

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear GIS Community and their Managers,

In 2008, with participation of all departments using GIS, OCIO undertook a comprehensive review of how GIS is used by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The study showed that departments, who are responsible for creating and maintaining spatial data with their own staff, clearly required a mechanism to share much of this data and improve decision making. To meet this need, the OCIO developed and released the Map Resource Center as a resource to all government employees for finding, using and learning about maps and spatial data produced by the government.

The Map Resource Center facilitates the sharing of spatial data by various government departments. It is a read-only resource that can be relied upon for consistent access of spatial data that is relevant to an audience outside of the department where it originated. For example, maps defining the Province's highways and related assets, such as guide rails and culverts, may be relevant to people outside the Department of Transportation and Works who are responsible for the dataset's creation and maintenance. To ensure temporal and spatial accuracy of the Map Resource Center, maps are automatically updated to reflect regular changes on the ground or those made through a department's standard business flow.

The Map Resource Center's content is made available through web services that are accessible to all government desktop GIS users. Government staff not familiar with GIS may also use its contents through an easy to use mapping application that works within their internet browser. All Map Resource Center's contents is rigorously documented, giving its users the ability to search its holdings and learn more about a map layer's appropriate use, contact information and general characteristics. As spatial data is presented for sharing by departments, the site's contents will evolve and expand.

This online application (<http://emaps.gov.nl.ca/mapResourceCenter>) was made available for general use on September 1, 2009. Feedback is welcome by e-mailing the Map Resource Center's administration at [mrc\\_admin@gov.nl.ca](mailto:mrc_admin@gov.nl.ca).

If you believe your departmental staff would be interested in an informational presentation on the Map Resource Center, please contact Corey Tucker at [coreytucker@gov.nl.ca](mailto:coreytucker@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,



**Colin Tibbo**  
Executive Director  
Application Development