



MEDIA RELEASE

Association of Canadian Community Colleges

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Inventory of Geomatics Educational Opportunities to Help the Geomatics Industry

Ottawa, March 18, 2004: To support the competitiveness of Canada's growing geomatics sector, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges will host an on-line database listing all educational opportunities available to prospective students and professionals in the field of geomatics. This database will be hosted in partnership with the GeoConnections initiative, through its GeoSkills program.

Geomatics is the scientific and technical acquisition, storage, analysis, dissemination and management of geographically referenced information for improved decision-making in many different fields such as health, policing and public safety, disaster relief, business, transportation, aviation, infrastructure development, land use and climate monitoring. GeoConnections is a national partnership initiative led by Natural Resources Canada that is charged with building the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI). In general terms, the purpose of the CGDI is to make Canada's geographic information holdings accessible on the Internet.

“The Government of Canada is proud to support this innovative project with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges,” said the Honourable R. John Efford, Minister of Natural Resources Canada. **“Funding through GeoConnections allows us to support this and other initiatives to build opportunities for Canadians, now and in the future.”**

Currently, students and professionals do not have any tools to help them determine what and where geomatics courses are offered. Relevant courses can be found in a wide variety of program areas ranging from Architecture, Ecosystem Management, Electrical Engineering and Information Technology to Mining Engineering, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Navigation and Positioning (e.g., Global Positioning Systems [GPS]), Oceanography, Parks and Forest Recreation, and Remote Sensing/Image Analysis.

Through the ACCC–GeoConnections Inventory of Geomatics Educational Opportunities, geomatics will gain visibility and accessibility through the high-traffic site of the Association, with its links to member colleges and institutes across the country. Youth and geomatics practitioners will be able to source the most suitable educational and skills upgrading opportunities available to them and learn more about the career opportunities in this exciting field.

The Inventory will meet the goals of GeoConnections' Sustainable Communities Initiative- to help rural, coastal, Aboriginal and northern communities learn geomatics and to aid them in using modern mapping technologies in order to make informed decisions regarding economic, environmental and social development. The Inventory will also meet the goals of GeoConnections' GeoSkills program, which fosters the growth of the geomatics industry by

promoting geomatics and helps those already in the industry to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Sir Sandford Fleming College, located in Peterborough, Ontario, will be a key player in the transfer, design and interface areas of the new database. The GeoConnections Web site, as well as the Web sites of other geomatics industry associations, will also link to the Inventory when it is made available.

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