



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Canadian Geographic Education Receives \$47,200 Collaborative Planning Grant from National Geographic Education Foundation**

*Grants Promote K-12 Geographic Literacy in Canada and the United States*

OTTAWA, Thursday, April 3, 2014 — Canadian Geographic Education today announced that it has received an inaugural Collaborative Planning Grant of \$47,200 (US) from the National Geographic Education Foundation (NGEF), one of three such grants awarded to members of the Network of Alliances for Geographic Education by NGEF.

Canadian Geographic Education, the educational committee of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, is partnering with the North Dakota Geographic Alliance (NDGA) and the Geo-Literacy Alliance of Washington State to take a new look at how students can contribute to a shared understanding of freshwater resources through field study.

In this collaborative project, the partners will plan a pilot project that aims to encourage and enable school students to gather information through place-based investigations and share the results of their fieldwork in a Web-based public access tool. Bringing more partners into the planning process will seek to ensure traditional knowledge joins digital technology in support of geo-spatial thinking.

“Canadian Geographic Education is grateful to the NGEF for this unprecedented opportunity to collaborate with the Washington State and North Dakota alliances,” said Connie Wyatt Anderson, Chair. “We have been given a chance to explore a topical issue and to engage community partners to plan an innovative learning project.”

Collaborative Grants provide funding that enables members of the Network of Alliances to work with other Alliances and outside partners to achieve shared goals. These grants support creative, forward-thinking concepts and ideas in support of the teaching and learning of geography.

“North Dakota Geography Alliance is pleased to join the Washington Alliance for Geographic Literacy and Canadian Geographic Education to design a watershed-specific online information warehouse project for teachers that investigates the importance safe water that is essential to all of forms of life on earth. Even though the international border separates United States and Canadian teachers and scientists, we are committed to enhancing the ability to investigate and share information regarding the problems and solutions associated with water,” said NDGA Coordinator Marilyn Weiser.

A collaborative is composed of three or more Geographic Alliances and, when appropriate, one or more non-Alliance partners, such as schools, school districts, state departments of education, other educational organizations, other nonprofit organizations, businesses and disciplinary organizations. The goal of Collaborative Planning Grants is to create a proposal for funding for a multi-year project that will have significant impact across the participating Alliances.

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“This collaboration provides a unique opportunity to build partnerships across our regions, and co-design supports for educators to provide relevant geo literacy learning opportunities for youth,” said Washington Geo Literacy Alliance Coordinator Dr. Andrew Shouse.

The Network of Alliances is a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting geographic education. Each Alliance is a partnership between university faculty and K-12 educators that connects educators, provides world-class professional development for teachers, creates and disseminates educational resources, boosts public awareness of the importance of geography and advocates for public policies that will lead to improvements in geography education. For more than 20 years, NGEF and the Alliances have worked collaboratively to catalyze geography education reform across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

“NGEF is advancing geo-literacy across the U.S. and beyond by supporting programs, activities and materials that current research, educators and experience tell us are the most effective ways to teach geography in the classroom,” said Bob Dulli, NGEF deputy director. “In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are more connected than ever. Geography education helps students better understand this interconnected world and how it impacts their lives, which is essential to both their future and the future of their country.”

Since 1988, NGEF has awarded more than \$85 million (US) in grants to promote and advance geographic education. In addition to funding from NGEF, the majority of Alliances receive financial support from other sources, including state and private support. More than 30 Alliances have permanent endowments for geography education within the Foundation.

For more information  
Deb Chapman  
Media Relations  
The Royal Canadian Geographical Society  
613.745.4629  
[chapman@rcgs.org](mailto:chapman@rcgs.org)



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### BACKGROUNDER ON PARTNERS

Founded in 1888, the **National Geographic Society** is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. With a mission to inspire people to care about the planet, the member-supported Society offers a [community](#) for members to get closer to explorers, connect with other members and help make a difference. The Society reaches more than 450 million people worldwide each month through National Geographic and other magazines, National Geographic Channel, television documentaries, music, radio, films, books, DVDs, maps, exhibitions, live events, school publishing programs, interactive media and merchandise. National Geographic has funded more than 10,000 scientific research, conservation and exploration projects and supports an education program promoting geographic literacy. For more information, visit [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com).

**Geo Literacy Alliance of Washington State** is a university-based, statewide partnership among higher education, K-12 educators, and the private sector. The Alliance is in a building phase, engaging with thousands of stakeholders throughout the state to discern a distinctive role to serve Washington's school-aged students. Part of National Geographic's nationwide network of state Geographic Alliances, the Geo Literacy Alliance's mission is to support young learners to care for the planet, its resources, and all of its inhabitants, and to prepare them to succeed as citizens in an increasingly global society. For more information, visit <http://sciencemathpartnerships.org>

**North Dakota Geographic Alliance (NDGA)** is dedicated to promoting and increasing the level of geographic literacy, to fostering innovation in geographic education and to encouraging stewardship and conservation of Earth's resources. NDGA equips North Dakota students and teachers with the geographic knowledge and skills to become empowered global thinkers and problem solvers in an interconnected world. For more information, visit [www.ndgeographic.org](http://www.ndgeographic.org)

**Canadian Geographic Education (CG Education)** is the educational network of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, one of Canada's largest educational associations. The programs of CG Education aim to strengthen geographic education in the classroom and to increase the emphasis on geography within the school system. Through innovative programming with a wide range of public and private sector partners, CG Education endeavours to increase the public awareness of and support for geographical literacy. For more information, visit [www.cgeducation.ca](http://www.cgeducation.ca)