

## **Geoscience for Environmental Management (GEM)**

**Website:** [www.mun.ca/canqua/ceg/](http://www.mun.ca/canqua/ceg/)

### **Background:**

The Commission on Geoscience for Environmental Management (GEM) builds on the excellent work of the former Commission on Geological Sciences for Environmental Planning (COGEOENVIRONMENT) that has completed its full term. While the former Commission achieved much in stimulating discussion of and raising awareness of environmental geosciences among scientists, it remains true that scientists in many parts of the world still have great difficulty in convincing policy makers that environmental geosciences are of great importance to sound, safe, and economic decision making

### **Objectives:**

GEM provides guidance to geoscientists on how best to integrate geoscience into environmental policy and to communicate the concepts to potential interest groups such as policy makers, politicians, environmental organisations, scientists from other disciplines, and the general public. GEM builds on the excellent work of the former IUGS Commission on Geological Sciences for Environmental Planning (COGEOENVIRONMENT) that has completed its full term.

- Increase awareness of policy makers, planners and decision-makers about the essential contribution of geoscience to sound management of the environment.
- Strengthen the interest and participation of the geoscience community in environmental management by providing relevant information on policy, environmental, economic and social issues.
- Encourage greater application of geoscience in sustainable use of land, mineral, energy, soil, water and other resources for the benefit of society.
- Further the contribution of geoscience in solving problems affecting society, which arise from natural and human-induced hazards and pollution.
- Promote multidisciplinary initiatives for better understanding of environmental processes and for the development of new approaches, tools and techniques to forecast and solve environmental problems.
- Identify, build links, communicate and collaborate with relevant stakeholders for interchange of ideas pertaining to sound environmental management.

### **Structure**

The GEM team is led by a Chair, with the support of a Vice-Chair, Secretary-General, Treasurer, and several Officers. An Information Coordinator assist the flow of information between GEM and its stakeholders. Activities are conducted primarily through International Working Groups formed to focus on specific topics relevant to the objectives. Working Groups are led by a Commission Officer and draw expertise from volunteers around the world from Branch Members, Supporting Members, and Corresponding Members. GEM also draws on the support

of a group of Advisors comprising geoscientists and non-geoscientists who provide inputs as and when necessary to fulfill its objectives.

**Working Groups**

- Urban Geology
- International Borders Geoenvironmental Concerns (IBC)
- Geology and Ecosystems