EMGCP Meeting – Winter 2026

February 11, 2026 | 13:00 – 14:30 Emergency Management Geomatics Community of Practice (EMGCP)

Attendees PS GOC Geomatics, RCMP, TBS, ECCC, PSPC, GAC, CCG, ESDC, DND MCE, StatCan, CRA

Location Online - Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome and Introduction 13:00-13:03

Presenter: Darlene Tran (PS GOC)

Description
Welcome and overview of today's meeting agenda.

1.1. Call to Order

Description

The attendance is captured by attendees inputting their name, position, team and department in the meeting chat.

2. National Evacuation Reporting Database (NERD) - Update 13:03-13:12

Presenter: Cameron Bouchard (PS GOC)

What is the National Evacuation Reporting Database (NERD)?

- Information is received from Situation Reports (SitReps) from Public Safety Canada regional offices (ROs), provincial emergency management offices (EMOs), and federal departments like Indigenous Services Canada and Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).
- The current work involves ingesting and collating information into daily reports and cyclical event common operating picture reports.
- This project was brought about to address a current challenge and gap in data availability:
    - The GOC does not retain evacuation information in a database for further analysis.
    - Requests for detailed evacuation data are difficult to fulfill due to the lack of a comprehensive database.
    - The Geomatics team decided to create a system to standardize and catalog evacuation data.
    - Research was conducted with partners like NRCan and the Canadian Wildland Fire Information Service to understand their methods.

System, Data Collection and Output

- The system will collect evacuation data from provinces and territories, standardizing it into a single database.
- The system will include automated translation of information between French and English.
- The dataset will be accessible to all members of the GOC and partners for mapping and statistical analysis.
- The system will scrape digital information and manually enter data not available digitally.
- The system will include automated translation and record the source language for accuracy.
- The dataset will be available in both polygon and point representations for mapping purposes.

NERD Workflow

Input Data

- Information from Province/Territory come in the form of digital feeds, or PDFs, Word documents, or emails;
- Information coming from a digital feed contains evacuation event details and non-jurisdictional shapes, these digital feeds will be scraped by GOC-Geo once per hour
    - The scraped data will be input into a database of non-jurisdictional polygons, making it a dynamic dataset
- Information coming from a non-digital feed, such as PDF or email, is input by GOC Watch staff via an input form using ESRI Survey 123
    - The modified or updated record is added to a Survey 123 database/spreadsheet of evacuations
- GOC-Geo also has a database of StatCan jurisdiction boundaries, a static database.
- GOC-Geo also has a database of First Nations information, text format, a static database.

Polygon Feature Layer Creation, Text Translation, Polygon to Point Conversion

- GOC-Geo Script on ArcGIS Online:
    - Input polygon from GOC-Geo Data of provincial non-jurisdictional polygons (dynamic) or database of StatCan jurisdiction boundaries (static);
    - Retrieves fire cause from CIFFC;
    - Gets First Nation text information from the FN database (static);
    - Uses input data to determine if boundary is jurisdictional (StatCan) or non-jurisdictional (provincial);
    - Merges polygon to text to create or update a feature and add it to an ArcGIS Online hosted feature layer;
    - Initiates translation script;
- Text Translation occurs through a translation script on ArcGIS Online and uses an approved translation database for most fields and/or DeepL API for open text translations, then applies translations directly to the Feature Layer and initiates a polygon to Point Conversion Script;

Output Data

- Created or updated Feature Layer is input into GOC-Geo Hosted Feature Layer (polygons), with a Point Conversion

Script, a point representation of the polygon is created and added to the Hosted Feature Layer (points) database.

Current Status

- 80% of the work is done; translation script, generation of polygons, accessing and/or blending non-jurisdictional polygons from partners and merging with text are all functioning.
- Anticipated completion is for the start of flood and fire season, expected to be live by the end of March.

2.1. Q&A

NIL

3. Directory of Federal Real Property 13:12-13:41

Presenters: Ashley Maloney, Treasury Board Secretariat

What is the DFRP?

- Central record of basic information used to keep Government of Canda informed about the scale and major components of its real property

Key Players

- Federal custodians are responsible for the management and reporting of real property within their organizations.
- Consumers of the data use it to support analysis and decision-making.
- TBS administers and supports custodians in meeting their reporting requirements.

What does DFRP include?

- Brings together core data, spatial information, and images to provide a complete and accurate picture of federal real property assets.
- Important to note: there are some exclusions in DFRP, for example, engineering assets, easements, interests below certain size thresholds (nothing below 15 square feet, or small land sizes). Full list of exclusions are listed on the DFRP website.

Where does geospatial data come from?

- Custodians can create GIS data in the DFRP through several methods:
    - Built-in geocoding tool to enter a point using address look-up.
    - Built-in map editor to draw a polygon.
    - Enter coordinates manually.
    - File upload of shapefiles (batch or single).
- Some departments have their own systems for data management, often batch files are received.

Data Integrity

- System rules are built into the geospatial tools, for example:
    - Points and polygons are the only acceptable geometry types (no multi-type).
    - Polygons must be provided based on size and location of the property.
    - Polygons are not allowed to overlap, except in certain situations, for instance, a leased property may overlap the crown-owned land reported by the Custodian.

How accurate is the data?

- More than 100 bult-in system checks around the geospatial data and text fields work to maintain data accurary
- Additionally, DFRP enforces policy requirements to its Custodians and Senior Designated Officials:
    - Custodians are required to update records within 90 days of any change, in this way the DFRP is evergreen
    - Senior Designated Officials are required to attest annually on the accuracy of their data.
- Important to note:
    - DFRP is not an official real property registry, it should be used for reference only, not as a substitute for official property records or legal advice.
    - Sensitive or protected federal properties can be partially or fully withheld from public display.

How is the data used?

- Can guide decision-making, support strategic initiatives, enhances overall transparency of Government of Canada
- Informs senior officials on the state of the federal property portfolio;
- Advances policy initiatives;
- Supports TBS missions;
- Responds to public inquiries, media requests, ATIPs, and audits;
- Supports horizontal initiatives like the Risk and Compliance Process (RCP) and the Federal Contamination Sites Action Plan.

DFRP data for Emergency Management

- Locate federal assets affected by, or within proximity of, hazards;
- Identify critical infrastructures;
- Support federal coordination;
- Evacuation planning for federal staff and public services;
- Information of contamination sites that may implicate events.

How can you access the data?

- Accessible through public search tools and open datasets, ensuring federal real property is easy to access
- Can use the left-hand side of the DFRP website to query.
- TBS Open Data page has DFRP available in XML format and geospatial shapefiles, updated nightly.
- Use the DFRP map navigator.
- Future plan for data access:
    - TBS is hoping to make the DFRP even more accessible through a read-only API, pulling data directly through the system. It is currently in development and there is currently no official timeline for public release.

What's next?

- The API tool is the most relevant improvement for an EM group.
- There are some releases throughout the year, such as some improvements to the DFRP map navigator, small tweak to organization names, as well as some updates geared toward Custodian users.

Where can you go for more information?

- DFRP website: Directory of Federal Real Property | Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

3.1. Q&A

Q: Any plans to host a WMS for the DFRP portfolio?

A: For now, working within the TBS budget, the focus will be on creating the API.

Q: Will the population of each building be published, or is that too sensitive to add?

A: Question has come up before at TBS, it is not something that we have or that we can connect to DFRP. It is something that would have to be figured out from an HR and dataset perspective, but it is not currently on the radar.

4. Emergency Management GIS 13:41-14:08

Presenters: Carly Lovett and Greg Tonkin, Global Affairs Canada

Introduction to GAC Geomatics

- GAC-Geomatics is a team of 5 dedicated geomatics specialists.
- Located within CET, Emergency Planning and Preparedness Division.
- Started as a side of desk project, eventually growing into an official team.

Tools and Tech

- ArcGIS Enterprise is leveraged to create GAC app CartoVive which includes maps, apps, and dashboards, and allows for expanding GIS abilities to non-GIS users.
- ArcGIS Field Maps is leveraged to create GAC app CartoVive Mobile, which allows for offline capability of mobile data collection in the field, includes data up to protective B.

Role in Peace Time

- GAC-Geo supports planning and preparedness across the department.
- Collaborates with internal and external partners.
- Back-end supportive role for events.

Role in Crisis

- During emergency response, GAC-Geo is activated and moves from regular hierarchy into incident command, located under GAC Planning.

Registration of Canadians Abroad (ROCA) Finder Dashboard

- Canadians who go abroad can register on Travel GC website: Travel.gc.ca - Home.
- The data input into the system is ingested into the ROCA Finder Dashboard to allow visualization of Canadians in countries around the world.

Registration of Canadians Abroad (ROCA) History Dashboard

- This app shows a 60-day trend for how the total number of registrants have changed over time or seasonally.
- For example, it shows a seasonal change in how Canadians are travelling in Winter; more Canadians go to the Caribbean and less go to Europe.

Event-Specific Apps: Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games

- GAC-Geo will create event-specific apps to monitor Canadians abroad.
- App was created for the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games to provide situational awareness and monitor Canadians in various regions throughout the event.
- Includes relevant data for situational awareness and preparedness, such as list of venues, transportation routes, proximity to hospitals, airports, etc.

Rapid Impact Assessment App
- Used by GAC Watch staff to help them create maps for Situational Reports for a given event, reducing the manual work on GAC-Geo to create maps.
- Built-in Explore tool in the Experience Builder app to create an Impact Assessment, show how many Canadians are registered within a radius of a point or polygon.

Travel Advisories
Public Travel Advisory Maps
- Travel Advisory maps have recently been released on each page, for example: Travel advice and advisories for Mexico
- Can visualize travel advisory for different regions within a country, data-driven method to identify trends.

Internal Travel Advisory App
- Travel Advisory Application for internal use by GAC employees to visualize travel advisories around the world, conduct cross-border analysis;
- Clicking on a particular region will interact with the written text of the travel advisory;
- Embassies can use the app to see implications of changing travel advisories.

Rapid Deployment App Example
- Example of an app used by Rapid Deployment Team for Cuba.
- Cuba currently has a lot of travel advisories. Should the situation every become volatile, the Rapid Deployment Team can see all Canadians in Cuba.
- Knowing where Canadians are in Cuba can inform where and how they need to get to a point of departure.
- The app acts as a starting point for the team to get there and see where Canadians are and where they will depart.

Movement Protocol App Example
- Lebanon-Isreal Shelling/Attack Sites app used to show movement protocol to reflect conditions on-the-ground.
- Can help demonstrate why conditions are the way they are, or why recon cannot be done after-dark, etc.

4.1. Q&A

Q: Does CartoVive have the necessary geospatial information source to plan/support non-combatant evacuation operations?

A: GAC-Geo is the team that supports the GAC side of assisted departures.

Q: Can other department organizations have access to CartoVive?

A: Only if they have a Signet account, but we do have some means of sharing data with partners that do not have access.

5. Wildfire Mapping Products at ESDC 14:08-14:24

Presenters: Tony Heacock and Sylvain Bisson, Employment and Social Development Canada

Geomatics across ESDC
- Pockets of GIS capacity throughout the branch that are responsible for:
  - Tarriff Impact Analysis and Dashboard
  - Wildfires Postal Code List: identifying postal codes for areas under evacuation for regional emergency operations centres.
  - Large wall maps of wildfires, updated weekly.
  - Employment Insurance (EI) Wildfire Impact Dashboard: mapping active fires and affected communities within EI boundaries.

Geomatics Support within the Employment Insurance Program
- Employment Insurance (EI) economic boundary review: conducted a mandated 5-year review involving GIS and economic analysis, produced maps of current and proposed EI regions.
- Disaster impact mapping.
- Special policy mapping projects.
- Maintaining EI Wildfire Impact Dashboard.

About EI Regions
- Built using Statistics Canada GIS geographies.
- EI ‘zone groups’ are regions that share similar labour market conditions and unemployment patterns.
- EI regions have different benefits and rules based on where a community is located.

Data Pipeline to the Dashboard
- Live wildfire data is sourced from CIFFC via an ArcGIS Online feature layer;
- An FME form is used to extract, prepare and publish the data;
- For the automation process, a task scheduler runs the workflow every 6 hours to update the data.

Interactive Mapping Application Dashboard

- ArcGIS Online Dashboard showing the impact of current active wildfires on EI.
- EI team is interested in which communities are affected. The Dashboard allows for visualization of which communities are affected within a distance of a wildfire, allowing for identification of which EI region a particular affected community is within.
- EI team can use the dashboard to anticipate when there will be a surge of EI applications or claims.

5.1. Q&A

NIL

6. Adjournment 14:24-14:28

Presenter: Darlene Tran (PS GOC)

Thank you to everyone who were able to make it to this meeting!

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on May 13th, 2026 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the new GOC facility. There will be a tour for those attending in-person, and then usual presentations to follow. Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams will still be available for the presentations, more details to come soon.

Feel free to reach out to Darlene Tran if you have any topics you would like to present at the next meeting.

Looking forward to meeting again soon!