

2025-2030 CANADIAN GEOMATICS ACCORD

1. INTRODUCTION

1. Established in 1972, the Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG) (the “Council”) is a federal-provincial-territorial government body working towards improving access to, management and use of Geospatial Information provided by governments.
2. Trusted Geospatial Information, notably Foundational Geospatial Data, is part of Canada’s knowledge infrastructure. It is critical for evidence-based policy and decision-making, developing innovative solutions to address current challenges, and increasing productivity in business, government, and daily life.
3. The Definitions are referenced in Appendix 1.

2. PREAMBLE

1. The Canadian Geomatics Accord (the “Accord”) provides the framework for intergovernmental collaboration in Geomatics. The Accord was first signed in 2001 and remained in effect for a 5-year period expiring December 31, 2006. Three consecutive Accords were subsequently signed, leading to this Accord (the “2025 Accord”) which will be in effect from 2025 to December 31, 2030.
2. Parties to the 2001 and 2007 Accords sought to address a shared need for increased efficiency and adaptation to rapid technological change by establishing a formal collaboration mechanism.
3. Parties to the 2014 Accord considered new factors and possibilities arising from the Parties’ adoption of Open Government policies; the increased pace of technological change and adoption; changes in Canadian demographics and in the nature and structure of business and the Canadian economy.
4. Parties to the 2014 Accord recognized that each of the Parties delivers Geomatics programs to assist in the administration of land and resources within their jurisdictions, and bears responsibility for generating and / or using information to deliver its programs and services.
5. Parties to the 2020 Accord further recognized the value of leveraging Geomatics to monitor and respond to emerging societal and environmental drivers to advance general government efficiency and reduce social and environmental costs.
6. Parties to the 2025 Accord affirm their respective jurisdictional responsibilities and acknowledge growing opportunities and drivers, including a more decentralized Geomatics

AGR-24055 Canadian Geomatics Accord

sector characterized by a broader range of geospatial producers and users, widespread applications of emerging technologies, as well as the persistent and growing need for collaboration, systems integration, and geospatial solutions to address shared challenges.

7. Parties to the 2025 Accord seek to reaffirm the continued benefits and principles of intergovernmental collaboration and reinforce the Council's fundamental role in evaluating and endorsing geospatial standards and foundational data across Canada and collaborating to create and maintain foundational data.
8. Parties to the 2025 Accord further recognize the need to adapt to a changing Geomatics sector, renew our collaborative mechanisms and broaden engagement with key partners and stakeholders.

3. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the 2025 Accord is to provide a continued framework for intergovernmental collaboration in Geomatics, in response to cross-jurisdictional environmental, economic, and societal challenges and changes, for the benefit of Canadians. This includes:
 - developing and promoting the development of best practices, policies, pan-Canadian and international standards, which are essential to Geospatial Information sharing and integration;
 - identifying, endorsing, and providing free, open, and trusted foundational Geospatial Information; meanwhile promoting the free and open use of all Geospatial Information of relevance to Canadians;
 - promoting the benefits of integrating Geospatial Information in business processes to enrich analysis and decision making;
 - enhancing the availability and usability of Geospatial Information in an open government context;
 - supporting effective policy and decision-making through insights derived from the analysis of economic, environmental, and social information linked with trusted Geospatial Information and enabled by current technology platforms;
 - providing a forum for the exchange of information on common operational issues, shared tools and on delivering programs more efficiently;
 - supporting 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; and

- providing a pan-Canadian perspective and guidance to support Canada's engagement with international Geomatics bodies.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The CCOG provides shared leadership in the following areas, in accordance with the consensus-based approach:
 - developing, evaluating, promoting, and endorsing, when desired by all the Parties, pan-Canadian geospatial standards and foundational data;
 - facilitating and improving access to, management, and use of governments-provided Geospatial Information to address shared challenges;
 - informing pan-Canadian strategic planning on Geomatics matters;
 - providing expert advice, an intergovernmental perspective, and endorsing the approaches to Geospatial Information uptake and integration in pan-Canadian initiatives; and
 - facilitating intergovernmental representation in Geomatics matters.
2. The Government of Canada is responsible for the following areas:
 - pan-Canadian collaboration (federal, provincial, and territorial) and coordination with international agencies;
 - coordination of activities among federal government agencies;
 - provision and maintenance, directly or indirectly, of pan-Canadian Geospatial Information;
 - distribution of products generated from pan-Canadian Geospatial Information;
 - facilitation of communications and awareness about the discovery of, and access, to federal initiatives and links to similar provincial and territorial initiatives and interests;
 - delivery of information campaigns to Canadians on Geomatics related matters;
 - representation of a Provincial/Territorial and multi-jurisdictional Geomatics perspective and guidance for federal initiatives and programs, and to federal agencies; and
 - consideration of the Geospatial Information needs of federal initiatives and programs, identifying where Geospatial Information is an enabler, and facilitating linkages to federal/provincial/territorial geospatial data assets.
3. The provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the following areas:
 - facilitation of coordination among their respective provincial and territorial entities;
 - liaison and coordination of activities among their local government entities, stakeholders and partners;

AGR-24055 Canadian Geomatics Accord

- provision and maintenance, directly or indirectly, of provincial and territorial Geospatial Information; and
 - distribution of products generated from provincial and territorial Geospatial Information.
4. The federal government and each provincial and territorial government will designate an authorized representative to serve as their representative to CCOG (the “**Representatives**”). With the agreement of the Parties, additional Representatives of entities from the federal, provincial and territorial governments may also be invited to participate at the Council’s meetings.
 5. The 2025 Accord recognizes that the federal, provincial, and territorial governments each deliver unique Geomatics programs to assist in administering land and resources within their jurisdictions. Each government is responsible for generating and using information to deliver its programs and services.

5. GOVERNANCE

1. The CCOG will be responsible for the administration and coordination of activities conducted under this 2025 Accord.
2. Working Groups and time limited task teams will be established as needed, consistent with the Terms of Reference, to facilitate delivery of the CCOG activities and to provide coordination for and represent regional and thematic interests.
3. The CCOG will be governed by the Terms of Reference (Annex 1).
4. Reporting based on the principles of the Accord will be conducted through CCOG.
5. Parties of this 2025 Accord are hereby documenting their intent to collaborate in mutually beneficial Geomatics initiatives. Bilateral or multilateral agreements reflecting the principles of collaboration of this 2025 Accord will be developed for appropriate initiatives by the Parties. Such agreements may be signed by delegated authorities of the Parties, as defined in the specific agreements. Where possible, these agreements will be tabled with the CCOG Secretariat (the “Secretariat”) and attached to this 2025 Accord as Annexes.
6. This 2025 Accord does not create legally binding rights or obligations among the Parties but represents their desire to collaborate and to exchange information for the benefit of Canadians.
7. This 2025 Accord may be amended by the written consent of all Parties and consistent with required approvals. A provincial or territorial government may become a new Party to the 2025 Accord at any time. A Party may withdraw from the 2025 Accord by providing a 30-day written notice to the other Parties.
8. The Secretariat will be responsible for keeping a ledger of Parties and CCOG Representatives, administering CCOG business, and coordinating CCOG activities and Representative participation, under the direction of CCOG and its Co-Chairs.

6. MECHANISMS FOR COLLABORATION

1. The primary mechanism for collaboration between the Parties of the 2025 Accord is the CCOG work plan. The work plan is developed and funded using a consensus-based approach in support of the purpose and principles of this 2025 Accord.

AGR-24055 Canadian Geomatics Accord

2. Parties of the 2025 Accord will inform each other of their own jurisdictional activities on a regular basis to identify additional opportunities for collaboration.
3. The CCOG will engage with and facilitate the participation of non-government partners, stakeholders, and observers as needed to facilitate the delivery of the CCOG work plan and to facilitate cross-sector awareness and information sharing, subject to agreement by all Parties.

7. DURATION

The 2025 Accord comes into effect for each Party at the time that a) its minister or authorized Representative signs the 2025 Accord, and b) there are two or more Parties to the 2025 Accord. The 2025 Accord expires on December 31, 2030.

PARTIES to the 2025-2030 Canadian Geomatics Accord

Date

The Honourable, P.C., M.P
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Canada
Government of Canada

Date

The Honourable
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Government of Alberta

Approved Pursuant to the *Government Organization Act*:

Date

Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations

Date

The Honourable
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Government of British Columbia

Date

The Honourable
Minister of Consumer Protection and Government Services from Conservation and Water
Stewardship
Government of Manitoba

Date

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

Date

The Honourable
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Date

The Honourable
Minister of Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Date

The Honourable
Department of Lands
Government of Northwest Territories

Date

The Honourable
Minister of Service Nova Scotia
Government of Nova Scotia

Date

The Honourable
Department of Culture and Heritage
Government of Nunavut

Date

The Honourable
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Government of Ontario

Date

The Honourable

Prince Edward Island Ministry Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs

Government of Prince Edward Island

Date

Madame

Ministre des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts

Gouvernement du Québec

Date

Monsieur

Ministre responsable des Relations canadiennes

Gouvernement du Québec

Date

Honourable
Minister of Environment
Government of Saskatchewan

Date

The Honourable
Minister of Highways and Public Works
Government of Yukon

APPENDIX 1 DEFINITIONS

“**Geomatics**” is the science and technology that encompasses the tasks of acquiring, managing, modelling, integrating, analyzing, and delivering spatially referenced or location information. It encompasses, but is not limited to, the disciplines of surveying, global navigation satellite systems, hydrography, geology, mapping of natural or human-made features and populations, remote sensing (often called earth observation) and Geospatial Information processing (or geoprocessing).

“**Geoprocessing**” refers to the use of computers to acquire, analyze, store, display, and distribute information about geographic features. This includes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and systems for remote sensing (earth imaging), facilities management, automated mapping, cartography, navigation, and location services.

“**Geospatial Information**” consists of data that are referenced to a location or place. It is a description of the physical location of features around us, including what is on, above and below the surface of the Earth. It also describes the relationships of these geographical features with other features and associated information.

“**Foundational Geospatial Data**” provides a baseline of datasets, including metadata for a wide variety of scientific, socio-economic, business, and other data. The use of foundational layers allows any environment - business, social, ecological etc. - to be analyzed by geographic location which often reveals information that results in more effective policy and decision making, by and for governments, private sector companies and individual citizens.

“**Party**” refers to any entity that has entered into and is a signatory to this Agreement, and “**Parties**” refers to collectively to all entities that have entered into and are signatories to this Agreement.

“**Representative**” refers to individuals identified to sign this Accord and/or participate in the Canadian Council on Geomatics on behalf of a Party.