

NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 1996

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The NEWSLETTER is a publication of the Canadian Mathematics Education Study Group

CMESG is a group of mathematicians and mathematics educators who meet annually to discuss mathematics education issues at all levels of learning. The aims of the Study Group are:

- 1) *to study the theories and practices of the teaching of mathematics*
- 2) *to promote research in mathematics education*
- 3) *to exchange ideas and information about all aspects of mathematics education in Canada*
- 4) *to disseminate the results of its work.*

Ce BULLETIN est une publication du Groupe canadien d'étude en didactique des mathématiques

Le GCEDM est composé de personnes oeuvrant en mathématiques et en didactique des mathématiques et qui se réunissent une fois par année pour étudier diverses questions relatives à l'enseignement des mathématiques à tous les niveaux. Les buts du Groupe sont les suivants:

- 1) *susciter une réflexion critique sur la théorie et la pratique de l'enseignement des mathématiques*
- 2) *encourager la recherche en didactique des mathématiques*
- 3) *faciliter l'échange d'idées et d'information sur tous les aspects de l'éducation mathématique au Canada*
- 4) *faire connaître les résultats de ses travaux.*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sandy Dawson
Simon Fraser University

Since I wrote last spring, we have had our annual meeting in Halifax at which time a number of decisions were made and follow-up action taken. Most dramatic among these was the decision of our organization to take on responsibility for the journal, *For the learning of mathematics (FLM)*. Discussion about this proposal necessitated an extended AGM, perhaps the first in the history of the organization. It was a spirited and constructive conversation which occurred, the result of which is that membership in CMESG/GCEDM will include a subscription to FLM. Members will begin receiving FLM with the publication of issue 17(1), early in the new year. Moreover, as I write this message, a three person committee composed of Gila Hanna, Tom Kieren (Coordinator of the Committee), and David Wheeler are reviewing and sorting through applications for the Editorship of the journal. Our thanks to these folks for taking on this crucial task.

There were many highlights which one could note about the meeting in Halifax, but for me the one which comes to mind most is the unveiling of our 'new look' Proceedings. Yvonne Pothier did an absolutely marvellous job with the Proceedings. Our thanks once again to Yvonne. And speaking of publications, David Reid (Memorial) has taken on the role of Newsletter Editor and Web Page developer. I was reviewing the Web Page just prior to sitting down to write this message, and I think David, with the assistance of Linda Gattuso, is doing a great job of bringing our organization into the electronic age by putting CMESG/GCEDM on the Web map. Watch for an announcement in the next few weeks regarding the unveiling of our Web page.

Last year the election process was altered so that new Executive members would know of their election well in advance of the Annual meeting, thereby allowing them to adjust travel plans to remain for an extra day to take part in an Executive meeting. This practice will operate again this year, and hence it is important that nominations for the Executive be made in the next few weeks. Since my term on the Executive comes to an end next year, I have taken on the task of being Chair of the nomination committee. I encourage you to send me (dawson@sfu.ca) your suggestions and/or nominations no later than January 31st, 1997. The ballot will be sent out in March along with membership renewal and conference registration materials.

Speaking of the Executive, the selection of speakers and special events for next year's Annual meeting is now complete. The broad outlines for this work were established during an Executive meeting in Halifax after the Annual meeting, but the details were worked through later, mostly via email. Eric, Bernard and I did manage one short meeting in Seville when attending ICME-8, but otherwise Executive discussions have taken place over the e-waves! Though this has at times proven difficult, the tasks did get done, and the program for 1997 at the Lakehead is well on its way to finalization.

Sandy

NOTICE OF 1997 ANNUAL MEETING

May 23-27, Lakehead University.

The 21st. Meeting of CMESG/GCEDM will be held at Lakehead University, in Thunder Bay starting at 4 pm. on Friday May 23 and concluding at noon on Tuesday May 27, 1997. We hope that you will find something of interest in the scientific program. We are fortunate to have attracted talented presenters and motivators to contribute to the different components of the programme. Medhat Rahim, the local organizer, is planning some interesting and tasteful social activities.

This meeting will serve to highlight the numerous achievements of Thomas Kieren and to thank him for his contributions to CMESG/GCEDM. He will present a Special Lecture.

The Plenary Lectures will be given by Raffaella Borasi from the Warner School of Education and Human Development at the University of Rochester, and Peter Taylor from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Queen's University.

You will be able to select from three Working Groups:

- "Awareness and Expression of Generality in Teaching Mathematics" to be led by John Mason and Louis Charbonneau
- "The crisis in school mathematics content" to be led by Malgorzata Dubiel and David Reid
- "Communicating Mathematics" to be led by Susan Pirie and Doug Franks.

The program lists four Topic Groups to be presented individually by Tommy Dreyfus, Israel Kleiner, Joseph Kondar and Lesley Lee.

For additional information contact the conference organizer:

Medhat Rahim
School of Education
Lakehead University
Thunder Bay ON
P7B 5E1
mrahim@flash.lakehead.ca

Next year's meeting:

The 1998 CMESG/GCEDM meeting will be at UBC from May 29th to June 2nd.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The two year terms of Sandy Dawson and Eric Muller on the Executive are complete in 1997. The Executive has appointed Sandy Dawson as Nomination Officer. Suggestions of candidates for the Executive should be sent to him by **31 January 1997**, by email or snailmail. See below for his address.

AVIS DE CONVOCATION: RÉUNION ANNUELLE DE 1997

La 21^e rencontre annuelle du GCEDM/CMESG se tiendra sur le campus de l'Université Lakehead, à Thunder Bay, du vendredi 23 mai 1997, à 16h, au mardi 27 mai, à midi. Nous espérons que le programme scientifique de la rencontre vous intéressera tant par son contenu que par la qualité des présentateurs et responsables de groupes. L'organisateur local, Medhat Rahim, a de plus prévu des activités sociales agréables et riches... en saveur.

Au cours de la rencontre, un hommage sera rendu à Thomas Kieren en raison de ses nombreuses réalisations au cours de sa carrière et tout particulièrement de sa contribution au GCEDM/CMESG. Il prononcera à cette occasion une conférence spéciale.

Les conférenciers pléniers sont Raffaella Borasi, du Warner School of Education and Human Development de l'Université de Rochester, et par Peter Taylor, du Département de mathématiques et de statistique de l'Université Queen's.

Les trois Groupes de travail qui vous sont proposés sont les suivants :

1. « Conscience et expression de la généralité dans l'enseignement des mathématiques » Responsables : John Mason et Louis Charbonneau.
2. « La crise du contenu des mathématiques scolaires » Responsables : Malgorzata Dubiel et David Reid.
3. « Communiquer les mathématiques » Responsables : Susan Pirie et Doug Franks.

Le programme comprend également quatre Groupes thématiques, dont les responsables sont respectivement Tommy Dreyfus, Israel Kleiner, Joseph Kondar et Lesley Lee.

L'organisateur local:

Medhat Rahim

School of Education

Lakehead University

Thunder Bay ON

P7B 5E1

mrahim@flash.lakehead.ca

La réunion l'année prochaine:

La réunion de GCEDM/CMESG en 1998 sera à UBC du 29 mai au 2 juin

APPEL AUX MISES EN CANDIDATURE

Les mandats biennaux de Sandy Dawson et d'Éric Muller au sein du Comité exécutif prendront fin en 1997.

Le Comité exécutif a désigné Sandy Dawson comme responsable des mises en candidature. Prière de soumettre à celui-ci vos propositions de candidatures, par courrier électronique ou régulier, avant le **31 janvier 1997**. Voir son adresse plus bas.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CMESG

[The complete minutes are long, and this is only a summary of the motions approved.]

Held at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax. June 1, 1996 and June 2, 1996.

Sandy Dawson in the Chair, about 40 members present for the first session, about 50 for the second session.

1. Introductory remarks - Sandy Dawson

Sandy thanked the two outgoing members of the Executive, Pat Rogers and David Lidstone, for their support and contributions to CMESG/GCEDM in the past year. He also thanked Vi Maeers, in her absence, for the two Newsletters which she edited this year.

2. Minutes of 1995 AGM were approved as circulated on a motion by Gord Doctorow and Doug Franks

3. Financial report - The Treasurer presented a written year end report which was approved on a motion by Ed Barbeau and Tom Kieren. Ed Barbeau suggested the executive look into getting a Charitable status for CMESG/GCEDM so that tax receipts can be issued to donors. Carolyn Kieran suggested that it may help to change the CMESG fiscal year to the calendar year. At present the fiscal year ends April 30.

4. FLM

The following were resolved:

That commencing July 1997, the financial responsibility for FLM will be assumed by CMESG/GCEDM and that the new editors should be sought who will maintain the current spirit and thrust of FLM.

That during the period between the 1996 AGM and the 1997 AGM the Executive Committee will function as the FLM financial subcommittee".

That at the 1997 AGM the Executive present, for approval, a plan for the editorial direction of FLM, including the composition and responsibilities of (1) an editorial advisory panel for FLM, and (2) a process for the selection of editor(s) for FLM. Further the CMESG/GCEDM instructs the Executive Committee to

- (a) develop the terms of reference for an Editorial Advisory Panel for FLM,
- (b) develop the responsibilities and conditions of appointment for the Editor(s) of FLM,
- (c) develop a process for the selection and appointment of the Editor(s) of FLM,
- (d) complete the above development in time for appointments to these various offices by the Spring of 1997,
- (e) proceed on the selection and appointments for the above positions by the Spring of 1997, and
- (f) at the 1997 AGM of CMESG/GCEDM present for approval item (a) and report for information on items (b), (c), (d), (e).

and that the term for the first Editor(s) be set at a maximum of three years, to be reviewed at termination.

That starting with 1997 all CMESG/GCEDM members automatically receive FLM at a \$20 fee.

5. ELECTIONS

Pat Rogers explained the new process which had been implemented this year to ensure that elections were complete in time for a new Executive to take over after this AGM and also in time for those individuals to plan their travel so as to stay on an extra day for an Executive meeting. She reported that Bernard Hodgson and Lesley Lee were elected to the executive for a 2 year term. Sandy indicated that Mary Crowley and Sue Stuart have been appointed to the executive for 1 year terms.

6. FUTURE MEETINGS

In 1997 the Group will meet at Lakehead University. For 1998 an invitation from UBC has been accepted, the dates for that meeting are May 29th to June 2nd, 1998.

7. SSHRC APPLICATION for 1997 meeting

As indicated in the Newsletter, the Executive will be going ahead with an application for 1997. The Secretary indicated that he had met with Carolyn Kieren, Tom Kieran, Claude Gaulin and Bill Higginson to get ideas to improve the introductory page for the application.

8. NEWSLETTER

The question was posed as to whether the Newsletter could only be sent on the new List Serve or whether members still required hard copies. It was felt that both versions should be available this year and that the membership could then be polled.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

1996

CMS Winter 1996 Meeting/ Réunion d'hiver 1996 de la SM. December 7-9, 1996, University of Western Ontario/ 7-9 décembre 1996, Université de Western Ontario
35 Aniversario Cinvestav - IPN: 9 al 12 de diciembre de 1996.

1997

International conference on Science, Mathematics and Technology Education. 6-9 January 1997. Hanoi, Vietnam. Contact Darrell Fisher ifisherd@info.curtin.edu.au
AERA, Special Interest Group on Mathematics Education Chicago, IL, March 25-29, 1997
SITE 97 Society For Information Technology And Teacher Education: 8th International Conference. April 1-5, 1997 Orlando, Florida USA
NCTM, Research Presession Minneapolis, April 15/16, 1997
CMESG/GCEDM: Groupe canadien d'étude en didactique des mathématiques/Canadian Mathematics Education Study Group: May 23-27, Lakehead University.
Innovations in Science and Mathematics Curricula: June 2-5, 1997, at Universiti Brunei Darussalam
ATCM: Asian Technology Conference in Mathematics: Penang, Malaysia, June 19-22, 1997.
A Conference Of The International History, Philosophy & Science Teaching Group. Calgary, Alberta, Canada. June 21-24, 1997

ALM-4: THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE of Adults Learning Maths - A Research Forum (ALM): University of Limerick, Ireland 4-6 July 1997
AMESA The 3rd National Congress of the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa. University of Natal, Durban, South Africa, 6-11 July 1997
MERGA 20 Mathematics Education Research group of Australasia. July 7-11, Rotorua, NZ. Contact Andy Begg a.begg@waikato.ac.nz
PME 21. The 21st Conference of Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME21): July, 14-19, 1997, Lahti, Finland, University of Helsinki, Lahti Research and Training Centre.
PME-NA October 18-21, Bloomington/Normal IL. Contact Jane Swafford swafford@math.ilstu.edu

1998

CMESG/GCEDM meeting: UBC, May 29th to June 2nd, 1998.
PME-22. July 12-17, 1998. University of Stellenbosch, SA.

2000:

ICME-9. Toyko/Makuhari, August 2000

Details of conferences are available on the Web at:
<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~mathed/Research/Conferences.html>

COMPTE RENDU DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE DU GROUPE CANADIEN D'ÉTUDE EN DIDACTIQUE DES MATHÉMATIQUES

Université Mount Saint Vincent, Halifax, 1er et 2 juin 1996

[Pour des raisons de longueur, ceci est une version abrégée du compte rendu.]

Sandy Dawson agit comme président, environ 40 membres étant présents la première journée et 50 la deuxième.

1. Remarques préliminaires — Sandy Dawson

Sandy remercie les deux membres sortants du Comité exécutif, Pat Rogers et David Lidstone, pour leur soutien et leur contribution au GCEDM/CMESG au cours de la dernière année. Il remercie également Vi Maeers, en son absence, pour avoir agi comme éditrice de deux numéros du Bulletin au cours de l'année.

2. Le compte rendu de la rencontre de 1995 est approuvé sur proposition de Gord Doctorow et de Doug Franks.

3. Rapport financier

Le secrétaire-trésorier présente par écrit son rapport financier annuel ; celui-ci est approuvé sur proposition d'Ed Barbeau et de Tom Kieren. Ed Barbeau suggère que l'Exécutif examine la possibilité que le GCEDM/CMESG obtienne le statut lui permettant d'émettre des reçus de charité pour fins d'impôts. Carolyn Kieran suggère qu'il pourrait être avantageux de changer l'année fiscale de façon à ce qu'elle coïncide avec l'année du calendrier, plutôt que de se terminer le 30 avril comme c'est le cas actuellement.

4. FLM

Voici les conclusions de la discussion sur les relations entre le GCEDM/CMESG et FLM.

- À compter de juillet 1997, la responsabilité financière de FLM incombera au GCEDM/CMESG, qui verra également à trouver de nouveaux éditeurs devant maintenir l'esprit et le dynamisme actuel de FLM.
- Durant la période comprise entre les assemblées générales annuelles de 1996 et de 1997, le Comité exécutif agira en tant que sous-comité des finances de FLM.
- Lors de l'Assemblée générale annuelle de 1997, le Comité exécutif présentera, pour fins d'approbation, un plan sur la conduite éditoriale de FLM, définissant entre autres (1) la composition et les responsabilités d'un comité éditorial consultatif, et (2) un processus pour le choix du (des) éditeur(s) de FLM. De plus, le GCEDM/CMESG demande au Comité exécutif de
 - (a) définir le mandat du Comité éditorial consultatif de FLM
 - (b) déterminer les responsabilités du (des) éditeur(s) de FLM de même que les conditions d'occupation du poste
 - (c) concevoir un processus de sélection et de désignation du (des) éditeur(s) de FLM
 - (d) achever la description de ce processus à temps pour des nominations devant se faire d'ici le printemps 1997
 - (e) choisir les titulaires des différents postes d'ici le printemps 1997
 - (f) lors de l'Assemblée générale annuelle de 1997, faire approuver les décisions quant au point (a) et faire rapport sur les points (b), (c), (d) et (e).

La durée du mandat du (des) premier(s) éditeur(s) devra être au maximum de trois ans et sera sujet à révision à la fin du mandat.

- À compter de 1997, tous les membres du GCEDM/CMESG recevront automatiquement FLM, le coût de la cotisation étant de 20\$.

5. Élections

Pat Rogers présente le nouveau mode d'élections mis en place cette année. L'objectif visé, en tenant le vote plus tôt, est de permettre au nouvel Exécutif de prendre la relève sitôt après l'assemblée générale annuelle, et aussi de faire en sorte que les membres nouvellement élus puissent planifier leur transport de façon à permettre à l'Exécutif de se réunir pour une journée à la fin de la rencontre annuelle.

Pat déclare Bernard Hodgson et Lesley Lee élus au Comité exécutif pour une période de deux ans. Sandy indique que Mary Crowley et Sue Stuart ont été cooptés à l'Exécutif pour une période d'un an.

6. Rencontres futures

La rencontre de 1997 se tiendra à l'Université Lakehead. Pour 1998, l'Exécutif a accepté l'invitation de UBC, les dates de la rencontre étant du 29 mai au 2 juin 1998.

7. Demande de subvention au CRSH pour 1997

Tel que mentionné dans le Bulletin, le Comité exécutif préparera une demande de subvention pour 1997. Le secrétaire-trésorier signale qu'il s'est entretenu avec Carolyn Kieran, Tom Kieren, Claude Gaulin et Bill Higginson pour recueillir des idées sur la façon d'améliorer la page de présentation de la demande.

8. Bulletin

Le Bulletin doit-il toujours paraître imprimé sur papier, ou une version électronique peut-elle suffire ? On convient que les deux modes de transmission doivent être disponibles cette année et qu'un sondage auprès des membres pourrait ensuite être fait.

NEWSLETTER-WEB PAGE-EMAIL

CMESG/GCEDM is now on the Web! Our aims, contact addresses, conference information and member reports can now be found at:

<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~mathed/cmesc-gcedm/>

This web site will allow continual updates of information, as well as providing more details than can be made available in print. Comments, contributions and critiques are welcome. Send them to the Newsletter Editor. The web page can also serve as a way for CMESG/GCEDM members to advertise their research activities. This might be especially valuable for graduate students. For more information contact the Editor.



Another electronic aspect of CMESG/GCEDM is the electronic format of the newsletter. Beginning with this issue the newsletter is also available by email. It will be sent out to all members on our email list as both Word Perfect and MSWord attachments. If the electronic format is acceptable to you, you are urged to inform the newsletter editor, as this will allow for considerable savings (and possibly even more frequent newsletters) in the future.

Newsletter Editor / Editeur du Bulletin:

Please submit contributions to / Veuillez envoyer vos contributions à :

David A. Reid, Faculty of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NF, A1B 3X8

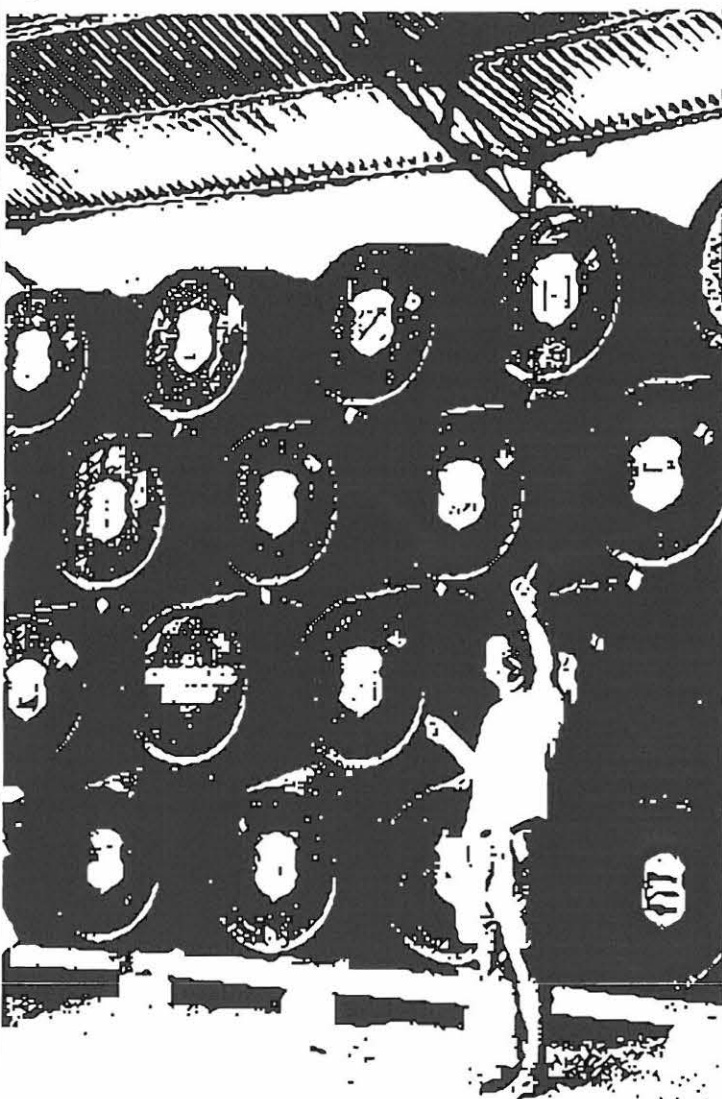
tel. (709) 737-3409

fax (709) 737-2345

dareid@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

MEMBER REPORTS

A postcard from Valencia,
by David Reid



Having a wonderful time, wish you were here. Actually one of the things I like about PME is I often get to see Canadians from across the country for a second time in July, after regretfully saying good-bye at CMESG in May. Perhaps the long elusive Canadian identity lies in sharing a common interest in the Psychology of Mathematics Education? One measure of the importance of mathematics education in Canada is the existence of an organization like CMESG/GCEDM. Another is our participation in PME. This 20th PME was odd in that there was not a Canadian representative on the International Committee. There was no shortage of Canadians presenting papers, however, and we were in very good company. This was the biggest PME yet, and there was always something of interest on the go. High points for me were the forum on language and mathematics, and Gila Hanna's plenary on proof. As always I wished I could be in multiple working groups and discussion groups. After a week of non-stop thinking about mathematical thinking, many of us moved on to the even hotter sun of Sevilla, for ICME. If I had to make a comparison with ICME in Québec, I would probably comment on the weather and the importance of finding a place to swim. The sheer variety of aspects of mathematics education on offer was overwhelming. I did manage to retain a few coherent memories, especially of Anna Sierpiska's plenary, the meetings of the Topic group on proofs and proving, and an excellent talk given by Leen Streefland. David

**L'EXÉCUTIF DU GCEDM
CMESG EXECUTIVE
1997-1998**

The members of the executive extend an invitation to you to contact us about any item of interest. If you have something you want to suggest, if you have a concern you wish to raise, if you want more information, etc., please let one of us know. In order to be of service to the membership, we need to be aware of what your interests are.

A. J. Sandy Dawson, President
Faculty of Education,
Simon Fraser University
Vancouver, BC V5A 1S6
e-mail: sandy_dawson@sfu.ca
Fax: (604) 291-3203

Bernard Hodgson
Dép. de mathématiques et de statistique
Université Laval
Québec, QC G1K 7P4
e-mail: bhodgson@mat.ulaval.ca
Fax: (418) 656-2817

Lesley Lee
Dép. de mathématiques
Université du Québec à Montréal
Case postale 8888, Succursale "A"
Montréal, QC H3C 3P8
e-mail: r36114@er.uqam.ca
Fax: (514) 987-4636

Les membres du Comité exécutif vous invitent à leur faire part de votre point de vue concernant n'importe quel aspect de la vie du GCEDM. Que ce soit pour transmettre suggestions ou commentaires, ou encore pour être mieux informé, n'hésitez pas à entrer en contact avec l'un d'entre nous. En nous faisant connaître vos intérêts, vous nous aidez à mieux vous servir.

Eric Muller, Secretary-Treasurer
Dept. of Mathematics,
Brock University
St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1
e-mail: emuller@spartan.ac.brocku.ca
Fax: (905) 682-9020

Mary Crowley
Dept. of Education
Mt. St. Vincent University
Halifax, NS, B3M 2J6
e-mail: mary.crowley@msvu.ca
Fax: (902) 445-3960

Sue Stuart
Faculty of Education
Nipissing University
100 College Dr, Box 5002
North Bay, ON P3B 1J7
sues@einstein.unipissing.ca
Fax: 1-705-474-1947