

CANADIAN GEOMATICS ACCORD 2007-2012

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Changing demands for geomatics data and information (hereinafter called “data”) as well as changing technology have generated both the need and the opportunity for federal, provincial and territorial government agencies responsible for geomatics to co-operate in geomatics initiatives as a vital component of the infrastructure of Canada’s information economy.

1.2 The existing Canadian Geomatics Accord (hereinafter called the “2001 Accord”), was developed in 2001 by the Canadian Council on Geomatics (hereinafter called the “Council”), and expired on December 31, 2006. Discussions with federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts have indicated a strong interest in renewing the Accord as a successor agreement for another five years.

1.3 The need for this 2007 Canadian Geomatics Accord (hereinafter called the “2007 Accord”), under the auspices of the Council, was identified to record the interest, the will and the commitment of such federal, provincial and territorial government agencies and Crown corporations to co-operate in geomatics initiatives of mutual interest. Co-operation in geomatics may include, but is not restricted to:

- the establishment of a Canadian geospatial data infrastructure (CGDI);
- data production, collection, integration, maintenance and sharing;
- data distribution and licensing;
- standards and specifications;
- technical and policy research; and,
- applications development.

1.4 The 2007 Accord recognizes that the federal, provincial and territorial governments each deliver geomatics programs to assist in the administration of land and resources within their jurisdictions. Each of these governments has respective responsibility to generate and/or use data to deliver its programs and services.

2.0 PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of the 2007 Accord is to create a framework to allow federal, provincial and territorial government agencies involved in geomatics to collaborate and provide support for geomatics initiatives and focus their efforts on more efficient data collection, distribution, and maintenance.

3.0 BENEFITS

3.1 The intent of the 2007 Accord is to provide a framework to obtain benefits from:

- co-operation that facilitates access to and distribution of data to a broad array of users in Canada;
- the creation of opportunities to reduce data maintenance costs through the development of common frameworks for data;
- utilization of national and international standards to gain cost efficiencies through greater integration of data ;
- the creation of cost-efficient federal, provincial and territorial arrangements for data collection and management;

- Common policy framework for data access and licensing.

4.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 The Government of Canada is generally responsible in connection with geomatics initiatives for:

- national Canadian leadership and co-ordination with international agencies;
- co-ordination of activities among federal government agencies;
- provision and maintenance, directly or indirectly, of national databases;
- distribution of data-based products generated from national databases; and
- provision of a network that facilitates the discovery of and access to federal data and links to similar provincial and territorial networks.

4.2 The provincial and territorial governments are generally responsible in connection with geomatics initiatives for:

- provincial and territorial leadership and co-ordination among provincial and territorial agencies;
- liaison and co-ordination of activities among local government agencies ;
- provision and maintenance, directly or indirectly, of provincial and territorial databases; and
- distribution of data-based products generated from provincial and territorial databases.

4.3 The federal government and each provincial and territorial government will identify a lead agency within their respective governments to serve as the key point of contact for geomatics activities, which agency will be a signatory to this 2007 Accord. Additional agencies from the federal, provincial and territorial governments may also be invited to become signatories to this 2007 Accord.

5.0 GOVERNANCE

5.1 The Council will be responsible for the administration and co-ordination of activities conducted under this 2007 Accord.

5.2 The Council will be administered as stated in its Terms of Reference with administrative resources provided by Natural Resources Canada.

5.3 Signatories of this 2007 Accord are hereby documenting their intent to co-operate in mutually beneficial geomatics initiatives. Bilateral or multilateral agreements reflecting the principles of co-operation as set out below will be developed for appropriate initiatives by the signatories. These agreements may be signed by the Deputy or Assistant Deputy Ministers from signatory organizations as defined in the specific agreements. These agreements will be tabled with the Council Secretariat and attached to this 2007 Accord as appendices.

5.4 This 2007 Accord does not create legally binding rights or obligations among the signatories, but represents their desire to co-operate and to exchange data for the common good.

5.5 This 2007 Accord may be amended by the consent of all signatories. A signatory may be added to the 2007 Accord and a signatory may withdraw from it by providing written notice to the other signatories.

6.0 PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATION

6.1 Data should be collected only once, closest to the source and in the most efficient way possible.

6.2 Data should be integrated both horizontally and vertically across jurisdictions, to reduce duplication of effort and to promote the concept of “collect data once, use many times.”

7.0 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

7.1 The signatories to this 2007 Accord wish to avoid duplication of effort and maximize co-operation in carrying out geomatics activities.

7.2 In promoting efficiencies and to increase the integration of data, the signatories to this 2007 Accord will contact each other to provide information on major geomatics activities to determine whether:

- acceptable and appropriate data already exist that can be acquired in a cost-effective manner to populate databases; and
- there is mutual interest in working with other organizations to cost-share data capture or maintenance.

8.0 DURATION

8.1 The accord comes into effect for each signatory at the time that a) their authorised representative signs the accord and b) there are two or more signatories to the accord. The accord expires on December 31, 2012.