



INTEGRATED  
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When BC Assessment first started working with the Integrated Cadastral Information Society (ICIS) in 2003, they were looking for ways to improve the productivity of their field staff. With the responsibility of producing annual property assessments for all property owners in British Columbia and providing the basis for property taxation for the province, BC Assessment had two key issues:

- ◆ How to efficiently capture new construction information?
- ◆ How to keep existing inventory up-to-date by capturing improvements?

In the field, hundreds of appraisers were managing their areas using paper maps and manually consolidating data from disparate sources. The typical approach was to use color and other coding methods to manually mark the paper maps. This was very time-consuming, lacked in consistency and whenever the maps changed, field staff had to start over again.

In the mid-90's BC Assessment began to acquire digital data. They were managing over 100 data sharing agreements with various municipalities. This was not only time consuming but lacked in consistency as each municipality used different formats and had their own characteristics and conditions. Fulfilling the individual data sharing agreements took a lot of time and effort. A staff of eight had the responsibility of converting the data to a consistent format and joining the various data elements so that it could be used by field staff.

The provincial government was also requesting the same information from the municipalities. BC Assessment ran into resistance from the

municipalities who objected to having to provide the same information to two different entities.

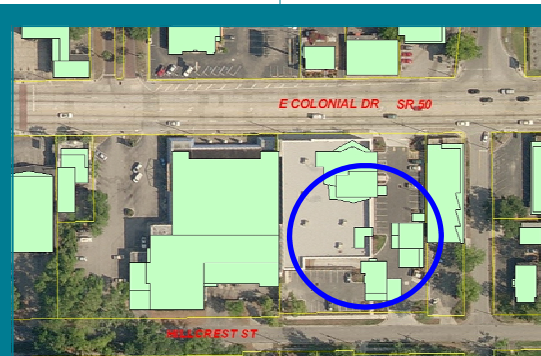
ICIS was incorporated as a non-profit society in 2001 and added BC Assessment as a founding partner in 2003. This organization is a partnership of British Columbia's major utilities, provincial government ministries, crown corporations and local governments. ICIS was established specifically for the purpose of developing, maintaining and sharing a province-wide cadastral fabric and other related data sets for the use of the Society's members.

The partnership between ICIS and BC Assessment is not only fulfilling BC Assessment's map requirements, it is enabling audit and analysis of a very large and ever-changing database. In addition to the elimination of paper maps, they no longer have to manage individual data sharing agreements. The responsibility for acquiring and manipulating spatial data from the various municipalities is now centralized with ICIS. BC Assessment also had the added benefit of having

access to the data provided by other partners of ICIS, such as BC Hydro, Telus, Terasen Gas and Shaw.

Making all of this work like a well-oiled machine is the next challenge. ICIS continues to work towards their objective of having 100% of the province committed to data sharing agreements. Currently, they have achieved an impressive 95%, and negotiations are in progress with

those local governments who have not yet committed. ICIS is also committed to obtaining scheduled delivery of all data sets from local governments and regional districts so that all data is within 3 months of currency.



*Identifying change through a footprint review shows that, in this case, the footprint does not match the building.*



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“Collaboration among spatial data holders across the province is becoming the common standard in British Columbia,” states Kim Boyd, GIS Business Analyst with BC Assessment. “This is a requirement going forward. The next step for continued relevancy is to ensure updated data is continuously being made available. This is the vision for the new standard of data sharing.”

“The continued development and growth of solutions like those provided by ICIS are essential to the strategic direction of BC Assessment,” says Connie Fair, Chief Executive Officer of BC Assessment. “We need to keep pace with the incredible growth in our province. BC Assessment is adding the equivalent of a city the size of Prince George to the assessment rolls annually.”

BC Assessment has an impressive track record of managing productivity. In 1974, they employed over 800 staff and managed 800,000 parcels. Today, BC Assessment’s permanent employees number just over 600 managing 1.8 million parcels.

In the future, the appraisers will work from their desks with almost all data coming to them. As part of the data sharing agreement, the resulting BC Assessment layer will be available through ICIS to other partners in the ICIS family. Connie Fair states, “We’re not doing anything new. There are a number of counties in the US using similar tactics but no one is doing it to this scale. In the US, assessment happens at the county level. These are typically much smaller regions.

Knitting together the separate GIS maps from the various regional districts in British Columbia and creating a single integrated map for the entire province with the boundaries of all of the parcels lining up is a huge undertaking.”

BC Assessment sees opportunities for even more data to be shared in the future. Eventually, they’d like to have access to zoning data. As well, they’d like to reach out for data maintained

at a federal level, like soil capability mapping. An additional objective for the future is to be able to share data with the consumer through maps. ICIS is critical to these and other objectives.

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very costly to create a province-wide digital map, it makes sense for local governments, the provincial government, crown corporations and utilities to work together to create the digital map through a collaborative partnership like ICIS,” says Connie Fair.



*The assessor’s desktop of the future integrates all data requirements.*

**Learn more about ICIS and BC Assessment:**

[www.icsociety.ca](http://www.icsociety.ca)

[www.bcassessment.bc.ca](http://www.bcassessment.bc.ca)

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