50 Sussex, the Ottawa headquarters of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. It's a beautiful space, thoughtfully appointed with furniture, art and design elements that celebrate a remarkable explorer and a great champion of the Society. I welcome all our Fellows to make a point of stopping by should you find yourselves in the nation's capital. This is your reading room, and I am sure you will find it quite an inspiring place in which to plan your next adventure.

During my visit, I was struck by the tremendous energy at the building. I saw many familiar faces among the staff, but many new ones as well, an encouraging sign that the mission of the RCGS continues to attract talented people who share our love of Canada and of exploration. It is exciting that, just a few short years away from our centennial, the Society is cementing its reputation as a centre for thought and discussion about what it means to be Canadian, and Canada's role in the world.

Lately, it seems as though no matter where you look, the Society is in the news. Early in 2026, two former prime ministers from different sides of the political aisle took to the stage in the Alex Trebek Theatre to call for national unity. A few weeks later, CTV News broadcast live from 50 Sussex, where dozens of people had gathered to watch as Canadian astronaut (and RCGS Fellow) Jeremy Hansen blasted off on NASA's Artemis II mission. And, in July, the world reacted with amazement as the Society shared the first images of the wreck of *Quest*, Ernest Shackleton's last ship, at the bottom of the Labrador Sea.

The discovery of and return to *Quest* has been a special chapter in the story of the Society, made richer by the inclusion of *Terra Nova*, another icon of polar exploration, in this summer's survey. I congratulate expedition leader John Geiger and all the participants in the 2026 Heroic Age Expedition on their successful effort to digitally preserve these important historical artifacts. The deep ocean in all its mystery remains a wide-open frontier for future explorers, and you have shown them the way.

Increasingly, the world is looking to Canada's example to navigate global challenges. Where there is uncertainty, there is also opportunity. I am proud of how the RCGS continues to rise to the occasion, providing relevant, high-quality information and programming to help Canadians of all ages understand the most complex issues of our time. We have been telling Canada's story for 97 years now, and we are just getting started!

Hon. Lois Mitchell,
President

CEO'S LETTER

On April 1, 2026, at 6:35 p.m., I felt the ground beneath Florida's Kennedy Space Centre begin to shake. A deafening roar filled the air as the boosters ignited beneath NASA's SLS rocket. Like millions of people watching around the world, I held my breath as the rocket carrying four brave astronauts — one of them a Canadian (and Royal Canadian Geographical Society Fellow), Jeremy Hansen — streaked out of Earth's atmosphere on a course for the moon. I think I only exhaled fully when the Orion capsule splashed safely down into the Pacific Ocean 10 days later.

Ultimately, the Artemis II mission was a resounding success. Hansen and NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch became the first humans in over 50 years to fly to the moon. Hansen was the first Canadian and first non-American to do so, Koch the first woman and Glover the first African American. Their observations and experiments laid critical groundwork for future missions to the moon and, eventually, Mars. Moreover, the mission was an uplifting demonstration of international friendship and cooperation at a time when the relationship between the United States and Canada is fraught. Hansen has done Canada proud and set an inspiring example for the rising generation of explorers.

We are in an exciting era of exploration. Cutting edge technology is making it possible for humans to directly observe extreme and inhospitable environments like outer space and the deep ocean. I personally experienced the latter on July 7 when I descended to a depth of approximately 390 metres in the Labrador Sea in the legendary submersible *Alvin* and became, with pilot Bruce Strickrott and fellow observer Mark Pathy, the first people ever to lay eyes on the wreck of *Quest*, the last ship of Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. That incredible moment brought the explorer's story full circle, and represented the culmination of many years of work by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society to not only find *Quest* but survey her.

Our 2026 Heroic Age Expedition, also carried out with a U.S. partner, in this case the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, was the most ambitious expedition the Society has ever undertaken, and I am proud to say that, in the words of co-chief scientist David Mearns, "we knocked it out of the park." Over the course of three weeks at sea, we produced hours of high-quality footage and created exquisitely detailed 3D digital twins of both *Quest* and *Terra Nova*, the last ship of Shackleton's rival Robert Falcon Scott. We have ensured that these important historical artifacts and the stories of the people who travelled on them will be forever preserved in digital form.

Canada's sovereignty has come under sustained attack from hostile actors south of the border this year. However, as illustrated by the two history-making expeditions above, we have shown we can still work with American partners in science and exploration, even as we stand up for the lands, waters, ideas and values that define our country. Recently, we were proud to publish Wade Davis' *North Star*, a brilliant defense of Canada and Canadianness, in an expanded book format. In it, Davis reminds us that "elbows up" is not a defensive position, let alone one of weakness.

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 2026 to individuals who have made a special impact.

RT. HON. VINCENT MASSEY MEDAL
Awarded to **Alex Miller,** president and founder of Esri Canada.

GOLD MEDAL
Awarded to **Dr. Mark Terry**, a Canadian scholar, polar explorer and documentary filmmaker.

CHARLES CAMSELL MEDAL
Awarded to **Janet Ruest**, an educator and dedicated volunteer of RCGS who has served six years as the Can Geo Education representative for British Columbia.

LAWRENCE J. BURPEE MEDAL
Awarded to **H.E. Whit Fraser**, Canadian journalist, broadcaster and author; and to **Dr. James Delgado**, a maritime archaeologist, historian, explorer and public educator.

SIR CHRISTOPHER ONDAATJE MEDAL FOR EXPLORATION
Awarded to **Hugh Brody**, an acclaimed British anthropologist, writer, filmmaker and social philosopher; and to **John Dunn**, a Canadian Arctic explorer.

MARTIN BERGMANN MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCTIC LEADERSHIP
Awarded to **Dr. Gita Ljubicic**, Canada Research Chair in Community-Engaged Research for Northern Sustainability at McMaster University.

CAPT. JOSEPH-ELZÉAR BERNIER MEDAL
Awarded to **H.E. Alfredo Martínez Serrano**, Ambassador of Spain to Canada.

LOUIE KAMOOKAK MEDAL
Awarded to **Ken McGoogan**, Canadian author on Arctic exploration.

ALEX TREBEK MEDAL FOR GEOGRAPHIC LITERACY
Awarded to **Joanna Hughes**, an Ottawa-based educator in geography.

GILLES GAGNIER MEDAL FOR INNOVATION IN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION
Awarded to **Cynthia Bettio**, a geography educator.

THE FOLLOWING DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUALS WERE MADE HONORARY FELLOWS THIS YEAR:
Bob Rae, Dr. Sylvia Earle, Charlie Duke, John de Chastelain, Bruce Strickrott, Patrick Bergel, Barbara Doran, Martin Hartley, Dr. Joan Vernikos, Kirsten Hillman, Brian Gallant, Flora Catherine Eaton Coakley







NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee approved a call to Fellows for nominations and met on Sept. 16, 2026 and again on Oct. 7 , 2026. 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 10 submissions in the 2026 call for nominations.

Two new Governor positions were recommended for staggered terms (one year and two years respectively).

RESEARCH GRANTS

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

The James Bourque Northern Doctoral Scholarship was awarded to Myriam Cloutier of the University of British Columbia *(Impact of Permafrost Degradation on Warming Tundra Landscapes)* and the James Maxwell Human Geography Scholarship was awarded to Louise Gilleard of the University of Ottawa *(Maritime Resupply and Food Security in a Changing Arctic)*.

Additionally, the Committee awarded Graduate Research Scholarships to five students: Ciara Norton of the University of British Columbia *(Heat Wave-Driven Arctic Landslides Expose Ground-Ice and Risk Triggering Long-term Thaw Slumps)*, Iliana Loupessis of the University of Ottawa *(Unsettling and Re-learning Participation: Toward Sovereignty-centered Collaboration and Digital Innovation for Indigenous Climate Resilience)*, Lili Paradi of Queen's University *(Assessing Landscape Change Across Labrador's Dynamic Coastline to Protect Culturally Significant Species)*, Monica Nguyen of Memorial University of Newfoundland *(Post-fire Vegetation Recovery in the Atlantic Boreal Forest Under Novel Fire Activity)* and Sarah Whitenect of Memorial University *(Investigating Landscape Predictors of Past Eastern Spruce Budworm Outbreaks in Newfoundland)*.

EXPEDITIONS

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

In February 2026, the Expeditions Committee supported five grantees with $40,000 in funding. The Expedition of the Year grant went to Katie Graham (Bisaro Anima 2026), who sought to push the Bisaro Anima cave network deeper and introduce rebreather diving. Major grants were also awarded to Spencer Shields (Expedition Eelgrass), Joseph Frey (Bell Island Battle of the Atlantic Virtual Memorial Expedition) and Chantelle Abma (Dying Without a Name: Revealing Canada's Unnamed and Unmapped Glacial Watersheds). The Natalie Gillis Adventure Photography and Expedition Grant was also awarded to Chantelle Abma, and the David Sawatzky Cave Exploration Grant was awarded to Sara Fleetwood (Project Nimbus).

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 2026, the Fellows Committee is pleased to recommend 30 individuals for election to the College of Fellows:

Mohamed Ahmed — Calgary, Alberta
Lucas Aykroyd — Vancouver, BC
John Blachford — Montréal, Québec
Cal Bricker — Toronto, Ont.
Calum Cawley — Blue Mountains, Ont.
Michelle Chaput — Orleans, Ont.
Jack Cheng — Mississauga, Ont.
Thomas Dietz — Mill Valley, California
Michael Downie — Toronto, Ont.
Lauren Erland — Chilliwack, BC
Jan Francke — Victoria, BC
Abi Hayward — Ottawa, Ont.
Kenneth Holyoke — Lethbridge, Alberta
James (Tony) Hooper — Toronto, Ont.
Martin Klein — Andover, Massachusetts
Roger Lacasse — Lorraine, Québec
Maxime Légaré-Vézina — Québec, Québec
Shawn Lehman — Oakville, Ont.
Ian MacLaren — Montréal, Québec
Ian MacNairn — Calgary, Alberta
Jacquie Matechuk — Cochrane, Alberta
Michael Maurice — Winnipeg, Manitoba
Gunjan Menon — Vancouver, BC
Jean Mignault — Limoges, Ont.
Liza Piper — Edmonton, Alberta
Mark Rosin — Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Jennifer Smith Nelson — Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Sean Southey — Guelph, Ont.
Elizabeth Sutherland — Ridgetown, Ont.
Joseph Bruce Varner — Ottawa, Ont.

ADVANCEMENT

The Advancement team of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society works to secure public and private funding for the core mission of the Society in media, education, research and expeditions. The team now has the support of an active Advancement Committee, chaired by Ted Meighen, with members including Jett Britnell (Governor, FRCGS), Katherine Smalley (FRCGS), Deborah Lehmann (CEO, Ottawa Cancer Foundation) and Caroline Phillips (founder, Caroline in the Capital). Our goal is to raise the Society's public profile and critical funds to support its programs.

Our biggest win this year was securing base funding for the Society in the 2025 federal budget of $1 million a year over the next four years for continued work on strengthening Canadian sovereignty.

We have also secured multi-year funding for *Canadian Geographic* magazine from Northpine Foundation, the Trottier Family Foundation, Power Corporation, the Canadian Journalism Collective, the Audain Foundation and the Dalglish Family Foundation. This funding has strengthened our coverage and allowed us to expand our editorial team to include a new Western Canada Editor, and allowed us to offer two new named national photography prizes.

Geographica, the Society's annual fundraiser (formerly the College of Fellows Annual Dinner), continues to attract more corporate sponsorship, for which we are very grateful. We particularly thank Meta for being lead sponsor of the gala for many years running.

Our educational initiatives are generously supported by the Trebek Family Foundation, Kensington, the R. Howard Webster Foundation and the Phyllis Arnold Award, which allows us to provide funding for educators to participate in conferences or professional development activities.

TREBEK INITIATIVE

In 2025-26, the Trebek Initiative awarded 11 grants to projects that pair discovery with storytelling. The first five were announced in December 2025. Photographer Annie Sakkab is documenting the impacts of logging on Canada's boreal forest. Filmmaker Ryan Tidman is telling the story of the Vancouver Island marmot's recovery from fewer than 30 animals in the wild. Ariel Waldman is creating a free video library revealing Canada's largely unseen microbial life. Researcher Dorian Gaboriau is reconstructing centuries of boreal forest fires using lake sediments, and photographer Maia Wikler is documenting Ma'amtagila efforts to preserve ancient forests and cultural memory on Vancouver Island.

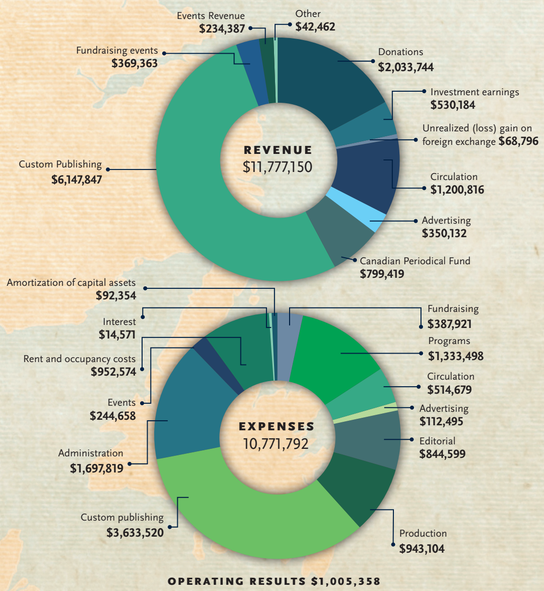
Six more grants followed in April 2026. Photographer Michael Christopher Brown is returning to the Muskwa-Kechika nearly two decades after first documenting the region to capture how climate change is reshaping the landscape. Geophysicist Edwin Nissen is investigating a newly discovered fault on Flores Island that could reveal clues about future Cascadia earthquakes and tsunamis. Cetacean scientist Valeria Vergara is using hydrophones, drones and artificial intelligence to better understand killer whale communication. Forest ecologist Raquel Alfaro Sánchez will travel the Coppermine River to investigate whether trees are advancing northward as the climate warms. Mônica Taís Engel is mapping human-polar bear interactions on Newfoundland and searching for a long-suspected denning site. Photographer M'Hammed Kilito will follow the St. Lawrence River, documenting communities and environmental change along its 3,700-kilometre course.

Since 2021, the Trebek Initiative, a partnership between the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the National Geographic Society, has supported 56 projects that deepen our understanding of Canadian and Indigenous land, wildlife, water, history and culture.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

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



OPERATING RESULTS $1,005,358





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BY-LAWS
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RCGS; MELODY MALONEY/CAN GEO; PROJECT NIMBUS/SARA FLEETWOOD; MARTIN HARTLEY/CAN GEO; COURTESY AGA KHAN FOUNDATION CANADA






EDITORIAL

Canadian Geographic continues to be ranked Canada's #1 paid magazine, reaching millions of readers per month across print, digital, social media, newsletters and third-party news aggregators such as Apple News. The 2026 publishing year opened with our first foray into a new story format: a graphic novel-style feature on Inuk singer-songwriter Elisapie.

Our bimonthly publishing schedule can make it difficult to nail the timing of important stories, but when it came to our profile of Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen, the stars truly aligned: our March/April edition, with a smiling, flightsuited Hansen on the cover, dropped in plenty of time to arouse national interest in the April 1 launch of NASA's Artemis II mission.

Other important and timely topics we tackled this year include the controversial culling of predators in British Columbia, the staggering loss of glaciers in the Rocky Mountains, the role of the Canadian Rangers in defending Canada's Arctic sovereignty, and of course, comprehensive coverage of the RCGS's 2026 Heroic Age Expedition.

Partnerships with aligned organizations, including Oceana Canada and the World Wildlife Fund, made it possible for us to send journalists to difficult-to-reach regions of Canada to report feature stories on coldwater corals and climate adaptation in the North.

Finally, we were thrilled to be honoured by the National Magazine Awards and Digital Publishing Awards with three silver medals for work published in 2025.

CAN GEO ADVENTURES

Canadian Geographic Adventures, a curated collection of outstanding 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 territories, as well as 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 checked species off their life 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 2026. 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 fjords and glaciers of this spectacular region. RCGS speakers shared stories of adventure, exploration, science and the wonders of the natural world.

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION

As another busy school year begins, Can Geo Education is incredibly proud of the programming and professional development opportunities we have been able to provide since the last Annual General Meeting and will continue to provide in the coming year. Our membership has continued to expand, surpassing 27,000 educators across Canada. The scope and popularity of our resources have grown, demand for our Giant Floor Maps is ever-increasing and our programs have helped to further our mandate to support geographic literacy in K to 12 classrooms across the country.

We have also entered a new era under the leadership of our Director of Education, John Estabillo, and have begun developing a Strategic Plan that will be unveiled to coincide with the Society's 100th anniversary, with the goal of further expanding our reach and providing new and exciting opportunities for teachers and learners.

Canadian Geographic Challenge

This year, the Can Geo Challenge engaged more than 10,000 students in Grades 4 to 10 from across Canada. The top 20 senior finalists gathered in Ottawa from May 30 to June 1 for the National Final, taking part in fieldwork, exams and spirited discussions. After a weekend of competition, Armaan Musaji (Grade 10, Markham, Ont.) claimed the national title, joined in the top five by Brendan Alilovic (Toronto), Eric Yuan (Calgary), Jonah Kolta (Markham, Ont.) and Ameya Shah (Richmond, B.C.).

On the world stage, Eric Lu (Vancouver) earned a silver medal and Kevin Liu (Toronto) took bronze at the 2026 International Geography Olympiad in Türkiye, alongside teammates Zheng Wu (Oakville, Ont.) and Tanya Guan (Oakville, Ont.). Challenge alumni continue to excel beyond the competition; after appearing on *Jeopardy!* in 2025, Ryan Sharpe returned in January 2026 for the Second Chance Tournament, winning the week 3 final.

Giant Floor Maps

The Giant Floor Map program continues to grow as Can Geo Education's flagship classroom program. In 2025–26, there were 428 bookings, with 49 maps circulating nationwide and reaching urban and rural schools, First Nations communities, conferences and special events. On-map experiences with the *Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada, Biinaagami* and the new *Freshwater: Lifeblood of the Land* were the focal point of Geoschools programming and teacher professional learning in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario. With two brand-new maps *(Canada: A Maritime Nation and Freshwater: Lifeblood of the Land)* and two renewed maps *(War of 1812* and *Polar Knowledge)* entering the tour rotation, bookings for 2026–27 were over 70 per cent full within two weeks of opening the portal.

Indigenous education

Indigenous perspectives and relationships were an essential element of Can Geo Education programming this year, with a particular focus on connections to land, water, language and community. Professional learning experiences in Alberta and Ontario brought educators together to explore approaches to geographic education grounded in Indigenous perspectives and relationships with place, while supporting teachers in bringing these connections meaningfully into their classrooms.

Digital programming also created new opportunities to centre Indigenous languages, knowledge and relationships with place. Developed as part of the *Freshwater: Lifeblood of the Land map*, the *Languages of Water* feature brings together Indigenous language speakers from across Canada to share words, stories and perspectives connected to water in their languages.

Classroom engagement

Can Geo Education continues to expand its virtual programming, creating new ways for students and educators across Canada to access geographic learning experiences, expertise and resources. Virtual initiatives such as Marine Month in Canada and Adopt a Ship connected students directly with professionals working in marine science, shipping and related fields, bringing real-world perspectives and career pathways into classrooms, while the Live Net Zero initiative invited classes to take action for a sustainable shared future.

We also grew our support for geographical education through the development of interactive, map-based learning experiences. The *Our Country Parks Canada* interactive map and accompanying project resources invite students to explore Parks Canada places, investigate their significance and undertake their own geographic inquiries. The Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) *A Sustainable World* map similarly brings together interactive mapping, data, stories and curriculum-connected resources to help students investigate relationships between people, places and global issues. Interactive StoryMaps connected to the *Right of Passage: Ecological Corridors* in Canada project present research findings in an engaging, accessible format for students and highlight the importance of ecological corridors for wildlife and healthy ecosystems.













BASECAMP

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.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA - CANADA. EXPLAINED

Canadian Geographic Enterprises (CGE) developed a bilingual, multi-platform project aligned with ECCC's priorities and covering topics such as National Wildlife Areas, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, weather literacy, species at risk, and the Net-Zero Challenge. The project included a print feature in *Canadian Geographic* magazine as well as 20 digital stories, five informational videos, five infographics, six Can Geo in the Classroom lesson plans, six ArcGIS StoryMaps and the dissemination of 125,000 copies of the Curious by Nature Bio-kits

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY - SHIP TO SHORE

CGE is working with the Royal Canadian Navy to deliver the Ship to Shore (S2S) Program, an inquiry-based, interactive learning initiative that connects the Royal Canadian Navy with classrooms across Canada. Project elements include thematic lesson plans, a Giant Floor Map and virtual classroom engagements for students..

TD - NETWORK OF NATURE

With funding from the Toronto Dominion Bank, CGE continues to work on the Network of Nature, a national movement to restore Canada's biodiversity by motivating, educating and empowering individuals and organizations to plant locally appropriate native species.

PARKS CANADA - MULTIPLE PROJECTS

- Right of Passage - CGE continued working with Parks Canada to build out an interactive website highlighting the importance of ecological corridors and large landscape connectivity. The site is enhanced with educational StoryMaps and print and digital articles in *Canadian Geographic*.
- Our Country - This project aims to tell the story of Canada's nature, history, and people through the Parks Canada network. An interactive map of Canada highlighting areas of significance was created within the existing Our Country digital platform, and bilingual educator resources will be distributed through the Canadian Geographic Education network.

CANADA HISTORY FUND - OUR COUNTRY

The RCGS received funding in the 2025 federal budget to support the expansion of Our Country-Nôtre Pays, a national, bilingual initiative that presents a portrait of Canada expressed through its people and places. Funding will support storytelling, illustration and innovation across print and digital media. Activities include the production and distribution of public service announcements and GeoMinutes on Canadian television and social media, as well as national educational initiatives such as a giant floor map and lesson plans.

BIINAAGAMI: OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GREAT LAKES (MULTIPLE PARTNERS)

The Society continues 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, FRCGS, 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.

DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE - GEOMINUTES 2026

The Geominute 2026 program highlights nine key anniversaries that have changed Canadian society and geography. To elevate Canadians' understanding of the historical and geographical significance of these anniversaries, 18 Geominutes (nine French and nine English) and accompanying lesson plans are being produced and released throughout 2026.

In addition to the projects described above, the Society continued to foster strategic partnerships with Aqua Action, Aga Khan Foundation Canada, North Family Foundation, Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages, Ocean Networks Canada Society, Rideau Hall Foundation, Scotiabank, and many others.






CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC FILMS



The 2025–2026 fiscal year marked another ambitious period for Canadian Geographic Films, with three feature documentaries advancing in production. Preparations are underway for *The New Heroic Age of Exploration*, documenting the RCGS-led expedition to survey the wrecks of two famous exploration ships in July 2026. The film is being produced in partnership with Vérité Films and will connect the great achievements of the Heroic Age of Polar Exploration with the people and technologies shaping exploration today.

Doctor of the Deep entered pre-production with noted Canadian writer-director Tara Johns. The film follows Dr. Joe MacInnis — the world's first deep-sea physician and an Honorary Vice-President of the Society — as he reflects on a lifetime guiding people into the ocean's depths. It explores what MacInnis' experiences have taught him about risk, survival and leadership, and how those lessons can help us navigate today's instability and insecurity.

Production also continued on *Dream Machine: The Legend and Enduring Legacy of Canada's Avro Arrow*. Filming was extended to include Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen following his Artemis II mission, with completion planned for fall 2026 and a full festival run anticipated in 2027.

Two major projects also moved forward through a partnership with White Pine Pictures. Hosted by acclaimed explorer Adam Shoalts, *Maps and Dreams* is a proposed documentary series introducing viewers to remarkable Canadian explorers whose curiosity and determination continue to expand our understanding of the country. Each episode will follow an explorer into the field, with the rapidly changing lands and waters of Canada providing an important underlying theme. Canadian Geographic Films also began developing *24 Sussex*. The film, along with a supporting education program, will follow the process of reimagining the prime minister's official residence while exploring what this national landmark says about Canada's history, identity and aspirations.

Canadian Geographic Films also expanded its short-form storytelling. The first six *Our Country* television PSAs, featuring Tomson Highway, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, Mario Rigby, William Shatner, Susan Aglukark and Adam Shoalts, were distributed to Canadian broadcasters in November 2025, followed by six additional PSAs in spring 2026. Over the course of the fiscal year, the campaign generated millions of dollars in donated airtime and supports the broader Our Country initiative leading to the Society's centennial in 2029–2030. New GeoMinutes were produced for Commemorate Canada, while *Canada. Explained.*, created in partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada, introduced a compelling three-to-four-minute hosted format that uses highly visual storytelling to make Canada's geography, natural history and ecosystems engaging and accessible.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MELODY MALONEY/CAN GEO; CHARLIE WOOLF/CAN GEO; MELODY MALONEY/CAN GEO; GERRY COYLE/CAN GEO; MELODY MALONEY/CAN GEO; NASA/KEEGAN BARBER