

ICIS is a non-profit society providing members with access to integrated digital spatial data for use in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Provincial Government Ministries, Crown Corporations, Utilities and Local Governments contribute spatial data such as administrative boundaries, infrastructure and other mapped features. ICIS compiles and delivers this data in viewable and downloadable formats to our members. By integrating data sets across boundaries and jurisdictions, ICIS provides one source of spatial information from otherwise disparate spatial data.

Additionally, and perhaps of greater value is the collaboration that created ICIS, and continues in the spirit of cooperation that brings together the many different member organizations. ICIS administers a free-flow of spatial data fulfilling members' needs at one table rather than with each jurisdiction.

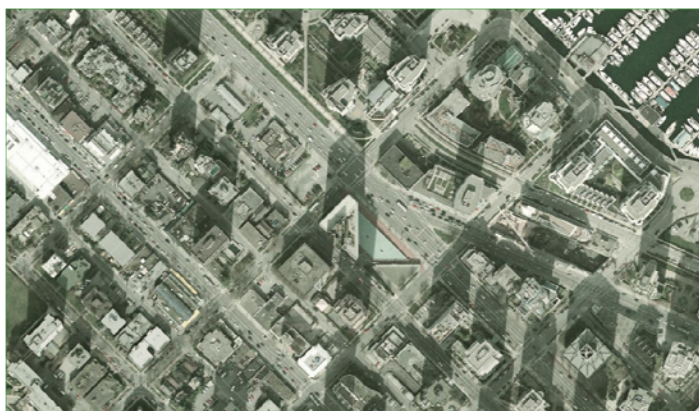


Another emerging benefit, especially in these economic times, is the potential purchasing power of such a collaborative group.

A great working example of this power is the 2010 Air Photo Consortium. Earlier this year, ICIS became a member of the multi-jurisdictional Tiger Team that includes the RCMP, the Department of National Defence (DND), Emergency Management BC, GeoBC with the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), and the City of Vancouver. The Tiger Team is addressing the geospatial requirements for the

2010 Olympics security planning including the priority of acquiring current aerial imagery for the Olympic corridor region. This has created a huge opportunity for all the communities located in this region. Realizing that current air photos have great value to these communities, the consortium communicated the following advantages to ICIS members and other participants:

- Unique partnership between multiple organizations within the Lower mainland to acquire air photos at a potentially lower cost;
- The potential to create a 2010 legacy that could be leveraged to acquire additional data more frequently in the future with similar cost savings;
- Improved working relationship between all the stakeholders on emergency management & public safety related to 2010 and beyond.



*BC Assessment is a founding member of ICIS and participated as a member of the 2010 Air Photo Consortium.*

*BC Assessment is a strong supporter of the notion that a collaborative approach to data purchasing significantly improves buying power and will create on-going opportunities in the future.*

*Read on to learn more about the benefits of collaborative purchasing identified by BC Assessment.*

### ***Why Does BCA Want to Capture Data?***

BCA maintains a provincial database of over 1.9 million property records. To keep pace with the high growth of development in B.C. and to ensure accurate assessed values, BCA staff use GIS applications and a variety of map sources to assist in the audit and maintenance our valueBC database.

### ***What Types of Data Does BCA Want to Capture?***

Types of data that support database maintenance are aerial photographs, oblique imagery, satellite imagery, street front photographs, building footprints, electronic building plans and permits, administrative boundaries, infrastructure and topology.

### ***What are the Benefits of Data-sharing & Collaboration?***

When discussing our data needs with our local government partners, we often discover that our needs are very similar. Collaborating leads to cost-savings, purchasing power, leveraging each other's emerging technologies and a reduced carbon footprint.

### ***Cost-Sharing / Cost-Savings***

Data capture is expensive. In these times of reduced budgets and hiring freezes, many organizations are looking for solutions to maintaining high quality services at reduced costs. When many interested groups work in partnership, there is a greater potential to fulfill spatial data needs and to discover the benefits of value-added data types that your organization may not have previously considered.

### ***Leveraging Technologies***

Working in collaboration with others gives organizations exposure to emerging trends or technologies that your organization may not have considered or that have been out of reach due to cost. Partnerships open discussions regarding insight about emerging trends and technologies. The potential for further partnerships become greater as our relationships develop.

### ***Managing Quality while reducing our Carbon Footprint***

The number of properties in the province has more than doubled since BCA's inception in 1974 while our staffing levels have reduced. To keep up with the growth in parcels and to perform assessments in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly way, BCA is examining methods of capturing relevant data other than from onsite field inspections. Alternatives include self-reporting by property owners and obtaining data electronically from partners and local governments.

***BC Assessment***



*If you would like to participate in collaborative data purchasing initiatives or are interested in sharing ideas, please contact ICIS at [info@icisociety.ca](mailto:info@icisociety.ca)*