**OGC Project Document 18-012**

**TITLE: Canada Forum on Geospatial Standards**

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# Introduction

This document is the draft Charter for a Canada Forum on Geospatial Standards under the auspices of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

The goal of the Canada Forum is to better serve Canadian needs for geospatial data and services. The Forum is an informal organisation open to all Canadian Organisations (including non-OGC members) and international OGC members conducting business or research in Canada. Example organisations include, but are not limited to Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal governments, Indigenous Organisations, Academia, and Industry.

The Canada Forum will provide a platform for all stakeholders to increase collaboration with a focus on Canada’s requirements for sharing geospatial data and information, capacity building, innovation, outreach, industry business development, and others. The forum is also intended to provide a venue for the community to improve the level of Canadian influence in the OGC geospatial standards process and related standards partners (e.g. ISO, IHO, GEO, UN-GGIM, W3C, CGSB).

# Problem Statement

OGC members in Canada desire a Canadian Forum to establish a collaborative environment for all Canadian Stakeholders. The Forum is intended to act as a mechanism to respond to the stated needfor all Canadian stakeholders to collaborate on issues related to Geospatial Standard, *since no formal venue has historically existed*. OGC Canadian members suggest[[1]](#footnote-1) that working collaboratively, the Forum will address the following identified problems;

* A Lack of sufficient awareness of the benefits of OGC and other standards *outside of the traditional market segments;*
* A need to Increase CGDI Capacity and *end-user engagement for traditional and non-traditional audiences* for Canadian innovation and digital economy;
* A desire to *increase clarity and agreement upon priority Canadian issues and business cases* and related Canadian interoperability challenges and standards requirements;
* A requirement to *increase coordinated representation within Canada for the Geospatial Standards Community;*
* A commitment to improve support for *the growth of the Canadian geomatics community both domestically and internationally; and,*
* An intention to *Invigorate and maintain Canadian innovation in geomatics science and technology in Canada.*

# Mission Objectives / Key Activities

The Canadian Forum on Geospatial Standards objectives are;

* Provide a forum for the collaboration of geospatial solution providers and users on all key components ( people/expertise, standards, technologies, operational policies, and governance) of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs) with a focus on the standards pillar.
* Define a set of priority issues that will inform innovative development in Canada through a collective voice.
* Increase awareness of the benefits of using geospatial standards across all sectors, especially new and emerging sectors and markets that require more outreach and education on the value of standards.
* Define value chains in various thematic domains (e.g. Survey and Mapping, Environmental Monitoring, Agriculture, Maritime, Energy and Utilities) and explore means of better connecting multiple value chains to reduce duplications, increase efficiency and improve the return on investment,
* Grow Canadian geomatics expertise and contribute to Canada’s future geospatial capacities,
* Empower Canadian remote communities through online collaborations.

## Charter Members.

The charter members of the Canadian Forum on Geospatial Standards includes:

* AE Inc.
* Computer Research Institute of Montreal (CRIM)
* Compusult Ltd.
* Cubewerx Inc.
* Ecere Corp.
* Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
* Esri Canada Ltd.
* Fisheries and Marine Institute (Memorial University of Newfoundland)
* Mount Royal University
* Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
* Internal Services Department - Geographic Information Services (Province of Nova Scotia)
* NewfoundView
* the PYXIS innovation
* SensorUP
* Tesera Systems Inc.
* University of Calgary

## Forum Policies and Procedures

The Canadian Forum on Geospatial Standards will establish a regular schedule of meetings to be convened via remote connection or , if possible, in person. Meeting dates and times will be posted to members at least three weeks prior to the meeting, and will not be scheduled to conflict with other scheduled OGC meetings.

Voting in the Canada Forum will be conducted by a simple majority at the Forum meeting, with the caveat that no member organization may cast more than one vote.

The Canadian Forum on Geospatial Standards will, on a regular basis, plan and convene meetings, Interoperability sessions, workshops and other events involving non-member representatives and organizations. Membership will be at no cost. Meetings and events will be offered free of charge, or on a cost recovery basis.

All activities of the Canadian Forum on Geospatial Standards will be planned and conducted in accordance with OGC Policies and Procedures.

## Business Case

The Canadian Forum on Geospatial Standards will provide an open collaborative environment for Canadian Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal government, Indigenous Organizations, Canadian academia, and Canadian industry to collaborate across domains such that Canada would fully benefit from geospatial standards developed by OGC and other standard organizations..The intent of this forum is to provide a venue for geomatics communities in Canada to collaborate on geospatial standards developed by OGC and other standard organizations.

## Initial Activities for Discussion and Consideration

The initially identified key activities of the Canadian Forum on Geospatial Standards include;

1. Outreach to raise awareness of the benefits of CGDI including OGC and other standards outside of the traditional market segments. Initially proposed activities include;
	1. An educational webinar series, based on key Canadian Issues
	2. A proposed Innovation day, potentially held on the margins of another event targeted at non-traditional Geomatics communities (e.g. Energy, Smart Cities and the Built Environment, Public Safety)
2. Encourage innovation in capacity building and end-user engagement for traditional and non-traditional audiences. Suggested activities include;
	1. Review the CGDI Assessment, and make recommendations for future activities
	2. Delivering User Engagement and/or Capacity building workshops to local level communities
	3. Providing training on how to apply OGC and other standards (e.g. how to stand up a WMS) as part of data management lifecycle
	4. Collecting and assessing user requirements from traditional and non-traditional audiences
3. Clarify priority Canadian issues and related business cases. Activities may include;
	1. Work to clarify the top identified Canadian Issues (e.g. Climate Change, Indigenous Reconciliation., Arctic issues, Energy, Maritime, Community Resilience)
	2. Identify key outreach partners for each issue identified
	3. Identify core capacities to support top Canadian Issues
	4. Identify Gaps and recommend / promote relevant standards and implementation roadmaps
	5. Potentially develop issue-based outreach materials that use plain language to describe how the Canadian geomatics community can help solve the issues.
	6. Potentially develop an overview of existing Canadian commercial capacities and how they relate to solving Canadian issues.

The Canadian Forum on Geospatial Standards will work to create an agreed upon work plan, potentially including 1, 3 and 5-year plans, and inclusive of success criteria. The work plan does not intend to create significant new work items for forum members, but to integrate existing and planned activities by members. It is important that the work plan scope takes into account resource limitations. The work plan is intended as an “Evergreen” document, to ensure the Forum members can adjust based on changes and trends in the Canadian Geospatial landscape.

1. A Canada Summit was held on June 26th, 2017, during the OGC TC/PC Meetings held in St. John’s, Newfoundland, which successfully validated the community interest. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)