

Canadian Geoparks Network Annual Report 2024



1. Message from the Chair

2024 marked a period of expansion, collaboration, and renewed momentum for the Canadian Geoparks Network (CGN). Across the country, significant discussions and activities underscored the importance of deepened cooperation in revalidation missions, strengthened support for aspiring Geoparks, and continued dedication to Indigenous reconciliation.

Much attention was placed on clarifying the roles and responsibilities of observers, emphasizing the value and necessity of national and global networking, and demonstrating the benefits of active participation across the UNESCO Global Geoparks system.

As our network grows, so too does our capacity to pursue a broader vision—engaging new regions, strengthening our leadership in the geosciences, and fostering community-building through meaningful partnerships.

2. About the Canadian Geoparks Network

Founded in 2009, the Canadian Geoparks Network (CGN) serves as the national coordinating body for UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps) and Aspiring Geoparks across Canada. The CGN works collaboratively with federal, provincial, and territorial geological survey partners; academic institutions; Indigenous communities; and international networks to advance Earth science education, sustainable development goals, geotourism, and community engagement.

Today, the CGN includes representation from five UNESCO Global Geoparks, multiple aspiring territories, and a strong alliance with national and international geoscience organizations.

3. 2024 at a Glance

Building on its long-standing partnership with the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and the Lands and Minerals Sector (LMS), the CGN demonstrated impactful alignment with Canada's national geoscience priorities, particularly the Pan-Canadian Geoscience Strategy's Priority Area 5: Enhancing Public Literacy in Geoscience.

Key Achievements

1. Development of Communication Tools

- Completion of a full CGN brand and website modernization (2023–2024).
- New resources now offer clear pathways for aspiring Geoparks.

2. Support for Aspiring Geoparks

- Creation of a comprehensive guide for aspiring Geoparks.
- Appointment of an expert liaison and mentor.

3. Formation of National Committees

- Establishment of the Nomination and Revalidation Committee.

5. Commitment to Reconciliation

- Integration of UNDRIP principles and SDG alignment.

6. Enhanced Governance & Strategic Alignment

- Governance training and strategic plan development.

7. International Representation

- Active participation in GGN committees and UNESCO Global Geoparks Council.

Future Goals (2025–2026)

- Support Board travel for site visits to aspiring Geoparks to provide support and guidance.

- Develop a national interpretive panel template.
- Produce new brochures focusing on climate action, SDGs, and educational activities.

4. Major Activities in 2024

4.1 National Coordination, Governance & Global Leadership

CGN Board members coordinated national initiatives, strengthened governance frameworks, and participated in international working groups.

4.2 2024 National Conference – Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark

Held September 13–15, 2024, bringing together Geoparks, Indigenous speakers, government partners, and geoscience experts.

4.3 Capacity Building & Training

Workshops, webinars, coaching, and governance training.

4.4 Support to Aspiring Geoparks

Guidance and mentorship for Cabox, Niagara, Georgian Bay, and others.

4.5 International Engagement

Participation in GGN committees, global workshops, and UNESCO Council processes.

4.6 Communications & Outreach

National communications campaigns, CCUNESCO collaboration, and enhanced public education materials.