

CIG Report to Annual Meetings of the CCLS and ACLS

I bring greetings from Pierre Gravel, President of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics. Pierre is unable to personally attend these meetings due to his involvement with the AQLS Board of Examinations. I am pleased to represent him at the annual meetings of the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors and the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors.

The mandate of the CIG is summarized in the following:

- to advance the development of the Geomatics sciences in Canada and the professional development of those involved;
- to enhance public awareness and to maintain a publication of record of the history, development and progress of geomatics in Canada;
- to foster cooperation, and unity of purpose and action among Canadian geomatics organizations;
- to internationally represent and promote Canadian interests in geomatics; and
- to provide a forum for professional networking through information exchanges, communications, and publications.

Activities: Pierre Gravel was installed at the Annual Meeting of the CIG held in November at the Geomatics 2008 Conference in St. John, New Brunswick. Pierre is a Quebec Lands Surveyor active on the board of examiners for Quebec and President Groupe Info Consult; Simon Lanoix, Vice-President Public Sector for Sierra Systems Group in Vancouver is President-elect; and Dr. Matthew Tait, Geomatics Manager of Projects with Worley-Parson Geomatics in Calgary is Vice President. Simon Lanoix will assume the Presidency at the CIG Annual Meeting in October during the Geomatics 2009 Conference in Montreal.

Priorities: CIG has a number of priorities for 2009, including building relationships with other organizations in the Geomatics Sector, expanding membership to those in the practice of Geomatics and those in areas on the fringe of Geomatics – non-traditional users of geo-referenced information; and building on International relationships.

Membership: like most organizations, the CIG depends mainly on individual and corporate memberships to support its activities. Membership has been dropping slowly in recent years and the current economic situation may have a negative impact for 2009. Consequently, membership and sustainability become one of the top priorities of the Institute. Secondly, Branches are a focus of CIG activity: this is where the local face to face meetings provide a forum for speakers information events, continuing education, and contacts. Encouraging branch activity and expansion is another priority.

Relationships: Building cooperative and strong relationships with organizations within the Geomatics Community can only strengthen our respective positions in Canada and internationally to support and be progressively successful in our goal of furthering the knowledge, education and practice of our members and those active and associated in Geomatics related endeavors. To this end, the CIG is partnering with four other organizations to ensure the delivery of a continuous Canadian Geomatics Conference on a 12 to 18 month basis. The first will be in Calgary in June, 2010. An announcement is expected soon.

Further, CIG and the Canadian Hydrographic Association (CHA) have been observers at discussions regarding the new Professional Surveyors Association. This week members of the

CCLS and CIG Executives will meet over dinner to talk about how our relationship might be strengthened and where we might cooperate to ensure the continued health of both organizations.

Linked In: In terms of individual relationships, the CIG has established a group on the LinkedIn professional networking website. Go to www.linkedin.com/ , join, and search for Canadian Institute of Geomatics.

International: The Canadian Institute of Geomatics has refreshed the Canadian National Committee for FIG that consisted of representation from surveyor associations, including the Canadian Council on Land Surveying, (CCLS), the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) and the Canadian Hydrographic Association . The hope is to have a more coordinated approach to FIG issues and to Canada's involvement in that organisation.

The revised terms of reference include corresponding membership for individuals active in FIG to encourage participation in CNCFIG meetings to be held during the year, as well as the Annual Meeting, and in the sharing of information on activities, events, and concerns. CNCFIG will have a more direct role to play in the naming of Heads of Delegations, identifying committees and working groups of interest to Canada and those persons whom Canada should seek and support in the nomination process. Items for discussion at upcoming meetings will include forming a delegation to attend the 2010 Congress and General Assembly in Australia, strategising on future involvement with in FIG Commissions and Working Groups, and considering a bid for the 2018 FIG Congress and General Assembly.

Canada was well represented at the FIG Working Week held May 4 to 8 at Eilat, Israel. Daniel Roberge, Chair of Commission I, acted as Head of the Delegation, with Andrew Leyzack, Chair of Commission IV, Dr. Michael Barry; Commission VII, Dr. Petr Vancik, and Lani Roux, a PhD Student. At that meeting, on a nomination by Canada, Ken Allred, an Alberta Land Surveyor, former CCLS President, and former FIG Vice President, was made an honorary member of FIG.

Publications: The CIG technical journal, *Geomatica*, continues to be published quarterly. A recent research study of Geomatics publications ranked *Geomatica* as number six in the world. Two special editions, the first on *Education in Geomatics*, followed by *Marine Geomatics* were recently published. Currently, papers are invited for a special edition on *Volunteered Geographic Information* with special editors Dr. Stéphane Roche and Dr. Rob Feick. Issues with a special focus such as these are important in furthering the dissemination of information on technical advances in the field of geomatics science, engineering, and education.

Personally, I am enjoying my first year with CIG as Executive Director. I am looking forward to working with the CCLS and other Geomatics organisations to meet common goals and to seek broad vision for the future.

Submitted on behalf of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics

David Stafford
Executive Director
May 25, 2009