

Focus Group #3 & #5

February 22, 2002

10. (57) **How have you heard of GeoNOVA ?**

- Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee
- Brad Fay/Ed Light promotions
- GeoConnections
- Invitation to Committee
- COGS
- 1 Not heard
- work discussion

11. (6) **What is your view of what GeoNOVA is ?**

- One stop shop for data - unclear whether audience is - government; - public
- Internal provincial initiative to better manage geographic data and improve government services (e.g. Health Centre)
- On-line Provincial Land Information Centre
- It implies info tool for service improvement but seen as contact point for data
- Overriding concept for data collection, use, dissemination of corporate geographic information. Promote sharing among provincial, municipal, federal. Collect data once and share.
- Promote use of geographic information to public and new users
- Just a concept → concept not delivered and doesn't affect me
- Concept is branded and promoted (Rhetoric)

12. (58) **What is the ultimate objective of GeoNOVA ?**

- Past - Focus on Provincial Corporation view of understanding of provincial data. Distribution amongst selves, external access, recover costs.
- Current: unsure

20. (16) **To what extent do you currently use geographic information and technology?**

CHS

- Air photo shoreline
- 1:10K topo's - incorporate as is

NS Environment

- Starting with GIS
- Corporate business plan for GIS

NS DOT

- Highway Planning
- Highway ops
- Capital Programs
- Starting development GIS with NSGC

Environment Canada

National and Regional work

- not rely on 1:10K topo or property maps
- use forest cover
- Daily Use
 - landscape modeling
 - sensitive habitats
 - use of satellite imagery

NR Can

Everything collect is geographic referenced

Use data from others

- air photos
- remote sensing (e.g. especially LIDAR)

Moving from project based researcher data to more corporate data and publishing on web.

NS Education

- Maintain K-12 schools database
- Road centerline from province
- Statistics Canada data for demographic
- use as a presentation tool on a cyclical basis
- little analysis
- maintain public education status

Other Comments

- Property base info
- Civic address data
- Steal data shamelessly
- Analysis for community based issues
- Day to day ops
- Info for future program needs (e.g. Stats Canada tied to geographic for future planning)
- Centerline mapping for emergency services - project based

Fisheries

- Use 1:10K topo as base
- Project based site work e.g. inspections
- Data in variety of formats

Education - Res. COGS

Everyday use

Dalhousie

Used daily, extensively

21. (11) What major initiative do you have underway with geographic information ?

CHS

Regional charting - e.g. Bras D'Or Lakes
Putting hydrographic data on topo maps

NS Environment

Integrate data for web (Arc Ims)
Better geo-referencing well log database

Environment Canada

- Initiate on-line mapping
- Move from data to deliver information to Canadians thru customized products

NR Can

Geo-science Data Repository

- national initiative to publish data on web (Arc IMS)

Canadian Geo-science Knowledge Network

- Meta data for all geological data sets in county

Fisheries

Publish aquaculture info static maps on web

Education - Res. COGS

New tech to capture data (e.g. LIDAR, CASI)

Dalhousie

- Community Health
- Coastal and Urban Planning

22. (30) What place does database maintenance play in your organization ?

CHS

Database maintenance mission critical

NS Environment

Provincial watershed maintenance

Environment Canada

Data maintenance is Key

- Data scavengers
- Focus moving from individual researcher databases to corporate data

NR Can

Maintenance of databases is critical but focus on capturing new data

Education - Res. COGS

Acquire large amounts of data on some projects
- not a data maintenance role

Dalhousie

- Metadata maintenance
- Archiving data

Other Comments:

Reason for GeoNOVA is to enable sharing and integration of data. In the best interest of total government.

26. (15) To what extent do you share your data and databases? For free or a fee ?

- CHS can give away paper data but can't give away digital data because of agreement with private sector. License agreements are required.
- NR Can has a subscription arrangement within own department for cost of data.
- Environment Canada
 - Atmospheric data dollars
 - ↳ Moving to free. Overhead of handling data more than revenue.
 - Other data free
- What is the money used for?
- Map fund model is a good one
 - maintain and improve data
 - enhance private sector thru contracting
- Dalhousie prevented from charging for data by internal policy. Up to now not charged for media.
- Dalhousie
 - They Do not steal data - they respect licenses
 - Ensure license agreements are used with data distribution
 - Copy right officer at university
- Aquaculture data - free
- Education - non-profit organization free
 - lots of data sharing agreements (Stats Can, HRM, NSGC)

23. (14) To what extent do you use the "Primary" datasets:

Topographic Data

- wonderful, prevented from using due to cost should be free
 - when will be distributed
 - NAD '83 and UTM not ATS 77 and MTM
- Coastline attribution and shore line definition
 - Don't know if used elevation or vegetation
- Maintain an archive version of topo base for coastline change detection, etc.
- lots of problems with
 - hydrology and watersheds
 - resource roads

Air photos

- 8-10 air photo collections back to 1940's which may be lost. Need to establish air photo archive.
- How do you know if one exists . Need an inventory/search tool.

Other Comments:

NR Can Survey and Mapping Licenses are hampering use of topo as a back drop for on-line mapping. Need more of a partnership model.

30. (27) What would you consider the past accomplishments of GeoNOVA ?

AND

31. (28) What would you consider the lost opportunities or areas GeoNOVA has not delivered on ?

- Success of pilots moving to an on going application was based on having an internal champion.
- Pilots have been focused on stove pipe/narrow data sets. GeoNOVA projects should be more broadly focused using lots of different data.
- What is the criteria for accomplishments?
 - Just sharing data doesn't necessarily mean better decisions. Objective is to build a better province.
 - Difficult to evaluate how geographic data has contributed.
 - Need to look at clients e.g. NSPRD On-line. Has it provided value to users?
 - Effective - cost sharing
 - Duplication reduced

32. (24) What is your opinion of the effectiveness of the current GeoNOVA initiative?

- Still challenges with getting access to data - info is power. Owners of data are protective of access.
- Still not collecting data once at source - long way to go.

43. (63) When you think of corporate geographic information what do you envision being in place in 5 years ?

- Still using US data for research
 - it will still take 8" license agreements to get (Canadian) municipal, provincial, federal data
 - easier to access US DOT data than Canadian DOTs
- NS Electronic Atlas On-line (like Massachuset's US Atlas)
- On-line access to NS Map - locate all data available and download with on-line license agreement
- US EPA site has all underlying data free
- Currently denying citizens their democratic right to know and see data
- Availability of info is important to sell ourselves as a province
- What would be the impact of providing data free? Won't really lose dollars when consider costs of managing sales.
- Standard database with property records that can be used with any system in the province required for info.

44. (60) Is a GeoNOVA Initiative required over the next 5 years?

- How geog. will impact the NS economy. If GeoNOVA were only a catalogue.
- ‘Own what you have to and influence what you can’t’.
- Create a means to
 - Acquire data once
 - internally - only what has to be done by province or thru
 - develop partnerships with
 - Municipal
 - Federal
 - Industry
- Share data globally
- Internationally recognized standards
- Dissemination needs to be broadened - outside province
- Change “corporate” to a broader word e.g. “Sustainable”.
- List of Geographic Data →vehicle for dynamic discovery and access - not a book
- Need to integrate meta data management into on-going business process →not a one time project.
 - e.g. US is open on data and has strict requirements for meta data
- Need to orient the principles to be outwardly focused and customer focused. Ensure partnerships are 2-way and info/updates are fed back from clients and acted on.
- Measure of GeoNOVA success is health of geomatics industry in province.

46. (46) What are your top priorities for GeoNOVA over the next 5 years?

- Solid sustainable meta data system people can trust
 - created by data holders
 - service provided for capturing meta data for data placed on deposit
- One place for electronic
 - discovery
 - access
 - analysisof data from/about NS
- Handful of “silo destroying applications” which demonstratively service citizens of NS better
 - How do you get political buy in
 - New level of collaboration
- Better licensing agreement with ESRI
 - Improve access to software
 - Reduce maintenance costs
 - Province wide license to include K-12 and higher education (GeoNOVA partners)
- Is GeoNOVA ESRI exclusive?
 - Will GeoNOVA negotiate with all major vendors on our behalf?

- Need to clarify how NSGC fits in. Who has the power?
- Issue for private sector →can't afford the data. Difficult to promote private sector.
- When get the concept set for next 5 years then “Brand” it as GeoNOVA. Kids access GeoNOVA site.
- NS teachers are going to US sites (USGS, ESRI,...) for resources.
- GeoNOVA's a great name.
- It's important to connect GeoNOVA vision and metaphor with something practical/initiative. Need to connect with the average citizen.
- Want access data dynamic and use it for modeling and decision making without holding the data myself.
- Broad demand for a pretty map
- Need to look at GeoNOVA use in a tiered sense.

51. (48) Who do you see leading GeoNOVA in the future ?

- Need a provincial structure and support at Deputy Minister level.
- Need to include and harness federal, provincial, municipal, academic, private sector.
- Accountability - SNS&MR →Minister
- Leadership is a different and complex issue
- Geo Connections
 - NR Can responsibility
 - More than NR Ca
 - \$60 M federal money is being leveraged
- Need for a champion who can communicate the vision well. Someone in NS, may not be in geomatics, can communicate the vision.