

GeoNOVA

Annual Report

2011

GeoNOVA Annual Report 2011

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1.0 Executive Summary

GeoNOVA's Annual Report aims to provide a brief overview of 2011 geomatics activities across government along with identifying geomatics issues, collaboration efforts and needs for geomatics practitioners now and into the future. The reports content is provided from a cross section of Provincial departments and agencies. It has been part of the mandate of GeoNOVA to produce this report for the GeoNOVA Steering Committee and ultimately the Deputy Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations for further dissemination across government.

As in past years, activities were varied across departments/agencies with many continuing to focus on core mapping and decision support activities, also known as geomatics. It is clear that departments and agencies are utilizing the power of geographic Information to adhere to and support their respective departmental mandates.

Collaboration efforts in 2011 continue to grow with our well established geomatics departments actively partnering with emerging GIS users and agencies. As in past years, GeoNOVA, is seen as the well utilized conduit to obtaining data and encouraging departments to actively work together.

Not unlike other evolving and thriving organizations, there are geomatics issues highlighted within our Provincial departments and agencies. Cultivating a strong geomatics culture across government that will address these issues revolves around 4 key themes: people, process, data and technology.

- People are the backbone of our Provincial Geomatics community and efforts are required to ensure they are properly trained and vacancies are filled as soon as possible.
- Process(es) that are utilized by geomatics staff to access information and obtain equipment must be balanced and respond to needs in a timely fashion.
- Geographic Data is required more now than ever for decision making and ensuring we continue to invest in Geographic data discovery applications is of utmost importance
- Technology holds the key to emerging GIS needs within departments resulting in new and innovative approaches to displaying, analyzing and presenting data.

Our Provincial Government contributors to this report have identified six geomatics needs that are required into the future:

- Strong strategic direction that is supported across Government
- Effective GIS staffing which responds to the needs of the department
- Establishment of a coordinated (corporate) geomatics Infrastructure
- Continued maximization of collaboration opportunities
- Continued concentration on "core" geographic datasets
- Continued efforts toward data discovery and geographic data discovery application investment

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2.0 Introduction

We are very pleased to submit the GeoNOVA Annual Report 2011. Building upon last year's approach, we are once again providing a report that highlights many of the activities that are underway in the geomatics community within the Government of Nova Scotia. The GeoNOVA Annual Report is intended to be broad based. This report illustrates how broad ranging geomatics is in government and how our activities tie together important messages.

Although there is a huge volume of information that could be shared we have strived to keep this report to a manageable size. It will concentrate on four areas: Geomatics activities; specific issues that may have impacted geomatics business in 2011; opportunities for collaboration; and needs into the future. We certainly want to acknowledge all those that have contributed to this report and applaud their efforts in making geography a decision support tool of choice in the Government of Nova Scotia.

2.0 Overview of 2011 Geomatics Activities

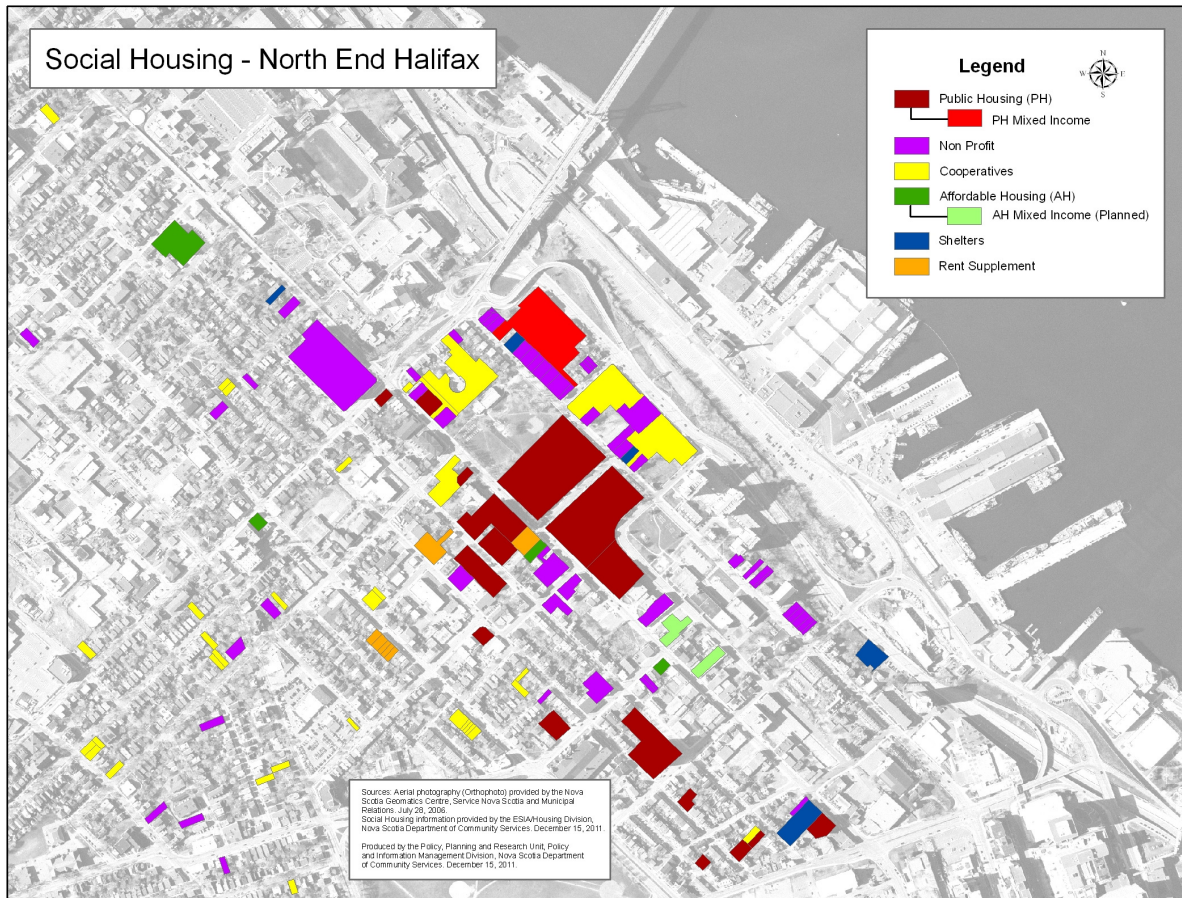
Geomatics activity within Provincial departments and agencies thrived during 2011. As in past years, activities were varied with departments/agencies continuing to focus on core geomatics activities and others branching into theme driven areas. These accomplishments speak volumes to the continued levels of effort and dedication of our Provincial geomatics employees. The following section outlines key contributions by many sectors of Government:

Department of Community Services

Mandate: *The Department of Community Services is committed to a sustainable social service system that promotes the independence, self-reliance, and security of the people we serve. This will be achieved through excellence in service delivery, leadership and collaboration with our partners.*

The Department of Community Service GIS efforts have aligned fully with the Departments mandate, especially in terms of service delivery and collaboration. Several projects focused on producing maps that ensured staff could easily adjust to new office boundaries which lead to more efficient service delivery. One project in particular was used to depict the density and distribution of foster families which aided in matching child protection workers with foster families in the northern region of the province.

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From a collaborative perspective GIS staff within the department were able to work with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education to successfully produce maps that demonstrated the location/availability of employment services/programs.

One mapping project in particular was able to assist with the Child Welfare Training Team, maps were frequently updated and reproduced throughout the year as reference material for front line Child Welfare staff training. In addition, these maps were also used by outside agencies/community groups (ie Helpline volunteers and daycare staff) to inform them on who and where to report concerns of child abuse and neglect.

It should be noted as well that GIS staff within the department make every effort to attend geomatics related activities where they can showcase their work and learn more from those well established with Provincial Geomatics in the Province. That extra effort coupled with a management team that embraces their enthusiasm and hard work allows for even more decision based geographical information to be produced in the Department. **Appendix A** further highlights some of their specific efforts.

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Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism

Mandate: *Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism leads the implementation of Nova Scotia's economy growth strategy – jobsHere; the plan to grow our economy. The department works closely with economic development agencies, partners within and outside of government to achieve three priorities of this plan:*

- *Learning the right skills*
- *Growing the economy through innovation*
- *Helping businesses be more competitive globally*

The focus of the department is on productivity and innovation, investment, workforce development, tourism, procurement, international commerce and the gateway as core economic drivers.

The Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism are have been able to utilize mapping software to conduct economic analysis by benchmarking Nova Scotia's performance with other jurisdictions and using mapping to identify areas of economic concentration with key economic sectors. This speaks to the untapped potential relative to the use of mapping within a department not yet fully staffed with GIS capabilities. In their report ERDT is quick to point out much more could be done with full time GIS Staff in place.

Elections Nova Scotia (ENS)

Mandate: *To ensure that all provincial election events (general elections, by-elections, and liquor plebiscites) are held in a fair and impartial manner (according to the Elections Act and other relevant laws) and all political parties and candidates act within the rules.*

Elections Nova Scotia has continued to support its mandate by ensuring their GIS section is fully staffed and well trained. Management have supported the effort of their dedicated geomatics team and this has allowed them to branch out beyond sustained, operational geomatics activities to development of such tools as an innovative, Electoral boundary tool that will be used in the upcoming 2012 Electoral Boundary Review. They have also strived to embrace the latest geomatics software and technologies to allow them to be leaders in Electoral Geography Management. See **Appendix A** for other ENS Geomatics Activities.

Department of Energy

Mandate/Mission: *The mission of the Nova Scotia Department of Energy is to serve the social, environmental, and economic interests of Nova Scotians by ensuring all energy resources are developed and used in an efficient and sustainable manner.*

The Nova Scotia Department of Energy is responsible for a wide range of initiatives in the following areas:

- *Energy Policy and Analysis*
- *Energy Markets including Electricity, Energy Transportation and the Use of Energy*

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- *Petroleum Resource Assessment and Management*
- *Energy Business and Technology*
- *Communications and Public Education*
- *Fiscal Management and Analysis*

Aligning with the mandate/mission of the department has included moving forward with a Petroleum Tenure Management System which will utilize GIS capabilities and data management to track petroleum tenure activities and information for the onshore.

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Mandate: *To foster prosperous and sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and food industries through the delivery of quality public services for the betterment of coastal communities and of all Nova Scotians.*

Continuing along the vein of their departmental mandate, Fisheries and Aquaculture focused on constraint mapping and were able to model near shore wind exposure of coastal Nova Scotia. This work is aimed at supporting the betterment of coastal communities and Nova Scotians in general.

Department of Health and Wellness (DHW)

Mandate: *The Health and Wellness Department has a mission that is set at improving and maintaining the well-being of Nova Scotians by providing a reliable health care system and the promotion of healthy lifestyle.*

Note: The Department of Health and the Department of Health Promotion & Protection were merged on January 11, 2011 to form the new Department of Health and Wellness (DHW).

The Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) has utilized GIS and dedicated GIS staff to align its efforts with that set out in the Department mandate. GIS staff have been able to successfully work with other Departments and Agencies to produce maps and generate data that will help decision makers within their department improve the health care system and healthy lifestyle of Nova Scotians. Whether it be mapping projects that depict such widely utilized information as new provincial trails, pharmacy locations, or District Health Authority operational expenditures. GIS staff and their management teams have applied their various technological geomatics tools to assist with decision making in a highly collaborative manner and continually seek out new forums to showcase their efforts. The end result is a Provincial department that is growing and leading geomatics user. See **Appendix A** for examples of further initiatives.

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Department of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Contributions from Land Program, GIS Section (GeoNOVA)

Mandate: *Accountable for providing government programs and services to business, individuals, charities and municipalities, ensuring quality service delivery, convenient sustainable access and streamlined legislation and information services; optimizing technology and ensuring data integrity and security; and building and demonstrating leadership to become a nimble organization to respond to current and future client and government needs.*

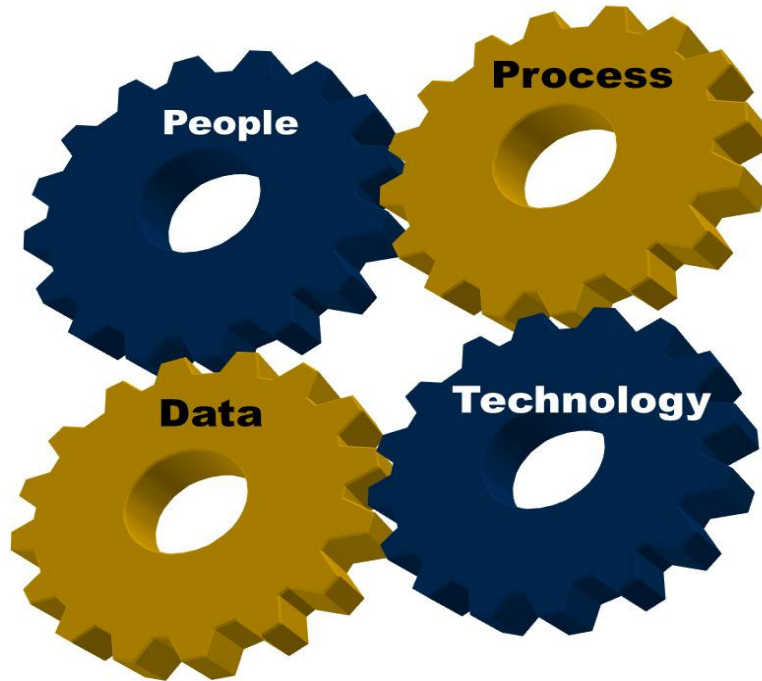
Activities in 2011 in Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations in both their Land Program and Geographic Information Services continued to align with and have a positive impact upon the department's mandate.

In the Land Program focus continued to be on improving the quality and integrity of the valuable investment the province has made in the parcel fabric's attribute information and graphical representation. Staff efficiently accepted over 150,000 documents for registration and marked success with a steady migration of titles from the Registry of Deeds system into Land Titles. (See **Appendix A** for more details)

Geographic Information Services experienced an exceptional year demonstrating leadership to assess current and future geomatics clients needs in the Province by: defining a new Geomatics Products Distribution Strategy; establishing a Geomatics Strategy Advisory Group to draft a strategic direction for geomatics related activity in the Province; addressing the LiDAR technical specifications; and the monumental task of defining a Corporate geomatics infrastructure for the Province. It should be noted that all of this exciting work was carried out while undergoing a re-branding exercise within the GIS

Section and in conjunction with ongoing operational efforts that saw staff further engaged with improving processes with the highly utilized Nova Scotia Civic Address File and the Nova Scotia Topographic Databases.

3.0 Geomatics Issues (People, Process, Data and Technology)



As is our regular practice, it is important to not only acknowledge our operational accomplishments but also identify issues the geomatics community faces year over year. By acknowledging these issues we better position ourselves to grow. Departments were asked to identify any geomatics related issues they faced last calendar year that might have impacted their effort. It is clear that efforts are required to continue to cultivate a cooperative culture across Provincial Departments that supports People, Process, Data and Technology. These issues have been categorized and summarized under those four key headings:

People

Again this year, addressing GIS staffing vacancies in a timely manner was identified as a key concern in our Provincial Geomatics Community. Often the loss of particular positions (due most often to retirement) has led to additional time being spent on training other staff and temporary services being used to fill gaps. There continues to be a need for GIS Analysts and this is echoed as a common concern for emerging GIS user departments.

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Process

Some common “process themes” were carried over from previous years which include FOIPOP and confidentiality and, as in the past, still are seen by some Provincial users as barriers to information usage and overall comprehensive decision support. Others have cited the need for heightened privacy and security and see this as paramount within the Provincial Government. A balance must be struck to accommodate both sides of this issue.

Procurement policies and procedures were also seen as causing delays in acquisition of GIS devices.

Data

The value of collaboration and cooperation was evident this past year in regards to data reconciliation between the Federal, Municipal and Provincial levels of government. This was clearly demonstrated by way of example from SNSMR in regards to the Nova Scotia Civic Address File.

It was noted as well that data models need to reflect greater adaptability to ensure core datasets do not impede the success of other users.

Although efforts have remained constant around data collections the perception is that there remains a lack of supporting documentation regarding geographic data holdings, poor quality control and that in some cases field verification is required. Data can still be found in non-GIS formats and often that requires extensive time and effort to convert it to usable format. Others note that the availability and access to program data continues to be an issue with Provincial users.

Technology

Two main themes arise under the technology heading. One is the lack of a Province-wide license for GIS software. It was suggested that once a Province-wide license is in place emerging GIS user departments would be able to develop new and innovative approaches to displaying, analyzing and presenting data. It was also cited that more robust GIS systems do come with associated costs which also impacts upon the hardware budget.

The second concern centers around workflow which is impacted by software development cycles. This is especially true of older applications that require updates and these updates are often slow to be implemented. Standardization of GIS software continues to be seen as key to efficient workflow.

It was also recognized that current geographic catalogue applications can be perceived as being complicated and are not always easily updated under present staffing levels.

Corporately utilized tools such as the NSCAF Notification and NSCAF Download Tool are seen as very important and well utilized applications.

4.0 Collaboration Efforts

Collaboration among departments is growing stronger each year and 2011 was no exception. Generally responses were of a very positive nature in regards to the role data, technology and procedures play in collaboration efforts amongst Provincial departments.

In terms of data collaboration efforts, our Provincial departments and agencies are really stepping forward. Emerging GIS users are collaborating with well-established, geomatics departments to produce a wide array of maps. The maps produced vary from the location of recreational facilities and trails to community asset mapping systems for children, youth and families. The latter initiative, for example, between Nova Scotia Community Counts (Department of Finance) and the Child and Youth Strategy involved mapping services and resources for children, youth and their families. Community Services currently provides data custodian support for the following map files: Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Centres, Early Intervention Program Sites, Family Home Day Care Agencies, Men's Intervention Programs Site and Women's Centres. The audiences for this data included governments at all levels, service providers at the regional and community levels, as well as parents and youth.

Many departments suggested that www.GeoNOVA.ca has continued to be a well-utilized portal to locate geographic data and geoservices. The utilization of various core and theme data sets by emerging GIS department users via online "portals" such as GeoNOVA is seen as a definite asset toward the work they are carrying out.

In terms of procedures, by way of example, SNSMR utilizes The Registrar General and Deputy Registrar General as central roles to ensure consistency in legislation and regulation by providing guidance to ensure primary program needs are met. Their support and reliance upon GIS mapping in this process is huge.

An additional note of interest is that departments such as Economic and Rural Development and Tourism anticipate that economic planning for regional, rural and/or community development and sector analysis will generate further needs for collaboration among various departments.

Departments did convey one negative message in terms of collaboration efforts and that was in terms of people. They were clear that collaborative momentum is lost when GIS related staffing positions are not filled quickly.

5.0 Needs into the Future

Our Provincial Government contributors to this report have identified six needs that are required into the future which include the following:

- Strong strategic direction and for that need to be supported (including accountabilities)
- Increased GIS staffing across Government with emphasis on continued training (especially for emerging GIS departments)
- Establishment of a coordinated (corporate) geomatics infrastructure
- Continued maximization of collaboration opportunities
- Continued concentration on the “core” geographic datasets such as NSCAF and the Nova Scotia Road Network.
- Continued efforts toward data discovery and investment in the data bank applications that describe that data.

6.0 Report Contributors

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions the Provincial Geomatics Community have made toward this report and in particular, wish to highlight the efforts of the following individuals within that community that kindly gave of their time, expertise and in many cases provided collective insight from their respective business areas.

Mr. Greg Landry, Corporate Strategist, Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism

Ms. Sarah Onichino, Data Distribution Coordinator, Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Mr. Anthony Matthews, Program Coordinator, GeoNOVA Secretariat, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Mr. Gerard Eddy, GIS Specialist, Land Program, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Mr. Adam Holmes, GIS Analyst, Department of Social Services

Mr. Ken Lee, Coordinator Geographic Information and Planning, Department of Health and Wellness

Mr. Pierre Gareau, Manager GIS, Elections Nova Scotia

Ms Sarah Thurbide, Petroleum Land Tenure Administrator, Nova Scotia Department of Energy

Mr. Josh Blakeney, GIS Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture

Cover Page Graphic Acknowledgement

Lidar Technology Applied

The cover page graphic is courtesy of a local geomatics consulting firm (Spatial Energistics Group Inc.)

It illustrates the many uses of Lidar for diversified applications such as Vegetation, Bare Earth, Relief hypsometric shading and full feature information.

Appendix A – Summary of Feedback

Department of Community Services

2011 activities included:

- The Development of a series of 15 street maps to help income assistance (IA) staff working in the Halifax Regional Municipality to understand the new office boundaries. The maps provided IA workers with a quick and easy reference tool as they transitioned to the new office boundaries.
- The creation of a series of 27 boundary maps (13 complete) for the department's child protection workers. The project involved enhancing street maps with civic points at the outer perimeter of the office boundaries.
- Producing a map that was used to help identify potential areas for new affordable housing development, a map depicting provincially owned properties on serviced lots was produced for the Director of Property and Facilities.
- Producing A Northern Region Foster Family Map which was used to demonstrate the density and distribution of Foster Families. In order to help ensure Foster Families are being provided the appropriate level of support, a map was produced to help match child protection workers with foster families in the Northern Region.
- By way of assistance for the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, a set of 3 maps were produced - a provincial map and two inset maps (Annapolis Valley and Pictou to New Glasgow area). These maps demonstrated the location/availability of employment services/programs.
- A Northend Halifax Social Housing map was produced which showed the density of social housing developments in the Halifax Northend. This and similar maps help to inform future housing development.
- For the department's Child Welfare CORE Training Team, three maps were frequently updated and reproduced several times throughout the year as reference material for front line Child Welfare staff training. In addition, these maps were also used by outside agencies/community groups (ie Helpline volunteers and daycare staff) to inform them on who and where to report concerns of child abuse and neglect.

Health and Wellness (DHW)

2011 activities included:

- Development of a Primary Health Care Planning Tool. This tool used a combination of GIS application technologies and compiled GIS datasets that allowed for the visualization of resources/assets on various geographic levels. This application will put information in the hands of the user and has broad appeal to all branches of the DHW.
- Mapping of the pharmacy locations in Nova Scotia for the Drug Information System (DIS) program.

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- The addition of new provincial trails and the continued updating of existing trails and maintenance of the website. The trails that were added included Shared-Use trails and/or networks; Trans-Canada Trail sections; Coastal Water Trails; and Active Transportation Corridors.

- Assisting with Sport Facility Infrastructure projects included a Swimming Pool inventory for NS, as well as laying the groundwork for the upcoming 2012 Field Inventory. This work involved creating an inventory of NS sports fields such as baseball, soccer, football and other similar outdoor sports.

- As part of participating on the Active Healthy Living Team (AHLT) of (Physical Activity Sport and Recreation) PASR. Mapping support included reprints of pre-existing maps; the PASR At-A-Glance document; Trails; data (GIS shape files) and GIS training for non-GIS professionals. AHLT stakeholders and clients such as Active Pictou County have also made use of the services such as providing GIS data and basemaps.

- Participation on an ongoing tobacco inspection project that involved the mapping of tobacco sales in proximity to shopping malls and other areas frequented by youths.

- Digital maps were produced based which used Community Counts Data to depict District Health Authority Operating Expenditures based on Statistics Canada 2006 Census Data.

- Mapping was produced that depicted the distribution of 8-1-1 service calls for 2010.

- Health Human Resource Planning maps were produced at the provincial, county and District Health Authority levels, and represented the proportion of providers per population. This mapping was based on data from the professional colleges and population data from Statistics Canada Data Census 2006 held by Community Counts.

- Mapping and distribution of Health Resources and Health Assets in NS included the mapping of bed capacity by Regional and Tertiary Hospitals broken down by case type, DHA, and sites. This mapping relied upon data from Capacity Hospital Beds by DHA for 1 April 2011-June 2011. Other mapping projects included Caesarean sections by facility/county, and the mapping of obstetrics counts by facility, county, and year with data sourced from MSI Billings.

- Distribution of Health Facilities of Nova Scotia were mapped which included Public Health Offices, Pharmacies, Hospitals, Health Clinics, Mental Health Facilities, Emergency Health Care facilities, Doctor Offices and various other treatment centers by location, county and DHA.

- Community Health Profiles were developed and mapped for each DHA..

- Special Mapping Projects such as the NS Lyme Disease Mapping Project in conjunction with Department of Natural Resources and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) were conducted along with the NS Chlamydia Mapping Project in conjunction with PHAC and the IWK.

Economic and Rural Development and Tourism

Mandate: *Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism leads the implementation of Nova Scotia's economy growth strategy – jobsHere; the plan to grow our economy. The department works closely with economic development agencies, partners within and outside of government to achieve three priorities of this plan:*

- *Learning the right skills*
- *Growing the economy through innovation*
- *Helping businesses be more competitive globally*

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The focus of the department is on productivity and innovation, investment, workforce development, tourism, procurement, international commerce and the gateway as core economic drivers.

2011 activities included:

- Utilizing MapInfo for developing mapping for annual reports. Maps, for example, were created to illustrate the geographic distribution of applicants and clients for the Nova Scotia Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program.
- Utilizing MapInfo for economic analysis by benchmarking Nova Scotia's performance with other jurisdictions and using mapping to identify areas of economic concentration within key economic sectors.

Elections Nova Scotia

2011 activities included:

- Continued Civic Address Validation and the further development of internal tools which are used to validate civic addresses which are received for registered NS electors.
- Further development of several tools and processes to help in the Geocoding processes associated with registered electors.
- Development of the Electoral Boundary Tool: This GIS software based tool (extension to ArcMap 10 – ArcEditor license) was used to generate electoral boundaries such as polling division boundaries and electoral district boundaries.
- Further updating of electoral district maps which included specifically updating the road networks and associated annotation layer.
- Provision of maps and tabular data that supports provincial by-elections, liquor plebiscites and municipal by-elections.

Department of Energy

One key 2011 activity included:

- The development of a Petroleum Tenure Management System (PTMS). ESRI Canada was awarded this Request For Proposal which will see a system that uses GIS capabilities and data management to track petroleum tenure activities and information for the onshore.

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

A key 2011 activity included:

- The development of a Constraint mapping exercise. This exercise focused on modeling near shore wind wave exposure of coastal NS.

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Department of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (Land Program and Geographic Information Services)

Land Program

2011 activities included:

- Improving the quality and integrity of the parcel fabric's attribute information and graphical representation.
- Continued progress in regard to the Migrations of title from the Registry of Deeds system into Land Titles. Work continued at various rates depending on which county the parcel was located in. Halifax, Hants, Kings, and Colchester lead the way and are over 50% converted, while rural counties such as Guysborough, Inverness, and Digby are seen as getting close to or just over the 30% mark.
- There were 23921 Application for Registrations (AFR) in the province last year, and 37423 Parcel Description certification Applications. The total number of Documents accepted for registration was 158947. Requests by regional mapping staff to update the parcel fabric graphical component saw a completion percentage of 97.4% of 7263 requests. Each of the 5 Regions saw the following activities:
 - Efforts to remove duplicate plan number in the plan index for recorded plans
 - Continued reconciliation of parcel fabric for the rail corridor from Pictou to Sydney.
 - Adding historical plan reference in Property On Line to parcels for which there is a plan recorded in the registry but not referenced to/against any parcel or PID.
 - Marshland ownership investigation.

Geographic Information Section

2011 Activities included:

- Continued Nova Scotia Geographic Names process and procedure development, case tracking, archive organization, engagement with NRCAN/GNBC (Natural Resources Canada and Geographic Names Board of Canada)
 - The development and implementation of a Service Centre for select channels of inquiries which will assist with NSCAF and other 'core database' mapping enquiries.
 - Enhancement of hydrographic features in 20 water basins in Nova Scotia with available toponymy. Set to be released in 2012.
 - 195 vector/ortho map sheets completed for Annapolis/Kings and 410 colour ortho photo maps at 1:10,000 using Department of Natural Resource (DNR) photography completed.
 - Successful capture of new aerial photography in Southwest Nova Scotia
 - Revamp of the Nova Scotia Civic Address File (NSCAF) notification system completed, which included a table of changes which will now be sent to organizations (like Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) and Elections Nova Scotia so that they can auto-populate these changes to their systems.
 - Upgrades to the NSCAF self-serve application which now allows partners like Municipalities to login and customize a download NSCAF dataset to meet their need which greatly improves efficiencies in more than one area (distribution, for the partners, and NSCAF staff)
 - Work continued on SAI project with an anticipated mail/civic service to be rolled out in mid-2012
 - Spatial Referencing strategy was undertaken which produced the Nova Scotia Coordinate Referencing System (NSCRS) Future Policy Strategy in November, 2011.
 - Property Extraction Tool Redesigned for Distribution Staff, resulting in resource efficiencies.

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- Now distributing Forestry Orthos produced by DNR on behalf of DNR. These are different products than the SNSMR-GIS produced files
- Addressed Roads Maps and Provincial Maps underwent continued revisions
- A new Geomatics Products Distribution Strategy was completed, with work to commence on following through with recommendations for a more self-serve atmosphere, for our distribution of all products.
- A Nova Scotia Topographic Feature Review Report was initiated with the final report due out in early 2012.
- Work continued toward the development of Corporate Geomatics Infrastructure of the Province
- A Provincial LiDAR Specifications Report in conjunction with Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture was undertaken with the final report due out in early 2012.
- A NSTDB DEM Pilot was conducted out in partnership with the Municipality of the District of Chester.
- 110 geomatics stakeholders participated in the Annual Spring into Geomatics Conference in May, 2011.
- As part of the direction set out by the GeoNOVA Steering Committee in January 2011 to conduct a government wide consult and draft a strategic direction for geomatics related activities for the Government of Nova Scotia two stakeholder consults were conducted and the ground work began to establish a Geomatics Strategy Advisory Group (GeoSAG) working group.