

# Report on GeoConnections

## Management Board

There have been two meetings of the GeoConnections Management Board during the past year. At the fall meeting, members focused on the development of GeoBase, the Geomatics Skills Network, on the federal interdepartmental study of web maps and visualization and on the geomatics component of the federal innovation strategy. There was also a presentation on the National Forest Information System which is a concrete example of federal, provincial and private sector funding. Although work on GeoBase seemed to be progressing well at the time of the fall meeting, it was announced at the spring meeting in April that releasing the 7 layers of framework data that comprise GeoBase would be delayed until at least mid-November 2003. No specific details were presented to explain the delays.

GeoConnections is now in year four of a five year program and there was general agreement at the spring meeting that the program should continue and that additional funding from government should be pursued.

## Policy Node

Alex Miller of ESRI Canada now co-chairs the group with Jeff Labonte from the GeoConnections Secretariat. There has been considerable work on developing standardized licensing agreements for government data. The group has been developing three licenses but they are not yet finalized.

The report on the Management and Preservation of Geospatial Data has recently been submitted to the Policy Node as a draft. I have been involved in the development of the study along with several members of the Association: David Brown, James Boxall, and Christine Cullingworth. David Brown has put in considerable work to bring the document to its final form. It is expected that the report will be discussed at the next meeting of the Node in late June.

At the last meeting, it was reported that the federal Inter-Agency Committee on Geomatics (IACG) which is a group of senior level managers has been resurrected. The group has identified a number of priorities such as standardized licensing, agreement on framework data, especially the what comprises the road network. The group is identifying lead agencies for different themes/datasets "office of primary interest".

A partnership models sub-group has been created to promote partnership projects between federal and provincial agencies. The sub-group will analyze partnerships that are working to identify the elements of a good partnership and what makes it work.

A number of research areas were identified for future work by the Policy Node during 2003-2004: information management; metadata creation, access and use; business process review (e.g. geospatial life cycle); and organization change management.

The GeoConnections website is being reorganized and the Discovery Portal search screen simplified.

## Geomatic Skills Network

Four students are being sponsored by the program to attend our joint conference. The Skills Network sponsors students for conferences in order to provide learning opportunities for geomatics students, to raise their awareness of the industry and career opportunities and to provide networking opportunities.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Grace D. Welch  
May 20, 2003