

panding local and global demand for land resources and increasingly complex environmental issues, there will be greater need for earth science information.

Canada is experiencing a rapid evolution and convergence of information and communication technologies. This, coupled with the expanding capability of satellites to transform how humans view and measure the earth and locate themselves, is having a major impact on how earth sciences information is acquired and delivered. The number of individuals and organizations requiring information generated by earth sciences is expected to increase in the future. This is due, in part, to better access to information via the Internet and a shift toward governance where citizens and communities play a stronger role.

Using a multidisciplinary partnership approach, Canada is working to improve the understanding of Canada's land mass required for sustainable development, to enhance the access to integrated earth sciences and other geospatial information, and to facilitate land use decision making through the provision of technologies. A major challenge is to ensure that the scientific and technical capacity in governments, universities, and the private sector expands to keep pace with the growing demand.