

Canadian Geoscience Knowledge Network Update #2 (Feb. 2001)

This email is the second of a regular series of 1-page CGKN email updates. Previous updates and other information about CGKN can be found at the CGKN Home Page (<http://cgkn.net>)

1) GeoConnections Support for CGKN

In November, the CGKN Steering Committee submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) for CGKN development to GeoConnections in response to an "Announcement of Opportunity for Public Sector Agencies". In early February, GeoConnections approved the LOI and asked the CGKN Secretariat to prepare and submit a proposal outlining activities, deliverables, and costs. How much funding CGKN receives will ultimately be determined by the proposal, but on the basis of the LOI, GeoConnections is prepared to immediately transfer funds to support CGKN activities. The maximum annual leveraged funding from the program is \$300K with a requirement that 60% of GeoConnections funding flow through to the private sector. Contributions by government agencies can include "in kind" (staff time).

2) CGKN On-line Geoscience Data Catalogue Project

This ongoing project will create comprehensive catalogues containing consistent metadata describing all government geoscience data and will implement a CGKN Internet search engine. This project is funded by the Earth Science Sector's Targeted Geoscience Initiative.

Since the project was initiated in the summer, the following steps have been completed by project leader James Rupert (rupert@nrcan.gc.ca) and the federal/provincial Implementation Working Group:

- a) A standard CGKN geoscience metadata profile has been established
- b) A survey of each agency's present level of metadata readiness has been conducted and TGI funds have been allocated to each NGSC member agency for creation of a online metadata catalogue .
- c) Software products for the CGKN online search tool have been researched and purchased.
- d) A 2-day workshop has been set up for March 1-2, in Ottawa, for training of NGSC agency representatives on preparation of CGKN-standard online data catalogues.

To ensure timely completion of the project by January 2002, the project working group requests that all NGSC member agencies ensure that plans are in place to utilize the TGI funding for catalog creation when it arrives in April 2001.

3) CGKN Business Plan

As requested by the NGSC, a CGKN Business plan was prepared by John Broome, Eric Grunsky, and the CGKN Steering Committee. The Business Plan was circulated to all NGSC member agencies for comment in early January and, to date, comments have been positive. Following minor editing, the Business Plan will be tabled for approval at the next NGSC meeting in the Spring.

4) CGKN Posters and Brochures

The CGKN Secretariat has contracted the design and printing of 2000 bilingual CGKN brochures for distribution at workshops and conferences. A small number of brochures have been sent to each agency but additional copies are available on request from the CGKN Secretariat. A colour poster based on the brochure design has also been prepared and is also available from the CGKN Secretariat. Please contact John Broome for copies.

5) CGKN Data Integration Working Group

The federal-provincial CGKN Data Integration Working Group continues to meet via conference call to work on solutions for technical issues related to CGKN Implementation. Five discipline-specific subgroups (bedrock geology, surficial geology, geophysics, geochemistry, mineral deposits) have been created to develop the CGKN standards and tools required by their discipline. A sixth subgroup will collaborate with each discipline subgroup to address the integration of the 5 disciplines.