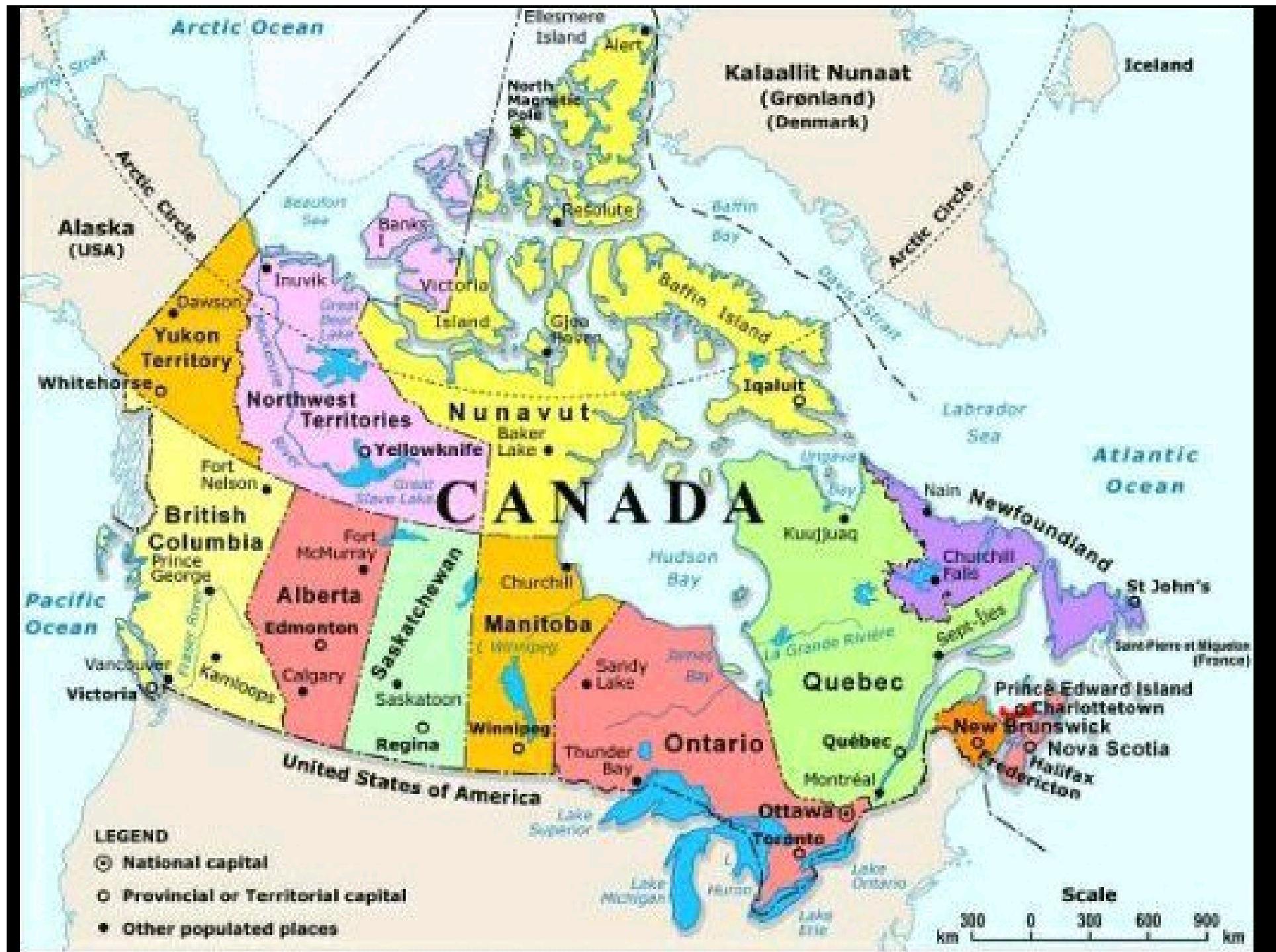


iGEM Experiences in the GWN (Canada)

Andrew Hessel







Teams

2005

Toronto-Waterloo

2006

Toronto-Waterloo

McGill

Calgary

2007

Toronto

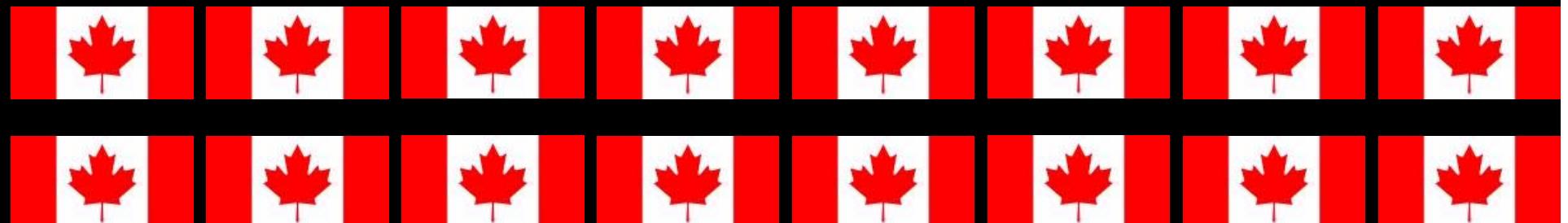
Waterloo

McGill

Calgary

Edmonton

Lethbridge



Personal Experience

- GWN receptive to modular biology concepts
- Good interest from schools
- Challenges:
 - Resources
 - Geographical separation of teams
 - Canadian laissez faire attitudes
 - Snow, cabin fever, brain freeze

2007

- Continued participation from existing teams
- Provincial support in Alberta
 - Funding!
 - iGEM aligned with larger strategic initiatives
 - Communications support
- Major goal of increased awareness for iGEM and synbio across the country



Beyond 2007

- Moving towards national organization
- Courses are being created
- Alberta is actively moving towards an integrated engineered biology framework to support a bio-economy
 - Biofab?
 - Real world applications
 - Recruitment of synbio leaders
- More teams on deck for 2008
- Junior high team members