

Canadian Geoscience Knowledge Network Update #3 (Sep. 2001)

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

CGKN receives \$290k support from GeoConnections.

In late July, GeoConnections approved a CGKN Proposal submitted in response to the GeoConnections Access Program "Announcement of Opportunity for Public Sector Agencies". The CGKN will receive \$290K from GeoConnections in fiscal year 2001/2002 to lever a total (\$1412K) of cash and in-kind funding from NGSC agencies and the Targeted Geoscience Initiative (TGI). The GeoConnections funding will be used to support the following CGKN projects and activities:

1. National Bedrock Geology Database Development (\$60K)
2. National Surficial Geology Database Development (\$50K)
3. Development of Toolkit for National Geochemical Database (\$50K)
4. Development of XML-based Data Transfer standards for mineral occurrence and geochemical data (\$60K)
5. Coordination and Web Site Improvements (\$70K)

Contact John Broome for information.

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 (TGI). Since the project was initiated in the summer 2000, the following progress has been made by the federal/provincial Implementation Working Group.

1. Based on a survey of each agency's present level of metadata readiness, TGI funding has been allocated to all NGSC agencies to support creation of standard CGKN geoscience metadata catalogues and catalogue creation is underway.
2. Software products for the CGKN online search tool are installed.
3. CGKN Discovery Portal configuration and customization is underway.

To ensure timely completion of the project by January 2002, the project working group requests that all NGSC member agencies review their plans to utilize their allocated TGI funding for creation of their catalogue. Contact James Rupert for information.

CGKN Data Integration Working Group Update

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. Subgroups involving both federal and provincial participants have been created to develop the CGKN standards and tools required by each discipline. An update on key developments follows:

Bedrock Geology

A geological map database, based on the North American Data Model (NADM), is being developed. The database will contain maps for BC, Yukon, and parts of Nunavut, Labrador, and Newfoundland. This process will establish the protocols and standards that will be the foundation for a CGKN bedrock geology layer. In May, A 2-day federal-provincial workshop was held in St. John's to establish the design and schedule phase 1 of the project. Leaders of the geochemistry and surficial geology groups also attended. Eric Boisvert recently released a new version of the "Geomatter" geological map data editor. Contact Peter Davenport for additional information.

Surficial Geology

A preliminary logical data model for surficial geology data has been completed. Standards for language and structure are also nearing completion. Ontario GS, Manitoba E&M, and GSC are active participants. The bedrock and surficial geology data models and tools (Geomatter, etc.) are being developed in parallel. Development of a web site to provide access to preliminary data will commence in Sept.. Contact Ron Dilabio for additional information.

Geochemistry

At least 6 provinces and the GSC are participating in the "Geochemistry on-line" Project and meet regularly. Participants have agreed on Version 1.1.1 of the CGKN geochemistry data model. The project team is continuing development of a set of tools "GoldTools", based in part on XML, for the exchange of geochemical data between agencies. The future development of "GeoChemistry Online" will involve the mineral exploration industry (BHP, Inco, and Falconbridge have expressed interest.). Contact Andy Moore for more information.

Geophysics

The GSC is partnering with Geosoft and DM Solutions Group on a GeoInnovations proposal to develop systems for online visualization and delivery of geophysical, mineral deposits and geochemistry data types. Contact Joan Tod for further information.

XML/GML

XML is becoming a standard protocol for transfer of data on the Internet. GML is an XML schema", or specification, for transfer of geographic information. The CGKN/GeoConnections have funded a project to develop a CGKN XML "schema" for geoscience data. This work will be done in partnership with Galdos Systems (Vancouver), an international leader in XML and GML development. The initial schema will be developed for mineral deposit data but may be extended to include geochemical and geophysical data. The project team is collaborating with the Australian CSIRO-led team developing XML geoscience schema for the mining community. Contact John Glynn or Eric Grunsky for more information.

CGKN On-line Discussion Group

A CGKN Internet discussion forum has been established has been established
<http://www.orchestrabycrossdraw.com/cgkn>. Contact James Rupert for more
information.
