Waterloo Teacher honored with top Canadian Geographic Literacy Award

OTTAWA, ON, November 10, 2016 – Canada is considered a world leader in geomatics, a sector comprised of approximately 2,500 firms across the country, with annual revenues of nearly $2.5 Billion. If Canadians are good at geography, Douglas Koegler, the 2016 Canadian Geographic Literacy Award winner, can take some credit. He’s considered to be one of the founding fathers of modern geographic education in Canada.

“Doug Koegler is an tireless ambassador for geographic literacy in Canada,” says Connie Wyatt Anderson, Chair of Canadian Geographic Education. “Doug has this infectious enthusiasm and creative ability to convince everyone with whom he connects, from primary school students to provincial education ministers, why knowing the geography of our world is key to our country’s success.”

Doug Koegler is passionate and committed educator whose contribution to geographic literacy spans more than four decades. Koegler was a key figure in the development of Canadian Council for Geographic Education which evolved into Canadian Geographic Education (Can Geo Education), the largest program of its kind in Canada. Today, Can Geo Education has more than 18,000 teacher members and provides free much-needed and sought-after geography resources. While committed to improving geography training to all Canadians coast, to coast to coast, Doug Koegler has also been an effective driving force in the evolution of geographic education in Ontario. Today, Ontario is one of the few provinces with geography as a core curriculum subject preparing graduates for jobs in the knowledge-based digital economy.

“I am honoured and somewhat humbled at receiving this award,” says Douglas Koegler. “When I look at past recipients I feel I have been lifted into a very elite group of educators across this country. There is no higher recognition for teachers then being recognized by their students and/or peers. I value this award very much and thank those who recognized my contributions to help make the world a better place.”

Despite fully retiring from teaching geography, he can’t drop his commitment to his profession. Doug Koegler continues to offer guest lectures on topics related to geography at the Faculties of Education at both Queen’s and Wilfrid Laurier Universities. Canada is a better country for his commitment to helping us know our country and our world.

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