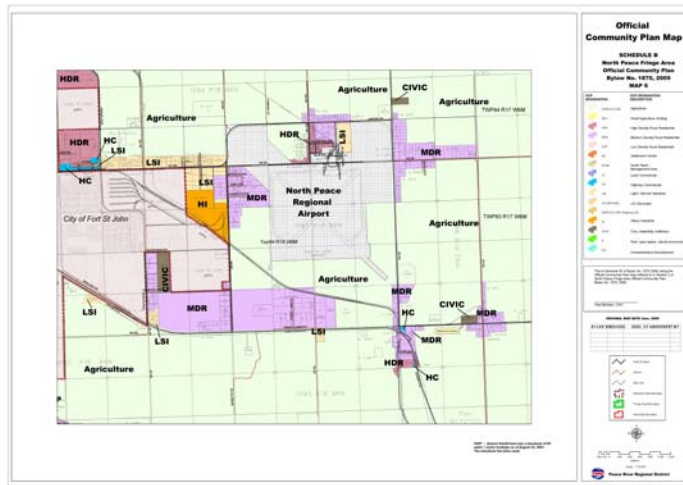




As British Columbia's 2nd largest, the Peace River Regional District is about 12 million hectares (46,000 square miles) and the home to almost 60,000 residents. Located in north eastern British Columbia, the regional district is comprised of seven municipalities and four electoral areas. Member municipalities include the cities of Fort St. John and Dawson Creek as well as the municipalities of Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Taylor and Hudson's Hope.

The topography of the area varies from Rocky Mountains in the west to the Interior Plains in the eastern sections. Most of the land is drained by the Peace River or its tributaries. The northern portion of the PRRD is drained by tributaries of the Fort Nelson River.

The economy of the regional district is a combination of agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, petroleum exploration and development, hydro-electric power generation, forestry and mining. Approximately 40% of British Columbia's Agricultural Land Reserve is situated within the regional district.



New economic developments in the Peace River area include an increase in tourism, vast coal resources in the Rocky Mountain foothills, increased utilization of aspen in pulp and wood products, diversification in the agricultural sector and an increase in natural gas and petroleum exploration, development and processing as well as the mining sector.

Don Hemakumara is the GIS Coordinator for the Peace River Regional District and works with a team of two. With such a vast area to deal with, the regional district needed a good quality cadastre. The existing data needed to be streamlined and updated to current standards.

PRRD became a member of ICIS in 2002. The regional district worked with ICIS and the Parcel Fabric Section of the ILMB (Integrated Land Management Bureau) to update the cadastre and more recently on the cadastral re-alignment project.

"The updating of the cadastre was done before I joined the regional district," says Don Hemakumara, GIS Coordinator. There is still a lot of work to be done to improve the accuracy of our cadastral data. Our collaborative relationship with ICIS has been instrumental in helping us achieve our GIS objectives."



In 2008, PRRD applied for a CivicSpatial grant to enable them to continue to improve their mapping data. The funding was received in early 2009 and allowed the regional district to purchase software and hire a contractor to assist with the process. Don also was able to invest in aerial photography. With control points in place, the resulting photography helped to once again improve the quality of the data.

"In the first phase of this project, we focused on the most populated areas," stated Don Hemakumara. "We will be looking to ICIS again in the near future so that we can continue with the second phase of this project."

The regional district has found many other uses for the cadastral data. The improved cadastre helps support Planning, Finance, Administration & Emergency Services as well Environmental and Field Services. "We utilize data downloaded through ICIS to calculate how much our residents need to pay for special services/projects. This information is provided to the Province for collection through the Parcel Tax System," says Hemakumara. "GIS also supports the Finance department for service area calculations for proposed as well as existing service areas like water, sewer and recreational."

"Our collaborative relationship with ICIS has been instrumental in helping us achieve our GIS objectives."

Don Hemakumara, GIS Coordinator