GeoBC is the provincial agency responsible for business solutions built from geographic information.

Our key deliverables are the digital maps, images and information as well as professional geospatial services and expert advice that are critical to the success of many partners.

We work with diverse stakeholders in every sector throughout the Province including government partners at every level, NGOs, private industry and citizens. We ensure quality geographic information is part of every sound decision.

Throughout British Columbia, business, industry, individual citizens and all levels of government rely on relevant and reliable land and resource information to support business decisions. Delineating, describing and analyzing information on those resources is a public responsibility and maintaining baseline mapping information is a prerequisite for sound stewardship.

GeoBC is responsible for undertaking, commissioning, coordinating and setting standards for base mapping and land related information systems in the Province and for related remote sensing and survey control functions.
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Imagery provides not only a sense of the current state of a place but also a view into its past condition. This is critical to measuring impacts to the land from human activities.

GeoBC currently manages a total of 2,250,000 images dating back to the 1930’s which have been captured from both satellites and airplanes. Government agencies, industry and private citizens can access digital versions of any of these images which provides visual context about how the province has developed and changed over the last 80 years.
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Government manages Crown land and resources on behalf of the citizens of British Columbia. Information management and data integrity is paramount in facilitating the analysis required to create an accurate profile of the land base.

Tools and products that clearly and intuitively portray this information, combined with business area knowledge, supports sound integrated land use or value based decision making and risk mitigation.
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Over 90% of British Columbia’s land area is owned by the Crown and the responsible management of our natural resources is a key role for government.

Being able to find balance amongst stakeholders with diverse interests in the land base is critical to a sustainable and responsible use of the land. Key to responsible management is reliable inventory, land use, wild life and resource maps. This allows groups to be aware of risks, the implications of human development on values and to better understand the impacts of our actions on the land.
GeoBC is the BC provincial agency responsible for creating a common set of base mapping products for broad use by governments and industry but also develops custom maps and models to help with unique questions.

Almost everything that British Columbians care about can be tied to a physical place. In urban areas, this is typically defined by a standard address, and in wilderness areas through the use of a standard geographic coordinate. This concept of a single unique place for everything is fundamental to what GeoBC does.

GeoBC works with diverse partners which includes government agencies, non-profit organizations and private industry across a broad suite of professional and scientific disciplines. This allows us to bring information together from disparate sources to create custom mapping products and information solutions for our clients and partners.

GeoBC’s role extends beyond the long-standing tradition of mapping and analysis within the natural resource sector. There are several emerging areas with an interest in visualizing and contextualizing information through a geographic lens. GeoBC is well-positioned to support these priorities by working with a broad range of agencies involved in the planning and decision making process.

One example of an emerging priority is the growing importance of monitoring, modelling and managing carbon emissions at the parcel, neighbourhood and community levels. This panel provides some samples of how this information can be visualized in order to bring new context to the municipalities, citizens and governments involved.
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Many organizations in the social sector, including health authorities, social agencies and educational institutions have found that being able to visualize aspects of their business on a map provides a unique tool in addressing social issues.

It provides a visual context used to highlight relationships between the public and the services available to British Columbians. This type of analysis may also be used to assist with identifying needs for BC’s citizens, help develop social policy, and to facilitate the sharing of spatial information.
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The British Columbia government interacts with First Nations on a wide spectrum of topics from social issues and economic development to consultation and treaty negotiations. GeoBC provides custom mapping and analysis to help support these government to government interactions.

There are more than 50 First Nations currently in the treaty negotiation process with BC and Canada. GeoBC provides analysis, advice, and mapping support for these negotiations.

GeoBC provides decision makers with analysis about potential impacts to First Nations and works with First Nations organizations on projects of mutual benefit.
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Sound investment depends on having the right information at the right time to make decisions and GeoBC is able to visually depict the distribution and impacts of development proposals in order to help the decision making process.

Spatially visualizing economic development plans, allows for a more complete assessment of projects with a more holistic consideration of the costs and benefits to the province. This not only facilitates better informed decision making but also provides an intuitive visual tool for communication of plans to stakeholders.
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In the event of an emergency, the edge that the emergency management teams need is to have good information both for the people managing the response effort and for the first responders.

GeoBC is often asked by emergency management professionals to produce maps describing existing and changing situations, as well as modelling and predicting what may happen. The ability to model information allows us to predict what may happen in different scenarios.