



**GIS Day Websites
Geography Awareness Week 2007
Canadian Association of Geographers**

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For more than four decades, Canadian organizations have been actively engaged in the geographic information systems (GIS) field. I am very pleased that a number of them have accepted an invitation to participate in GIS Day, Geography Awareness Week, and to contribute to a very important goal of the 2007 program. That is, to use the power of GIS to demonstrate the significance of geography to Canada's social, economic, political, environmental, and technological fabric at the local, regional, and national scales.

The websites selected for GIS Day, Geography Awareness Week, present many of the geographic concepts, measures, and techniques that are incorporated in a GIS. And, no doubt of particular interest to many visitors to this page, they also present many of the outputs -- including maps, images, and other graphics -- that can be produced for GIS users and clients, as well as other GIS partners.

To briefly summarize the GIS credentials of these organizations, they are engaged in geographic information system (GIS) research, development, sales, services, consulting, training, and applications in government, business, education, and communications/media.

In addition, these organizations also support and enable numerous GIS user groups in non-government organizations, community associations, and interest group organizations. Moreover, these organizations and others in the GIS field are also increasing their interaction with users in libraries, recreation centres, homes, private motor vehicles, and almost anywhere else that geographic information is needed.

Regrettably, due to resource limitations we are able to list only a small number of pertinent websites. However, I believe that a very representative and informative selection of GIS organizations has been achieved.

First and foremost, the selected websites provide an excellent overview of the different kinds of geographic data, information and knowledge that are at the core of GIS.



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Second, in combination these websites do an excellent job of introducing the sciences, services, and motivations behind GIS.

Third, the websites selected for GIS Day promote an awareness aspect of geography that I believe visitors to other Theme Day websites will greatly appreciate. That is, there are connections between all the Theme Days, and the websites selected for GIS Day make a major contribution towards better understanding why and how geographic factors affect those connections.

To assist visitors before they go to individual websites, brief descriptions have been prepared. These summaries provide a context and frame of reference for selecting websites, and perhaps for deciding which ones to view in which order.

Selected GIS Organizations and Their URLs GIS Day 2007

Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI)

The Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) encompasses the standards, technology, access systems, and institutional arrangements necessary to harmonize Canada's geospatial data and services, and to make them available on the Internet. In brief, the CGDI is an easy-to-use, advanced, online information resource that offers valuable benefits to decision-makers in four priority areas: public safety; public health; the aboriginal community; and environment and sustainable development.

<http://cgdi.gc.ca/en/aboutcgdi.html>

City of Surrey - COSMOS

With over 270 data layers, this enterprise GIS provides broad access to spatial information through the City of Surrey's Mapping Online System (COSMOS) website. The City's GIS Section coordinates with other City departments to support and maintain COSMOS. With a comprehensive data inventory and robust toolset, COSMOS has become the gateway to spatial information accessed by City staff and the public.

<http://www.surrey.ca/Inside+City+Hall/City+Departments/Engineering/Spatial+Information/COSMOS+External/>



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

CLAIMaps

The CLAIMaps application was developed by the Mines and Minerals Division of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, and is an interesting example of how the Province of Ontario is making mining claims information available to the public.

http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/lands/claimap3/default_e.asp

ESRI Canada

ESRI Canada's clients are a part of the largest GIS user community in the world, with more than one million users in more than 300,000 organizations. Visit this website to learn about the many ways these organizations have leveraged the power of GIS.

<http://www.esricanada.com/english/1086.asp>

ESRI Inc – ArcGIS Online

ArcGIS Online provides a series of 2D map services and 3D globe services that you can use to support your GIS work. These ready-to-use services can be accessed with any ArcGIS application – for example, with ArcGIS Explorer, ArcMap, ArcGlobe, ArcReader, or web mapping applications that you create with ArcGIS Server.

<http://arcgisonline.esri.com/>

GeoCod

GeoCod is a 2-year research project that is focused on developing a GIS-based decision-support tool designed to provide fishery managers with comprehensive and accurate analyses of changing marine ecosystems for new policy development.

<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~rdeville/geocod/about.html>

GeoConnections

GeoConnections helps decision-makers use geospatial information, such as maps and satellite images, to tackle some of Canada's most pressing challenges. The program focuses on working with partners in public health, public safety and security, the environment and sustainable development, aboriginal matters, and geomatics technology development.

<http://www.geoconnections.org/Welcome.do;jsessionid=787B3E8A934802E6B76D991BEFFDADB5.app1>



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Geography Network Canada

Geography Network Canada is a global network of geographic information users and providers. It provides the infrastructure needed to support the sharing of geographic information among data providers, service providers, and users around the world. Through the Geography Network, you can access many types of geographic content including dynamic maps, downloadable data, and more advanced web services.

<http://www.geographynetwork.ca/>

GeoNOVA

GeoNOVA is the name adopted by the Province of Nova Scotia to describe its corporate approach to the creation, maintenance, and distribution of geographic information. GeoNOVA encourages the creation of corporate geographic information resources that are collected, maintained, and distributed to accepted standards, and shared amongst all users within the Province to support decision making and to reduce duplication of effort.

One of the cornerstones of GeoNOVA implementation is the ability of users to easily access geographic information within the Province.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/geonova/home/default.asp>

GeoWeb

Geographic information system technology plays a significant role at the District of North Vancouver. The District believes that information should be accessible to everyone, and therefore offers a wide range of services to staff and the citizens of North Vancouver including maps, digital information, and geographic analysis.

<http://www.geoweb.dnv.org/>

MISA Canada

MISA/ASIM Canada (Municipal Information Systems Association of Canada/Association des Systèmes d'Information Municipale du Canada) is an emerging not-for-profit association comprised of provincial, inter-provincial or territorial associations of municipal government representatives and others who are engaged in or interested in the development and operation of municipal information systems.

<http://www.misa-asim.ca/en/about/index.html>



Statistics Canada

2006 Geography landing page. Statistics Canada's Geography Division maintains a spatially referenced geographic database in support of the Census of Population and Dwellings, as well as the Census of Agriculture, the Standard Geographical Classification and other Statistics Canada programs. The Geography Division also develops geographic concepts, delineates geographic areas, publishes maps and other reference materials, produces a suite of online products, and offers a variety of products and services.

The 2006 Census geography product line includes new and modified geography concepts, enhancements and improvements to existing products, the introduction of new products, and a greater and more sophisticated presence on the Internet site. Increases in the number of products available at no charge make them more widely available to the public. These include digital and cartographic boundary files for all geographies above the census subdivision level, the national road network coverage, as well as more than ten thousand reference and thematic maps.

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/geo/index.cfm>

GeoSearch2006. Redesigned for 2006, GeoSearch2006 is an interactive mapping application that makes it easy to find many places in Canada, see them on a map, and obtain basic geographic and demographic data for those places. To find a place of interest, users can click and zoom in on a map of Canada or they can search by place name, street name, street intersection or postal code. GeoSearch displays the appropriate map showing boundaries and other features. In addition, GeoSearch automatically displays population and dwelling counts for the selected places, shows what kind of geographic areas they are, and also identifies many of their relationships with other geographic areas. New functionality for 2006 includes links to 2006 Census reference maps and community profile tables, and a thematic mapping option for selected topics.

<http://geodepot.statcan.ca/GeoSearch2006/GeoSearch2006.jsp?resolution=H&lang=E&otherLang=F>

URISA Canada

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) is a non-profit professional and educational association that promotes the effective use of spatial information and information technologies for the understanding and management of urban and regional systems.

<http://www.urisaoc.ca/>