

ES07: Professional Geoscience 2: From Natural Science to Regional Practices in Canada

Conveners: Roger T.J. Phillips¹, and Joanna Eyquem²

Co-chairs: Roger T.J. Phillips¹, and Joanna Eyquem²

¹ Geography Department, Western University, London, ON, N6A 5C2
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 80161 E-mail: roger.phillips@uwo.ca

² AECOM, Montreal, QC, H2X 3P4
Phone: 514-287-8500 ext. 8638 E-mail: joanna.eyquem@aecom.com

Session Description

Many natural sciences—including hydrology, geomorphology, and biogeoscience—are also active areas of applied environmental science, with practitioners working in a wide range of environmental settings across Canada. The purpose of this session is to draw together environmental scientists and geoscience practitioners working within different physiographic and economic regions to explore how natural science is translated into professional practice. Contributions are welcome from all aspects of environmental science and are encouraged to address key themes in applied practice, including Environmental Assessment, natural hazard assessment, and ecological habitat restoration/rehabilitation. Connections to engineering practices for hazard mitigation and/or habitat restoration may also be explored where the scientific foundations are well-defined to arrive at practical solutions. Under these key themes, the session aims to highlight common threads in professional geoscience practice, as well as potential regional differences. Exploring the translation between science and practice across a variety of landscapes is especially relevant to professional ethics given that scientific foundations can be weakened by oversimplification and practical limitations within interdisciplinary projects. This session will also provide an opportunity to discuss professional regulation of environmental geoscience in Canada—beyond its traditions in geology and relative to other disciplines such as engineering and biology.

Primary Affiliation: CGU Earth Surface Processes Section and the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group