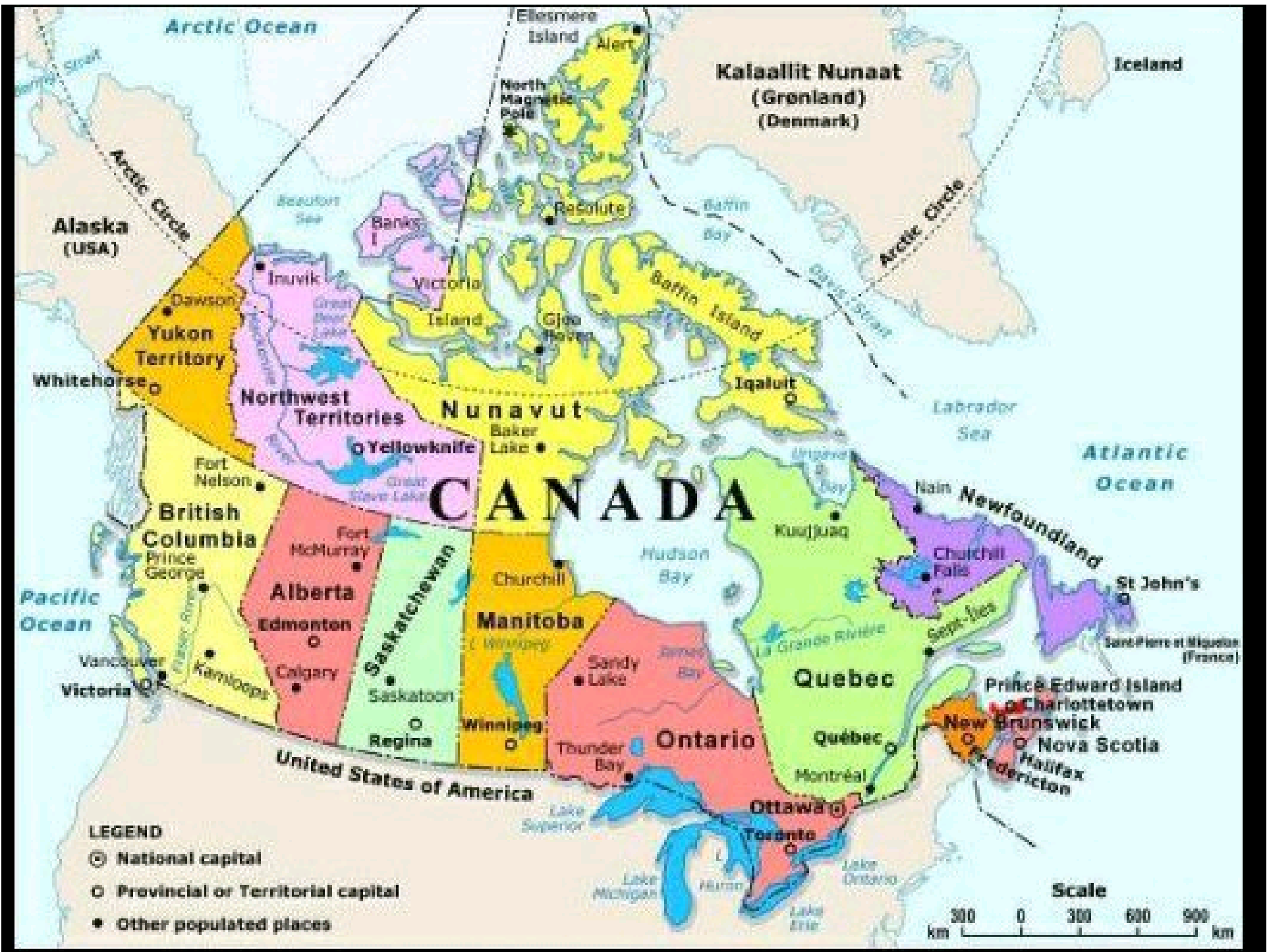


# iGEM Experiences in the GWN (Canada)

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