

## Proposal to disband the ACMLA Publications Committee

### Background:

The ACMLA Executive Board and Publications Committee members recognize that the current membership composition does not facilitate accomplishment of activities associated with the Committee's Terms of Reference<sup>1</sup> be the members' assigned obligations in other roles.

Current membership includes:

Chair: vacant for two years

Cathy Moulder: Bulletin Editor

Natalie LeBlond: Publications Officer

Gord Beck: Historical Maps Distribution

Dan Duda: Chair, Historical Maps Committee

The Board also recognizes the difficulty in populating committees over the past few years, as it has been unsuccessful in recruiting a Chair (the committee has been without a chair for two years), and finds that replacing the current membership is not the best solution unless members come forward. For these reasons, it is proposed that the committee be disbanded and the following proposal be considered.

### Proposal:

Work that is normally accomplished through the Publications Committee could be achieved by striking task forces as the need arises. This structure has a number of advantages. It would:

- attend to goal-oriented tasks as they arise
- provide the opportunity for members to become involved in professional committee work for a short term
- allow current members to focus on their tasks at hand with no additional obligations

To address the committee duties and responsibilities originally set forth by the Association (see below), a task force could be struck by the 2nd VP Publications to:

- create a Publications Policy incorporating points outlined in item 2 of the current Terms of Reference
- review publications in progress through an editorial advisory group
- review publication proposals as they are submitted according to a Publications Policy

This new arrangement would place added responsibility to the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP position to address problem-solving issues as they arise. For example, issues relating to the *Bulletin* will remain the responsibility of the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, such as: recruiting an Editor when necessary; budget requirements; assisting with policies for reproducing *Bulletin* content on the web, etc.

A significant document prepared by Betty Kidd in 2004, *Review of the Monographic Publication Program with Recommendations for the Future*, [http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/assoc/acml/acmlapubl\\_BKmay2002.pdf](http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/assoc/acml/acmlapubl_BKmay2002.pdf), also provides many opportunities for members to get involved in short term, task-oriented projects.

Those requiring immediate attention include:

- assessment and approval of the *Proposed Official Language Policy*
- translation of Association documents priorities
- editorial advisory for a current ACMLA publication in progress
- marketing plan for historical map sales

Many of these are currently being addressed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP or other members of the Executive at a snail's pace since other commitments in their executive role take priority.

Next Step:

This proposal will be presented at the AGM, May 12, 2008. Should the membership be in agreement, members will be sought to address issues requiring immediate attention as outlined above.

Board of Directors,  
April, 2008

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<sup>i</sup> TERMS OF REFERENCE:

To seek out and encourage publications by Members or others, that would be of benefit to cartographic information specialists.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Committee shall carry out the ACMLA policies relating to publications, noted below:

1. Ensure that publication of the ACMLA *Bulletin* is the first priority of the publishing activity of the Association.
2. All publications bearing the ACMLA imprint or receiving funding from the Association should attempt to:
  - i. Promote high standards in the preservation and management of, and access to, cartographic collections in Canada
  - ii. Engage in activities which further the Canadian research community's and public's awareness, use and understanding of cartographic materials
  - iii. Create and maintain an active communication network for the exchange of information among members and the cartographic community
  - iv. Support the research and professional development activities of members through publications

The ACMLA imprint will be restricted to those publications which have been approved in writing by the Board of Directors, acting on behalf of the Association. The Association should have the first consideration for the publication of any work produced by an ACMLA committee.