

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada, Canadian Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2014 / 2018



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 5 year-round staff, including 1 geoscientist(s) and five part-time summer students (11 total)

Number of visitors: An estimated 48,000 people visited the Geopark in 2020.

Number of Geopark events: Many of TRUGG's regular events were cancelled or postponed due to COVID. TRUGGp did hold a cross-Canada indigenous moccasin-making workshop early in the year before the pandemic affected close gatherings, and later in the year held their annual fishing derby virtually. TRUGG also hosted an avalanche safety training course with partner Avalanche Canada, and held a community-building "Santa in the Geopark" event over the winter holidays.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: Approximately 35 classes visited the Geopark or took part in activities. Many school classes in 2020 were cancelled and the

TRUGGp instead handed out over 1,100 educational kits for at-home learning.

Number of Geopark press release: 12

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- Created a regional plant field guide for publication in 2021
- Began work on a regional Geological Field guide for publication in 2021
- Hosted virtual Indigenous Advisory Council meetings, which continues to grow in membership
- Received funding and made plan for new GeoInterpretive Centre and mobile exhibit
- Worked with Canadian Geoparks Network to create new strategic plan and workshop series for aspiring Geoparks
- TRUGGp has become the financial trust for the Canadian Geoparks Network's funds

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Contributed project success for publication on the free educational kits being produced – was published in GGN and UNESCO newsletters/websites.

Management and Financial Status

- TRUGGp is currently operating at full staff capacity and is in good standing with all financial agencies and funding partners.

Geoconservation

- TRUGGp has begun paleontological and geological research on a significant new discovery in the Geopark involving a previously-unknown karst formation that has had no evidence of human disturbance or interference.
- TRUGG has been contributing computational powers of raw data in order to process climate change data that is being utilized for scientific research around the world. TRUGG is in the top ten global contributors to this research project. ([Link](#))

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Wildsafe BC continued to hold free information sessions at TRUGG headquarters on wildlife safety in the Geopark, weekly throughout the summer.
- Promoted our "Pack it in, pack it out" campaign to educate visitors on proper waste and garbage disposal in the backcountry.
- TRUGG retains a seat on the Tourism Advisory council for the municipality as well as regional strategic planning committees to ensure that tourism development is viable and sustainable.
- TRUGG initiated the formation of a local advisory group on sustainable tourism development hosted by the District of Tumbler Ridge.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- TRUGG hosted an avalanche safety training course with partner Avalanche Canada
- TRUGG has designed activities on geology, conservation, and indigenous cultures that will travel the region with a mobile exhibit trailer and deliver activity kits for children free of charge

Strategic partnership

- Assisted the Canadian Global Geoparks Network with the creation of policies and strategic planning
- Assisted the Canadian Global Geoparks Network with the development of a workshop series for aspiring Geoparks in Canada.
- Established new advisory council to address tourism sustainability and infrastructure with tourism operators and the District of Tumbler Ridge

Promotional activities

- Successfully initiated a GeoPassport program encouraging visitors to visit TRUGG geosites and post to social media
- Instagram and Twitter collaboration with Hateg Geopark (Youth Ambassadors)
- Designed and constructed a mobile exhibit trailer with full graphic wrap of a 22' long trailer branded with the TRUGG logo and partners

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Manda Maggs, manda.maggs@tumbleridgegeopark.ca

Geologist: Ed Heatherington, edlorh@gmail.com