

Fact Sheet

Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange – “A MUNICIPAL PERSPECTIVE”

1) What is the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange?

The Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) is a central component of the Ontario Government's Land Information Infrastructure. The OGDE provides for the centralized sharing of spatial data within Ontario's broader public sector through a standard agreement, directory and distribution facility. Responsibility for implementation and management of the OGDE has been assigned to Land Information Ontario (LIO).

OGDE membership is from all levels of government with a mandate in Ontario (the Federal Government, Ontario Government and municipalities). Membership is also available to First Nations and aboriginal communities as well as broader public sector entities such as conservation authorities, and post-secondary educational institutions. There are now more than 115 member organizations in the OGDE.

2) How is the OGDE Initiative Funded?

Various Ministries of the Ontario Government have agreed to pay an annual levy in support of the Ontario Land Information Infrastructure initiative, which includes the OGDE. In consideration of this levy, membership is provided to Ontario Government ministries and agencies.

However, most other government organizations will only pay an annual fee based on their annual budget to help recover hardware, software and support costs. There is no charge for the data itself.

3) What are the Guiding Principles to Share Data?

The expectation is that all geospatial datasets belonging to a member organization would be shared unless there is a legal, legislated or privacy reason not to do so. Members may specify restrictions on access by other members to their sensitive or classified data.

As a condition of participation, members are required to compile standardized metadata which describes their data sets in the Ontario Land Information Directory (OLID) or an approved equivalent. This process makes the data discoverable on the Internet. While members may elect to retain the responsibility of distributing their own data, a central data warehouse facility, designated as the Ontario Land Information Warehouse (OLIW), has been established to facilitate standardized access by members.

Data which members borrow may only be used for internal or non-commercial purposes and cannot be redistributed. Any external or commercial use, or redistribution of borrowed data, will require a separate licence agreement and royalty fees may be incurred.

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4) What are the Benefits of the OGDE to Municipalities?

Public Sector data sharing facilitated by OGDE will:

- Eliminate traditional case-based data-sharing agreements
- Reduce legal and administration overhead
- Reduce data distribution costs
- Simplify and improve access to member data
- Reduce the potential for duplicate data collection and maintenance
- Raise the awareness among members of the data which is available through the Metadata catalogue
- Support the development and adoption of spatial data and metadata standards
- Allow members to fully benefit from the efficiencies and economic opportunities which geographic information systems can introduce
- Enhance the national, and international reputation of Ontario's public sector
- Help establish a world class capability in geospatial data-sharing
- Provide base data for the development of smart communities and value added applications

5) What are the obligations to Municipalities of membership in the OGDE?

a) Annual Fee: There are two membership options for municipalities.

Option 1: Where no GIS collaboration exists between Upper and Lower tier, Municipalities with annual budgets of less than \$100 million shall pay a \$1,000 annual membership fee and municipalities with annual budgets of more than \$100 million, shall pay a \$3,000 annual membership fee.

Option 2: Where GIS collaboration exists between Upper Tier and Lower Tier Municipalities they can further reduce membership cost under the following conditions:

- Lead organization co-ordinates communications;
- Lead organization co-ordinates data delivery & support;
- All participating organizations must sign OGDE agreement;
- Subsequent data deliveries would be permitted via subscription and or publication for data maintenance if the business case supported the decision and was approved by the OGDE administrator;
- Membership fee payment is the responsibility of the lead organization calculated at total cost of \$3000 per year (combined total budget of collaborating members over \$100 million) or (\$1000 per year if under \$100 million);
- Request must be in writing and approved by Exchange Administrator.

b) Other obligations:

- The transfer of data to the Ontario Land Information Warehouse or the provision of alternate access to geospatial data and packaged products that municipalities wish to share with other OGDE members;
- Cataloging and providing access to Municipal metadata. Within 12 months of joining the Exchange, Members should ensure the metadata of their holdings is accurate, up-to date and complete.

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6) What are the Potential Cost Savings?

- **Data Distribution** - LIO pays all costs associated with the storage and distribution of members' (general and restricted) geospatial data and packaged products in the data warehouse. As well, Municipalities are encouraged to use the warehouse at its “sole discretion” to distribute their data to their strategic partners outside the OGDE.
- **Data Reporting** - LIO will provide members with reports on who accessed their data through the Ontario Land Information Warehouse;
- **Data Discovery “Metadata”** - LIO will provide a free metadata application. LIO will be responsible for all cost associated with supporting, maintenance of Metadata application, and implementation of new metadata standards. LIO provides members with professional technical support and assistance to promote, create and maintain metadata records;
- **Data Security** - LIO provides for and maintains security systems which meet the Ontario Government IT Security Standards for its Internet facing servers. Members can be assured that no one will access their geospatial data or packaged products unless they are authorized to do so;
- **Support Desk** - LIO provides a support desk function on behalf of members for all public and member inquiries for Geospatial data and packaged products stored in the Warehouse;
- **Policy Support** – Experienced LIO staff will assist members to set-up new Data Exchanges between the member and their strategic partner to leverage the LIO infrastructure to distribute their geospatial data to participating members of the new data exchange;
- **Data Maintenance** - Where a Member updates and/or makes corrections to data, members are provided notice of the updates and/or corrections instantly by email via LIDS (subscription);
- **Data Purchase** - Existing members have an opportunity via the Governing Board and LIO to collaborate in cost sharing of new data i.e. Ortho and Satellite Imagery;
- **Ontario Parcel** - OGDE Municipal members receive free access to Ontario Parcel data via the LIO Warehouse;
- **Base Data for Commercial Use** – OGDE members have access to MNR's base data for commercial use royalty free. The usual administration fee of \$100 is waived for all “licensed” OGDE members.
- **Communication** - OGDE members will receive timely OGDE newsletters and technical bulletins. Members also have access to technical reports and information on LIO website through a members' login to eRoom.

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7) What are the benefits of Metadata to Municipalities?

Metadata allows municipalities and other GIS practitioners to discover data holdings, obtain knowledge on technical aspects of data (coverage, accuracy, currency, projection) for decision making and useful contact information to obtain the data set. Land Information Ontario provides members with a Metadata application, free metadata storage and discovery.

8) What are the Liabilities of the OGDE to Municipalities?

- There is no liability from providing data through the OGDE.
- Subject to any approval under International, Federal, Provincial or Municipal law, each member of the OGDE will release and hold harmless the other parties, against any claims, demands, losses and damages arising from or attributable to the provisions of or use of the Data.
- In no event will the OGDE or any of its Members be liable or responsible for any loss of profits, revenue or earnings, claims by third parties, or for any economic, indirect, special, incidental, consequential or exemplary damage resulting from any errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the Data.

For More Information Contact:

The Data Exchange Administrator
Support Line: (705) 755-1878
info-access@webmail.mnr.gov.on.ca

To find out more about Land Information Ontario or the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange go to our web site at: <http://www.lio.gov.on.ca>