

Agenda item 9

**A CANADIAN EXAMPLE: FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT ON THE
DISSEMINATION OF DIGITAL GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES DATA**

To address issues between federal and provincial/territorial governments on the right to disseminate geographical names information, the CPCGN has drawn up an agreement to be signed by the federal government and individual provincial/territorial jurisdictions. This will clarify the authority to distribute/sell digital names data to end-users or to licensees. It will also encourage wider dissemination of CPCGN approved authoritative names data. The agreement allows a different matrix of information to be selected by each jurisdiction. The text of the agreement is also available in French.

**CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES DATA AVAILABILITY
AND DISTRIBUTION
(JANUARY 1993)**

Canadian geographical names are approved by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, through the authority of its members in the ten provinces, two territories and various federal departments. Since the first national names authority was established in 1897, names records have been centrally maintained in Ottawa. From various points in time, records have also been maintained by some of the provincial/territorial government authorities.

In 1979, the national records were converted from index cards to a digital data base, currently referred to as the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base. During the 1980s and early 1990s, several provinces and territories have either created their own digital data bases or have downloaded a portion of the national data base for their own use and development.

It has been agreed that there is an ongoing need for one national data base with "core" data fields. Provincial or territorial data bases will also be developed where there is a specific need at that government level.

With the distribution of toponymic data in digital form being on the increase, policy questions on dissemination are arising that were not visualized when the information was only available in paper copy form. At the same time all levels of government are becoming more dependent on revenue generation. It became a challenge to address these issues in conjunction with the CPCGN's strong support for wide dissemination of authoritative names data and a desire to avoid attaching a monetary value to individual names records.

First, agreement was reached on fields of data which should be the minimum suite maintained in common at national and provincial/territorial levels. Beyond these "core" fields, there were differing views on how, or by whom, other fields of data (in particular the meaning of names and their historical origins) should be disseminated to the public.

At its annual meeting in 1992, the CPCGN decided it was appropriate to have an agreement on data dissemination between the federal department (then Energy, Mines and Resources) which maintains the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base and each individual provincial/territorial government. This agreement addressed the exchange of data between CPCGN members, and the dissemination of names data in digital form to both end users and licensees. To allow for the different viewpoints of various provincial/territorial CPCGN members a matrix of possible data to be included in the dissemination agreement was provided.

We are currently in the process of having the individual agreements signed and thus clarifying the relationship between levels of government and rights in toponymic data dissemination.

This approach to data sharing may be of interest to other authorities facing similar questions. The attached text is also available in French.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES CANADA
AND MEMBERS OF THE
CANADIAN PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
ON THE AVAILABILITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES DATA**

1. Exchange of data between CPCGN members

- 1.1 The toponymic data base of each government is the master data base for that government (except where legislated or negotiated otherwise).
- 1.2 No charges will be made to share information of "core" data fields (as agreed in 1990, see Appendix 1) between EMR and any CPCGN member having authority for geographical names decisions in a particular jurisdiction.
- 1.3 Data fields which are considered as non-core fields will be received and maintained by EMR (at no charge), where agreed to by EMR and individual jurisdictions.
- 1.4 Information in supplementary data fields added by EMR to the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB) will be maintained and made available to the names authorities having jurisdiction in these areas.
- 1.5 All CPCGN members, with or without jurisdictional responsibilities, will have read-only on-line access made available to the digital CGNDB (or a working copy of it, if deemed more appropriate by EMR) at no cost, other than that of a modem or a commercial network charge.

The following data will be available for browsing, but not for withdrawal for some other purpose:

- a) all core fields
- b) non-core fields
- c) supplementary fields as added by EMR

- 1.6 Digital toponymic data exchange procedures will be addressed cooperatively between EMR and each jurisdiction, as required.

2. **Dissemination of data in a digital format (e.g. magnetic tapes, diskettes, CD-ROM, on-line) to end users**
 - 2.1 All master data base owners have the right to distribute and/or sell the contents of their data base as they see fit.
 - 2.2 EMR will distribute or sell digital data from: core data fields as established by the CPCGN, supplementary data fields as added by EMR; and non-core data fields as agreed to by individual jurisdictions.
 - 2.3 When a jurisdiction provides toponymic data for inclusion in the CGNDB, EMR will only distribute or sell single jurisdictional digital data files containing that information, if such files are not readily available from the jurisdiction itself. An exception to this is that names to accompany EMR digital cartographic files will be sold by EMR.
 - 2.4 Master data base owners agree to have end-user agreements for distribution of toponymic data to address the prevention of resale and redistribution, the issue of site-licences, and the prevention of the creation of digital copies.
3. **Issuing licences to "non-end users" of digital toponymic data**
 - 3.1 All master data base owners have the right to licence a third-party to redistribute or resell the contents of their data base, as they see fit.
 - 3.2 EMR will issue licences for the redistribution or resale of data from: core data fields as established by the CPCGN; supplementary data fields as added by EMR; and non-core data fields as agreed to by individual jurisdictions.
 - 3.3 When a jurisdiction provides toponymic data for inclusion in the CGNDB, EMR will only licence the redistribution or resale of single jurisdictional data files containing that information, if the jurisdiction has agreed to this process. Exceptions will be made for names that accompany EMR digital cartographic files; EMR will licence their redistribution or resale.
 - 3.4 EMR toponymic licence agreements will be based on EMR's policy on the distribution of electronic information.

- 3.5 In a licence agreement for the redistribution or resale of toponymic data, master data base owners agree to address the prevention of further resale and redistribution of data, the issue of site licences, and the prevention of the creation of further digital copies.
- 3.6 Master data base owners will not issue exclusive licences, or licences which in any way restrict the other master data base owners in distributing or selling their own geographical names data.

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The attached chart will allow CPCGN members to individualize a matrix of data that they wish to be available from their jurisdiction for distribution as digital data from the CGNDB (Appendix 2).

Date

Date

APPENDIX 1

Core Data Fields for the Record of an Approved Name

1. **Geographical name** (of a feature, place, etc.).

Approved names should be in the authorized form, including the appropriate capitalization, diacritics, hyphens, included abbreviations (e.g. St.) etc.

2. **Province(s) and/or territory(ies)** in which feature/place is located.

3. **Status** which indicates, at least, a differentiation between

- a) currently approved/official, and
- b) not currently approved/official.

4. **Cross-reference** to formerly approved name, if a name change is being made.

5. **Date** on which a name was approved, or, where applicable, ceased to be approved for current use.

6. Indication of **type of feature/place** designated (e.g. river, town, provincial historic site, etc.).

7. **Latitude and longitude**

- at mouth of flowing water features
- at centre of other physical features
- where appropriate and necessary for meaningful identification, coordinates should include seconds, referenced to an identified datum; coordinates for place names should, wherever possible, be identified with seconds
- for flowing water features, coordinates should also be provided for the "head" of the named feature.

8. **NTS map reference** - All 1:50 000 National Topographic System map sheets which include the named entity should be indicated; the first one listed should match the designated coordinates. (CHS charts should be used if the feature falls outside the NTS framework.)

9. At least one element of **locational data** (e.g. first level administrative or geographical division) within province or territory, if such a division exists; or section, township and range, if applicable.

(n.b. In the past, no divisions have consistently been recorded for Yukon and Newfoundland.)

10. **Brief narrative of location.**

11. **Graphic representation** to show limits of name application - to be usable at 1:50 000.

Information for the following data fields is highly desirable.

1. Second level of administrative unit, where applicable.
2. Unofficial variant names to the approved name.
3. Summary of origin or historical data.

APPENDIX 2

Summary of Jurisdictional Wishes Concerning Distribution/Sale of Digital Toponymic Data by EMR from the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base

Name of jurisdiction: _____

Type of toponymic data	Read-only on-line access to CPCGN members	Distribution/Sale to end-users	Licences to redistribute or resell data (general packages)	Licences to redistribute or resell data (your jurisdiction as stand-alone package)
1. Core-field information				
For a) official names	✓	✓	✓	
b) formerly approved names (rescinded, changed) as listed in gazetteers	✓	✓	✓	
c) all other names				
2. Non-core fields				
a) second level of administrative units				
b) unofficial variant names				
c) origin/historical data (all)				
d) origin/historical data (some sort of restricted selection)				
e) other (specify)				

Date

Date