

2014 CANADIAN GEOMATICS ACCORD

1.0 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The Canadian Geomatics Accord (Accord) provides the framework for intergovernmental collaboration in geomatics. The Canadian Geomatics Accord was first signed in 2001 (the 2001 Accord) for a 5 year period expiring December 31, 2006. A second Accord (the 2007 Accord) was signed in 2007 for a five year period expiring December 31, 2012. This Accord (the 2014 Accord) will be in effect from 2014 to December 31, 2019.
- 1.2 By signing the 2001 and 2007 Accords, federal, provincial and territorial governments sought to address common needs for increased efficiency and adaptation to rapid technological change through a formal collaboration mechanism. Efficiency and adaptation to technological change remain valid considerations. However, a new Canadian Geomatics Accord 2014-2019 (the 2014 Accord) is deemed necessary in light of more recent circumstances, including:
- New factors and new possibilities arising from governments' adoption of Open Government policies;
 - The increasingly rapid pace of technological change and adoption;
 - Changes in Canadian demographics and in the nature and structure of business stakeholders; and
 - Budgetary constraints at every level of government.
- 1.3 The 2014 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 information to deliver its programs and services.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Trusted geographic information is critical for fact-based policy and decision making, in developing innovative solutions to address 21st century challenges, and in increasing productivity in business, in government, and in daily life. Geographic information is a component of Canada's knowledge infrastructure. Knowledge resulting from the analysis of economic, environmental, and social information linked with easily accessible, high quality geographic information through modern information management systems supports intelligent planning, objective analysis, and effective policy and decision making.
- 2.2 For the purposes of the 2014 Accord, geomatics is defined as a modern discipline which integrates the tasks of gathering, storing, processing, modelling, analyzing, and delivering spatially referenced or location information. It encompasses the disciplines of surveying, hydrography, mapping, remote sensing (often called earth observation) and geographic information processing (often called GIS).
- 2.3 Primary considerations for the 2001 and 2007 versions of the Accord included the need for governments to seek greater efficiencies, provide tangible benefits through formal collaboration and adapt to rapidly changing technology. These primary considerations are still valid, however, additional drivers and opportunities linked to Open Government initiatives, rapid advances in technology, changing demographics and new stakeholders within the industry, and changing public expectations as well as budget constraints at all levels of government are additional factors taken into consideration in the development of the 2014 Accord.
- 2.4 Established in 1972, the Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG) is the federal-provincial-territorial government body working towards improving access to, management and use of, government-provided geographic information. The Council

provides a forum for the exchange of information on common operational issues and on delivering programs more efficiently. It seeks to identify opportunities for collaboration on pan-Canadian initiatives and to develop and promote pan-Canadian geomatics standards, which are essential to interoperability.

3.0 PURPOSE

3.1 The purpose of the 2014 Accord is to provide a framework for intergovernmental collaboration in geomatics, by outlining roles and responsibilities and overarching principles for intergovernmental collaboration on geomatics activities in Canada.

4.0 BENEFITS & PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

4.1 Authoritative, accessible geographical information is important to Canadian citizens, businesses and researchers. Geospatial information has proven to accelerate innovation and productivity. Accurate, definitive, science based, geographical knowledge of the Canadian landmass, marine extent and air space is critical to fact based decision and policy making. In order to provide the highest quality of geographical information we the signatories agree to work within these principles:

- To provide effective leadership and governance within the geomatics community in order to contribute to a vital Canadian geomatics sector;
- To promote and contribute to the development of best practices, pan-Canadian and international standards and policies to support geospatial information sharing and integration;
- To support the efficient use of resources by collaborating to reduce management and maintenance costs through the development of harmonized collection strategies and shared infrastructure for geomatics;
- To promote the benefits of integrating geographic information in business processes to enrich analysis and decision making;
- To enhance the availability and usability of geographic information in an open government context.

5.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 The Government of Canada provides leadership in:

- Pan-Canadian leadership and co-ordination with international agencies;
- co-ordination of activities among federal government agencies;
- provision and maintenance, directly or indirectly, of pan-Canadian geographic information;
- distribution of products generated from pan-Canadian geographical information; and
- facilitating the discovery of and access to federal initiatives and links to similar provincial and territorial initiatives.

5.2 The provincial and territorial governments provide leadership in:

- co-ordination among provincial and territorial agencies;
- liaison and co-ordination of activities among local government agencies and stakeholders;
- provision and maintenance, directly or indirectly, of provincial and territorial geographic information; and
- distribution of products generated from provincial and territorial geographic information.

5.3 The federal government and each provincial and territorial government will identify a minister to sign the Accord and designate an authorised representative

to serve as the representative to CCOG. Additional representatives of agencies from the federal, provincial and territorial governments may also be invited to become signatories to this 2014 Accord.

- 5.4 The 2014 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 information to deliver its programs and services.

6.0 GOVERNANCE

- 6.1 The CCOG will be responsible for the administration and co-ordination of activities conducted under this 2014 Accord.
- 6.2 The CCOG will be administered as stated in its Terms of Reference (Annex 1).
- 6.3 Reporting based on the principles of the Accord will be conducted through CCOG.
- 6.4 Signatories of this 2014 Accord are hereby documenting their intent to collaborate in mutually beneficial geomatics initiatives. Bilateral or multilateral agreements reflecting the principles of collaboration of this 2014 Accord will be developed for appropriate initiatives by the signatories. These agreements may be signed by Deputy or Assistant Deputy Ministers, Directors General or Directors from signatory organizations as defined in the specific agreements. These agreements will be tabled with the Council Secretariat and attached to this 2014 Accord as appendices.
- 6.5 This 2014 Accord does not create legally binding rights or obligations among the signatories, but represents their desire to collaborate and to exchange information for the common good.
- 6.6 This 2014 Accord may be amended by the written consent of all signatories. The addition or withdrawal of a signatory does not constitute an amendment to the 2014 Accord *per se*. A signatory may be added to the 2014 Accord and a signatory may withdraw from it by providing 30 days written notice to the other signatories.
- 6.7 The CCOG Secretariat will be responsible for keeping a ledger of signatories.

7.0 MECHANISMS FOR COLLABORATION

- 7.1 The primary mechanism for collaboration between the signatories of the 2014 Accord is the CCOG annual work plan. The work plan is developed and funded using a consensus based approach in support of the principles of this 2014 Accord.
- 7.2 Signatories of the 2014 Accord will inform each other of their own jurisdictional work plans on a regular basis so as to identify additional opportunities for collaboration.

8.0 DURATION

- 8.1 The 2014 Accord comes into effect for each signatory at the time that a) its authorised representative signs the 2014 Accord and b) there are two or more signatories to the 2014 Accord. The 2014 Accord expires on December 31, 2019.

SIGNATORIES

Date

The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Natural Resources Canada
Government of Canada

Date

The Honourable Kyle Fawcett
Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Government of Alberta

Approved Pursuant to the *Government Organization Act*:

Date

Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations

Date

The Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Government of British Columbia

Date

The Honourable Gord Mackintosh
Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship
Government of Manitoba

Date

The Honourable Sue Stultz
Minister Responsible for Service New Brunswick
Government of New Brunswick

SIGNATORIES

Date

The Honourable Vaughn Granter
Minister of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Date

The Honourable Robert C. McLeod
Department of Lands
Government of Northwest Territories

Date

The Honourable Mark Furey
Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Government of Nova Scotia

Date

The Honourable Johnny Mike
Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Date

The Honourable Bill Mauro
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Government of Ontario

SIGNATORIES

Date

The Honourable Wesley J. Sheridan
Prince Edward Island Ministry Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs
Government of Prince Edward Island

Date

Monsieur Pierre Arcand
Ministre de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles
Gouvernement du Québec

Date

Monsieur Jean-Marc Fournier
Ministre responsable des Affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes et de la
Francophonie canadienne
Gouvernement du Québec

Date

Honourable Scott Moe
Minister of Environment
Government of Saskatchewan

Date

The Honourable Wade Istchenko
Minister of Highways and Public Works
Government of Yukon

OTHERS