**CG 120 Research Project**

In order to complete this last assignment, be sure to refer to any website listed throughout the course (or within any of the preceding assignments) that provide pertinent information on your research topic. At the start of this course (Introduction, page 6) several websites were identified as quite useful (you are expected to use most of these websites, as well as others, as you work through this last assignment):

* [Statistics Canada](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/)
* [National Atlas of Canada](http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/index.html)
* [Natural Resources Canada](http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)
* [Environment Canada](http://www.ec.gc.ca)
* [First Nations site directory](http://directory.aboriginalconnections.com/Canada/index.html)
* [First Nations Information Project](http://www.johnco.com/nativel/)
* [Historical Atlas of Canada](http://www.historicalatlas.ca/website/hacolp/)
* [The Canadian Encyclopedia](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com)

Perform Internet searches on your topic. Go to the library for text resources if necessary (books, newspapers, magazines, journals, textbooks, etc.). Talk to individuals or organizations in your neighbourhood concerned with the same issue. Gather all the information you can.

You have the choice of writing an **essay** (in Word) or creating a **slide presentation** (using PowerPoint or equivalent).

If you choose to write an essay, aim for 1000 words (equivalent of approximately five pages of double-spaced text)—this does not include images, the title page or the reference list. If you choose to create a slide presentation, aim for a minimum of 25 slides.

**A Geographical Perspective on a Current Canadian Issue**

This course has focused on the study of the ever-changing cultural and physical landscapes of Canada and how they impact upon each other. Canadian geography is intimately involved with environmental, social and economic issues of concern to the lives of Canadians within the national and international context.

For this last assignment, you are expected **to explore a current Canadian issue** from a geographical perspective, to synthesize information in a reasoned well-written response supplemented by maps, diagrams, graphs, statistics and perhaps even sketches. All images, including any (neatly) hand-drawn, then scanned ones, should be inserted directly into your Word document or PPT presentation (for help with scanning, see your local facilitator).

You may want to delve much deeper into a topic touched on during this course, or you may want to go off in a completely new direction. A good way to decide on a topic may be to ask yourself a few questions. A good, focused question frames your learning by presenting a current, meaningful problem to solve—one that is taken seriously by people in the real world. This “driving” question should anchor your investigation in the geography, climate and ecosystems of Canada within the global context.

Sample questions to think about are given here, but the field is open—if you wish to explore an issue not listed here, simply talk to your instructor for approval.

* How can we address the many issues surrounding the well-being of Aboriginal People in Canada today?
* How can Canada improve its contribution to global environmental sustainability issues? Are we doing our part?
* How will increasing urbanization affect all Canadians (rural and urban) in the future?
* How should Canada address poverty within its own borders?
* What can be done to attract more international companies to locate to Canada?
* What issues of Arctic Sovereignty directly affect Canada?
* How can Canada prepare for its aging population in the mid 21st century?
* How will climate change affect Canadian agriculture? (or forestry, or fishing…)
* How does Canada contribute globally to telecommunications?
* How can Canada address the issue of fossil fuel depletion and finding sustainable energy sources for the future?
* How can Canada ensure that global humanitarian aid funds are distributed justly?
* What are the solutions to the environmental hazards, human health risks and economic concerns that result from using chemical pesticides on Canadian farmland?
* How is the Canadian role of “Peacekeeper” changing in the present global environment?
* What will be the effect of the current global economy on Canada in the next five years or so?
* How can Canada attract more immigrants to the rural regions of the country?