



undergraduate and graduate students  
staff  
faculty  
a tour of teaching and research facilities

In their reports the review teams provided feedback that describes how the department of geography and planning meets the QUQAP evaluation criteria and is consistent with the university's mission and academic priorities. The review teams noted:

that the faculty and programs in geography are among the best in Canada.  
that the planning program (MPL) is a "first rate" professional graduate program.

The reviewers also noted the following concerns:

decreased student enrolment in undergraduate courses;  
extended times to completion for PhD students; and  
increasing competition for students in planning programs.

Based on all of the above documentation, a *Final Assessment Report* and *Implementation Plan* were prepared by the vice-provost (teaching and learning) and approved by the provost on August 3, 2016.

The academic programs in the department of geography and planning have been approved to continue and are scheduled for their next review in eight years (2023-2024).

Prepared by the vice-provost (teaching and learning)

July 29, 2016

## Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan for the Cyclical Program Review of the Academic Programs in the Department of Geography and Planning

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), this final assessment report provides a synthesis of the external evaluation and the internal response and assessments of the undergraduate and graduate academic programs in the department of geography and planning [BA, BAH, BSc, BScH, MA, MSc, MPL, PhD]. This report identifies:

- the significant strengths of the program;
- opportunities for program improvement and enhancement; and
- recommendations that have been selected for implementation.

The report includes an implementation plan that identifies:

- who will be responsible for approving the recommendations set out in the final assessment report;
- who will be responsible for providing any resources entailed by those recommendations;
- any changes in organization, policy or governance that will be necessary to meet the recommendations;
- who will be responsible for acting on those recommendations; and
- timelines for acting on and monitoring the implementation of those recommendations.

### Summary of the Cyclical Program Review of the Academic Programs in the Department of Geography and Planning

It should be noted that two self-studies were completed as separate documents for the seven year period prior to the union of the department of geography and the school of urban and regional planning into the department of geography and planning. Since all academic courses now reside in the newly structured department of geography and planning, a single response to the reports has been prepared.

Self-study submission date for the department of geography: May 22, 2015

Self-study submission date for the school of urban and regional planning: August 30, 2015

The approved self-studies included:

- program descriptions
- learning outcomes
- library reports
- analyses of data
- CVs for core faculty

Review team members for the department of geography and planning:

- Dr. Brian Moorman, Department of Geography, University of Calgary
- Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan for the CPR of the academic programs in the  
department of geography and planning





## Summary of the Reviewers' Comments/Recommendations with the Internal Responses

### Graduate Times to Completion

The reviewers of the MA, MSc and PhD programs recommended that the student funding levels be assessed for competitiveness and the potential to fund PhD students beyond the fourth year.

*The school of graduate studies encourages the department to institute strategies to promote more timely completion which would enable funds to be diverted to 'in-program' students creating higher funding packages. A culture of providing graduate research assistant fellowships whenever possible across physical and human geography would also enhance student support.*

*The department responded that it's actively monitoring graduate student completion times with a focus on the PhD program. The department stated that it plans to remain vigilant and to work to promote shorter times to completion.*

### Co-location

Both sets of reviewers recommended that the previously independent units co-locate. It was further suggested that space planning, if handled sensitively and with the goal of ensuring the needs of all participants, will result in many opportunities for collaboration and growth.

*The head of the department responded that it is indeed the goal to move towards a more cohesive unit by ensuring that space considerations satisfy the needs of the faculty and students, especially those in the MPL program. Co-location will address the access to staffing issue as well as overall governance of the new unit. Moving ahead, the Executive Committee will draft a space plan that helps address space costs while at the same time provides high quality space to all faculty, staff and graduate students in the department. The response went on to say that the department would be seeking assistance from the faculty of arts and science to realize the renovations necessary to ensure new space meets the necessary*



/> 7G/G & G G ;('B @VL; B 8'='>K!M9!@ VV P9UW V  
BCE @ RK:)W

5 \$) E @ Q8@ #+OM? %M < / ? , V

1 \$) E @IR @VKV \$ . @ @ 9D/ %N!K @ % 1 )HV

&I> FKIH % \$ / ' ? # ' V

4 , ? ! K P E ' V

2 ? 19VHK!K@B M@V V > % V 9I F > , F > HW BBE @ R @ W / K 4 ? P ) V

K @ V - ) T B E / @ , E ! R V & S V

W " % ) ; 6 # V