



INTEGRATED
CADASTRAL
INFORMATION
SOCIETY

MEMBER PROFILE



Mission was founded in 1892 and originally inhabited by the Stó:lō First Nations people. The district is nestled on a southern coastal mountain slope and overlooks the lush valley of the mighty Fraser River. With a population of 35,262 residents, Mission is ideally situated, just a short 15 minute drive south to the US border and 70 kilometers east of the city of Vancouver. Mission enjoys a colorful history as the site of the Canada's first train robbery, BC's first rail link to the US, one of the earliest hydroelectric dams and Fraser River bridges and is home to the oldest known First Nations' archeological site in BC.



Chris Knowles is the Manager of Information Technology for the District of Mission. Chris and his team are charged with providing technology support and solutions to other District departments. The Planning Department and Inspection

Services group had been using a home-grown GIS mapping solution for a number of years. They realized that they had boxed themselves in when the last staff member with expertise in this program left the District's employment.

The in-house solution had been working well for them because the resources were there and there wasn't a huge capital requirement. Now they were in a position where they lacked internal resources to maintain the system but still required a solution with minimal capital outlay. The challenge was to come up with a migration strategy to a new system that could be more easily supported and could help support a number of new initiatives like; maintaining sign inventories, roadside mowing, web-enabled mapping for public use and more.

In addition to replacing the old system, it was necessary to find a way to improve the accuracy of the cadastral data. Historically, everything was done as offsets to property lines. There was no GPS alignment between cadastral and orthographic information.

Chris was introduced to ICIS when he attended the MISA Conference and took part in an ICIS seminar. At this seminar, he became more familiar with ICIS and their initiatives and brought the ICIS value proposition back to share with the key

stakeholders at the District. Chris learned that the District could potentially be funded by the ICIS Civic Spatial grant program to purchase and implement a new system that would improve the level of accuracy of Mission's cadastral data. Armed with a report that included recommendations from Stephen Garner of ICIS, Chris proposed an ICIS membership and an application for Civic Spatial funding. This would allow the District to purchase and implement the new system. In turn, the improved level of accuracy to all property pins and other data would be provided to ICIS and would become part of the provincial cadastral fabric.

The District of Mission has used the Civic Spatial funding to purchase their new system. Their survey team is now in the process of shooting property pins which will in turn increase the level of accuracy in their cadastral data.

"The vision of ICIS and its support of the District of Mission's data improvement program will have long-lasting benefits for both the ICIS membership and the public at large," says Chris Knowles, Manager, Information Technology.

While the District of Mission has just started working with their new system and with ICIS, other opportunities for improving their dataset are planned for the future and may be eligible for additional Civic Spatial grant funding from ICIS. These include; migrating legacy data that isn't in the correct format to the new spatial geo-database and the re-modeling work that may be required to ensure that this data works optimally with the new system.

In the future, Chris believes that a cohesive cadastral system for the province will provide the central location from which all municipalities can work together and will improve emergency response and deployment. "I see many possibilities for future use of the ICIS data," states Chris Knowles. "The Civic Spatial grant funding that the District of Mission received from ICIS was essential to replacing our old, unsupported system and to getting these initiatives off the ground."

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