

## CANADIAN NATIONAL REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

Fourteenth General Assembly, Moscow, Russia, August 4 - 10, 2007

On behalf of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG) it is a pleasure to submit Canada's national report, entitled *Cartography in Canada: 2004-2007*, to the fourteenth General Assembly of the ICA delegates, in accordance with Article 5 of the ICA statutes, on the occasion of the XXIII International Cartographic Conference in Moscow, Russia. This comprehensive report, published as a special issue of the Canadian quarterly journal *Geomatica*, encompasses contributions from over fifty geomatics specialists in Canada and reflects the high level of activity in this sector in Canada.

Canada's national report is a compendium of peer-reviewed feature articles and activity reports from organizations with a geomatics mandate, which together highlight Canada's cartographic achievements over the past five years. In 2006, Canada celebrated a significant cartographic milestone - the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Atlas of Canada. We have selected to represent this century long tradition of cartographic excellence on the cover of this report. Now based completely on the Internet, and receiving close to 10,000,000 visitors per year, the Atlas continues to provide a vivid picture of Canada's diverse people, environment, economy and history.

The articles in this report were obtained in response to a call for papers, and underwent the journal's usual rigorous peer review process. We are pleased to feature articles on a diverse range of topics submitted by government, academia, and private industry. A paper from Natural Resources Canada focuses on the integration of digital topographic maps in the online Atlas of Canada, and recognizes the changing needs of users of spatial information. A major hub of cartographic innovation over the last five years, the *Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre*, situated at Carleton University in Ottawa and directed by D.R. Fraser Taylor, contributes the second paper which discusses the challenging concept of multi-sensory mapping. In particular, the use of sound as part of cartographic communication is examined. Equally edge-cutting in theme, a third paper explores the incipient field of lunar and planetary cartography, raising consequential issues relating, for example, to the preservation of early digital products. Bridging the gap between the corporate world and academia, the fourth paper examines how Canadian-based companies utilize real-time location-based services that rely on cartographic data and dynamic mapping. A final paper, submitted by a map publishing company, recounts the process of designing and producing an educational wall map which is now used in classrooms throughout the province of New Brunswick.

Also included in this issue are summary reports of cartographic work carried out by federal and provincial/territorial governments, national societies and associations, educational institutions and private corporations. They provide rich detail showcasing the breadth of geomatics science in Canada. Governments and industry have embraced the use of geospatial data in ways that now make it part of the fabric of everyday life. Never before has mapping reached so many people in all levels of applications. The scope of this activity is wide-reaching,

innovative and diverse, and clearly illustrates the increasingly vital role of spatial data in managing our nation.

This publication was a team effort, and we would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed their time and energy in its preparation. This includes authors who submitted material and those unmentioned, but equally important, individuals who reviewed this material. Special thanks goes to Peter Keller, past CNC Chair, for his guidance and support in the early stages of this report, and to Carol Railer, Production Editor of *Geomatica*, for her endless patience and sage advice throughout the compilation process.

We look forward to participating in the XXIII International Cartographic Conference, graciously hosted by the State Surveying and Mapping Service of the Russian Federation and National Cartographic Committee of the Russian Federation.

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Chair of the Canadian National Committee to the ICA

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