**Cross-Canada Virtual Road Trip Contest 2021- COVID-19 Policy**

At the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) we understand that all across Canada schools may have been closed and/or an increased number of students have been enrolled in on-line learning as part of the national effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect Canadians. Canadians across the country have all been affected. We also understand that the changes that have become necessary to address the spread of COVID-19 have caused difficulties for teachers to participate certain educational activities. We are dedicated to ensuring that the challenges and contests, such as the Cross-Canada Virtual Road Trip Contest 2021 will continue until such time as it is no longer possible (whether for health, public safety or other reasons) to do so. We feel that it is essential that teachers and their students, as well as families and members of the public are able to participate in such activities as a key element of education and that is is important and necessary to do so in a manner that respects the need for increased precautionary measures.

**Adapting Contests and Challenges**

When possible, we will be maintaining the traditional structure, deadlines, and prizing for the challenges and contests but, where possible, we have adapted our contests and challenges to be more easily completed by members of the classroom who are enrolled in on-line learning, learning at home and/or self-isolating. We have worked to identify how challenges and contests may be completed both by those in a classroom as well as those enrolled in on-line learning. We are inviting classrooms to show off their creativity and ingenuity to participate in challenges and contests, and we are encouraging students to bring the RCGS-sponsored challenges and contests into their homes! We understand that every teacher has an individual way of communicating with students and their families. Teachers can decide how they would like to introduce the subject to their students. Where possible, we endeavor to expanding the RCGS-sponsored challenges and contests to include families and members of the public – to facilitate broad participation in a way that is safe and responsive to changing social and public health requirements.

**Safety**

Safety is of paramount importance. If your students are able to complete or participate in challenges and contests safely – whether in a classroom setting or remotely, while adhering to requirements from municipal/provincial/federal government (including quarantine), schools, principals, and school boards. Participating in CGE sponsored challenges or contests **does not** require students to gather in groups, make purchases, or go against any applicable instructions or restrictions regarding safety and COVID-19.

Families and individuals who participate in the RCGS-sponsored challenges or contests must also adhere to all applicable requirements from municipal/provincial/federal government (including quarantine) as well as from all applicable regulatory agencies and public health authorities.

**Prizes**

Prizes will be delivered when it is reasonably feasible and safe to do so. Delivery of prizes may be delayed if schools are closed, if RCGS is unable to effect delivery of a prize for reasons beyond its control or if a delay in the delivery of the prize is necessary to address or effect a COVID-19 safety measure.

**Future Changes**

As the situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to evolve, this Policy may have to change. Applicable website(s) will be updated with any developments or changes to this Policy.

May, 2021