



Geographical Names

Geographical names help us to locate and identify features and places, are a familiar element of topographic maps used in mining, forestry, fishing, and search and rescue, and are a reflection of our history, geography and cultures. The use of geographical names goes beyond paper maps, as they are important elements in GIS mapping, Web-based mapping products and other digital applications.

The **Geographical Names** project will provide consistent national toponymic information for government and public use through the co-ordination of the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) activities. In Canada, the naming of geographical features is the responsibility of each province and territory. On federal lands, naming is a joint responsibility of provincial, territorial, and federal authorities. The GNBC is made up of members from all of these levels of government.

One of the key components of the Geographical Names project is the Canadian Geographical Names Service (CGNS). The CGNS represents the latest technology being used to distribute and make accessible Canada's official geographical names and associated data via the Internet.

The CGNS is part of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI), a national initiative to co-ordinate Canada's numerous databases of geographic

information and to make this information accessible on the Internet (<http://www.geoconnections.org>). This national framework makes it possible to provide the geographical data sets of Canada based upon a common reference system and will enable the development of related applications and value-added services.

Projects Priorities:

- Ongoing development/maintenance of a national toponymic database.
- Geometric model development participation.
- Linking with spatial entities.
- Web based service as an access point to a distributed geographical names database.
- Co-ordination of the Geographical Names Board of Canada through its Secretariat.
- Providing principles and procedures for the standardization of geographical names in Canada.

For more information:

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