

## News Release

# Anzo Nguyen of Calgary Wins Canadian Geographic (CG) Challenge

Ottawa, May 4, 2015 – After two days of intense, nail-biting geography testing, Anzo Nguyen, 15, of Calgary was crowned the [Canadian Geographic Challenge](#) national champion. “Winning feels great because the CG Challenge has been like a long race and now I’ve finally reached the finish line,” said Nguyen after winning and added, “I’ve had lots of support getting here for which I’m thankful.” Anzo accepted his prize with runner-up Aaron Abraham, 13, of Calgary and third place finalist Malhaar Moharir, 13, of Toronto from Alex Trebek, celebrity host of the popular game show *Jeopardy!* All three teens were thrilled with their success and clearly impressed with their brush with fame.

For Gilles Gagnier, Chief Operating Officer and Publisher of [Canadian Geographic](#) Enterprises, the CG Challenge is an important training ground for honing much-needed geographic skills. Canada’s geomatics industry already comprises some 2,500 firms across the country that generates revenues of nearly \$2.5 billion. “The industry has a lot of room still to grow, and events such as the CG Challenge help prepare our kids for those knowledge-based jobs,” says Gagnier.

The Challenge’s 20 finalists had to answer more than 80 geography-related questions. Then, in a timed-challenge, they identified more than 14 geographic features on the lawns at the Rideau Hall, the Governor General’s official residence. Ultimately, the final five had the live quiz in front of a high-profile audience. The process was daunting, but there was still time to take in Ottawa’s world famous tulips and the beauty of the Rideau Canal (a UNESCO World Heritage site), and to witness how our loonie coin is made at the Royal Canadian Mint, plus so much more. The CG Challenge helped give them a sense of place, which is what geography is all about. To quote one contestant, “It was great to meet people from all across Canada who love geography.”

“This 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the CG Challenge has been an amazing experience for everyone involved, but mostly for the students.” says Beth Dye, Chair, CG Challenge Committee, and Governor for [The Royal Canadian Geographical Society](#) (RCGS).” Our ultimate goal has been met. We’ve had more students participate this year and I know they now have a better understanding of the world, and its geographic issues.”

The live, face-to-face game style show competition was made possible by a US\$100K donation from Alex Trebek to the National Geographic Education Foundation (NGEF). In April 2015, the RCGS received a grant from NGEF to expand its annual Canadian Geographic Challenge to include this live final.

Through Google’s sponsorship, [Canadian Geographic Education](#) was able to waive the Challenge’s entrance fees which, in turn, improved enrolment. Google’s support also helped refresh quiz materials so they dovetail with current trends in geographic education. The Canadian Museum of Nature, First Air, Vistek and the Canadian Wildlife Federation also contributed great prizes for the Challenge’s contestants.

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