

# THE ST. JOHN'S DECLARATION

August 10, 2013

At a special meeting organized by the Canadian Association of Geographers and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, a community of geographic educators came together to create an agreement and action plan for geographic education for Canadians.

*Our goal is to advance geographic education in Canada.*

We affirm that spatially literate citizens are essential to the future of Canada, and in particular

the development of a coherent and relevant geographic education is essential to understand and address the issues faced by a rapidly changing world;

geographic education is built upon the fundamental elements of location, interaction, community, people, place, space and environment;

there is an urgent need to improve, update and advance geographic education in the context of economic, social and environmental issues facing Canadians, and Canada in a global arena;

studying the world, its people, communities and cultures with an emphasis on relations of and across space and place are crucial;

spatial thinking increasingly informs scholarship in the natural sciences, social sciences, health sciences and humanities; it is also closely associated with science, technology, engineering and mathematics;

Canada will remain a leader in science and technological innovation with the development of geography in areas related to geospatial technologies and earth observation.

We have therefore agreed that we will

- ▶ inspire Canadians to value geography and spatial thinking;
- ▶ promote geography as a discipline that integrates the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities;
- ▶ provide leadership in geographic education across Canada;
- ▶ enhance support for geographic educators; and
- ▶ support geographic education research.

James Boxall (Geomatics Round Table)  
Norm Catto (Memorial University)  
Rodolphe Devillers (Canadian Institute of Geomatics)  
Karl Donert (European Association of Geographers)  
Dan Duda (Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives)  
Darryl Fillier (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador)  
Lewis French (OISE)  
Al Friesen (RCGS Geographic Literacy Award recipient)  
Brent Hall (Esri Canada)

Amanda Hooykaas (CAG)  
Niem Tu Huynh (American Association of Geographers)  
Peggy March (CG Education)  
Lynn Moorman (CG Education)  
Stuart Semple (Mount Allison University)  
Gordon Slade (RCGS Gold Medalist)  
Bob Sharpe (CAG)  
Mary Jane Starr (RCGS)  
Kim Wallace (former Government of Ontario educational consultant)