

## Focus Group #6

February 27, 2001

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

- GeoNOVA web site (5)

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

- Management structure to maximize data sharing

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

- conversion issues from ATS '77 → NAD '83  
download - FTP

**Air photos**

- private
- provincial and federal - changed over time
  - scan and rectify
- unrectified

**Topo - 1:10K**

- 6 students have accessed this data for projects

**Property Maps**

- 3 students have accessed this data for projects
- problem understanding/using attribute files attached
- don't have building layer - use to check registration of layers

**Civic addressing**

- not yet
- not able to access → HRM saying wait

**24. (10) What is your opinion of the state of the province's geographic data with  
respect to: Availability; Relevance; Accuracy;  
Timeliness/Up-to-date; Accessibility; Cost ?**

- Availability**
- don't know what's available and what's not
  - problem to find large scale data

**Accessibility**

- Best way to get data is to "know somebody"
- Had to sign a data agreement - 5
- Easier to get municipal data than a rural area (DMTI)
- Need to re-license by individual researcher - a pain

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## Accuracy

- don't know if it's a transformation, or data quality issue
- shoreline definition issues

## Timeliness

- not an issue

## Cost

- had to pay → student discount
- used entire Geography Department budget to buy 6 - 1:10K maps
- NF charge additional for fixing wrong format

⇒ Don't have high expectations

**27. (17) To what extent are you aware of/adhere to provincial policies with respect to: Coordinate Referencing - NAD 83 and UTM; NSTDB - data collection standards for topo data; Property Records; Data Distribution - licenses, price encourages use, free to provincial users, commercial use approved**

## Policies/Standards

- Coordinate reference → need to constantly convert from ATS 77 → NAD 83 UTM
  - Couldn't use data from NSGC due to ATS '77
  - Esp. Prob. if using GPS
  - Charged for conversion of coordinates
  - Free data is NAD '83
- NSTDB Feature codes
  - trust the data - government data will be valid

**40. (37) What new and/or innovative applications are you considering in the next 5 years ?**

- Data available hard copy (maps, airphotos)
- Good data - vertically integrated
- No "songs and dances"
- Access data from one spot - if the data is not there it is not available
- Know what you are getting is in a standard compatible format (e.g. standard date formats)
- Compiled data set with a trackable source - can contact person who collected data
- Meta data more than feature codes (Datum, date, source, lineage)
- Focus on GIS analysis and not finding data
- Geo virtual warehouse, free, downloadable data
- Have a physical access point (e.g. in universities)
- NSGC as a focus point/node for all data in province
  - on-line and personal contact

(Geo Gratis - issues with data) worthwhile

- Should work within Federal GeoConnections program
- There are valid public safety concerns that may restrict access to data
- Friendly - high school students to sophisticated users

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

- List of names and phone numbers for data
- Support from “a person” for use of all government data
- Clearer explanations why can't have the data
- Develop and enforce standardization