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Agenda item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**National and international standardization of geographical
names: Names collection, office treatment, national
authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and
international cooperation**

Canada, a bilingual country, as reflected in its toponymy

Summary**

In Canada, the Official Languages Act confers on French and English the status of official languages of the country. The Act provides for guarantees relating to the right of any member of the public to communicate with, and to receive available services from, any institution of the Parliament or Government of Canada in either official language. In response to the requirements of this Act, guidelines have been established on the linguistic treatment of Canadian toponyms in the documents, topographic maps and nautical charts of the Federal Government. These guidelines apply only to the Federal Government, not to the provincial and territorial governments, nor to the general Canadian population.

* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

** The full report, prepared by Diane Lacasse, of the secretariat of the Geographical Names Board of Canada, Natural Resources Canada, will be available as document GEGN.2/2019/75/CRP.75, in the language of submission only, at the following address:
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html.

