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Annual Report to the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors From the Canadian Institute of Geomatics

On behalf of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to say a few words and I wish you success with all your events and programs at the annual National Forum of Canadian Surveyors Associations. With all the challenges and fast pace of today, events such as these play an important role in providing a forum for communication, professional development, networking and the building of a sense of community among the surveying profession.

This is a year of celebration for the CIG. We are celebrating our 125th anniversary. Throughout the 125 years, the CIG and our professions have been able to reinvent ourselves a least a few times. We as a profession have evolved from traditional surveying and mapping to sciences and technologies such as remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems, Global Positioning Systems and by leveraging internet technology, we are now truly part of a Geomatics-Enabled Society. The Institute is moving forward in this exciting era, exploring new opportunities and providing its members with new tools and services. One example is the new Geomatics Knowledge Commons Portal. This online service will enhance communications among all geomatics professionals across the country and will be a major step in providing our professions with a forum to exchange ideas and share experiences.

This year, the Toronto Branch of the CIG provided the backdrop to our AGM. This coincided with our Conference: Geomatics for Disaster and Risk Management and celebrated the 125 year history of our organization and our 100th annual conference.

Major activities of the year include:

- 2007 Conferences - A very active Conference year with the CIG sponsoring 3 major International Conferences and one regional Conference.
 - Toronto - Geomatics for Disaster and Risk Management
 - Yellowknife - International Polar Year – GeoNorth
 - Quebec City - GeoConference Quebec 2007
 - St. John's - Geomatics Atlantic
- The *Geomatica* Journal continues to be a CIG publishing success story with a significant international distribution and consistent revenues from advertisers.



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- Our Branches are becoming more active. The Toronto and Quebec Conferences are examples of the work that is going on at the branch level. Efforts are underway to assist other branches in creating more awareness and opportunity for local CIG activities.
- Student Awards: Geomatics Canada (Natural Resources Canada) has continued with its support for the Geomatics Canada Student Awards Program. Attracting students to the field of Geomatics and assisting them during and after their studies with our professional networks is an important strategy for the CIG. It has resulted in an increase in student membership and awareness of the CIG.

The future is looking bright and exciting for the Canadian Institute of Geomatics. We are committed to working with organizations, such as the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), the Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA) and the CCLS, to brand geomatics in Canada. Together, we can leverage our communities to promote and develop the geomatics industry across the country more effectively.

The Institute will also play an expanded role with academia, creating more awareness and understanding of geomatics, thus helping to develop the next generation of geomatics professionals. By creating more awareness and understanding of geomatics right across the education system, we will help to ensure that we have a viable workforce and skilled geomatics professionals for our ever-expanding fields.

The CIG will build on its strengths and continue with your support to bring the Canadian geomatics community together to help build a strong and prosperous industry.

I thank you for this opportunity to say a few words and once again best wishes for successful meetings.

Sincerely,

Bob Parkinson, MSc.
President
Canadian Institute of Geomatics