

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Canadian universities and technical institutes have adapted to more complex needs and advancing technologies to ensure a steady flow of qualified graduates entering the geomatics professions. More and more, surveyors and mappers are becoming information gatherers and managers, working with planners, geographers, engineers and computer scientists in multi-disciplinary teams. Education and training in Canada address the need for a solid team approach to preparing future professionals.

For example, technical institutions such as the College of Geographic Sciences in Nova Scotia, Sir Sandford Fleming College in Ontario, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and the British Columbia Institute of Technology provide one- and two-year programs to teach digital mapping skills, GIS programming, specialized applications and the broader science of geomatics.

Canada's universities and colleges include more than 80 institutions of higher education: 61 are English-language, 16 are French-language and 5 are bilingual. Four universities offer degree programs in surveying engineering or the equivalent: Université Laval, University of New Brunswick, University of Toronto at Erindale College and the University of Calgary. These surveying engineering programs have helped drive the development and acceptance of new technologies through research in global positioning systems, geomatics and land information management.

The quality of Canadian consulting engineers in every specialty is known around the world through 40 years of work in more than 100 countries. Professional engineers trained in Canada meet and often exceed the highest international standards.

In addition to formal educational programs, many private-sector groups and educational institutions offer specialized and, in some cases, tailor-made short courses. Particular expertise has been developed in meeting the needs of overseas users. In any given year, hundreds of people from outside Canada take advantage of Canadian educational opportunities in surveys, mapping, remote sensing and GIS.

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