



## PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS - May 20, 2010

### [Why Open Data is Not Enough](#)

[Presented by Kevin Jardine, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Citizens' Services](#)

All over the world agencies and jurisdictions are exposing their data and information for free on the Internet? Why? What are the challenges and opportunities associated with open data and how do we work together to create value for citizens, businesses and governments alike?

### [Leveraging Open Data to Engage Citizens, Enhance Public Services and Decision Making](#)

[Presented by Alex Miller, President, ESRI Canada Ltd](#)

Alex Miller, President of ESRI Canada, will discuss the importance of open data as a way to engage citizens. He'll discuss the potential of using it to reach out to citizens to increase their participation in planning and decision making, including the challenges and opportunities for participatory decision-making in local e-government. As well, he'll cite ways that open GIS services can be used to enhance public services and decision making, and how Web GIS platforms will enable ordinary citizens to voluntarily create, assemble and disseminate geographic information.

### [Open Data and Open Applications - Open Possibilities](#)

[Presented by Mark Gayler, Technology Strategist, Western Public Sector, Microsoft Canada](#)

Open Government transformation is driving the requirement for more government data to be shared with the public in an open fashion. Many of the open datasets available are GIS-based as location and mapping information provide valuable insight for trending and relevance. This presentation will discuss the typical characteristics of open data initiatives and will explore some of the latest applications and technologies enabling this innovative trend.

Mark is a Technology Strategist for Microsoft Canada based in Vancouver. His role is to advise Government organizations how to optimize their use of Microsoft technology in open and heterogeneous environments, with a particular focus on open systems and Open Government.

Mark's presentation will discuss the rise of open data initiatives in Government and will look at some of the applications and technologies that are enabling Government organizations to take advantage of this innovation trend.

### [Open Data @ The City of Vancouver](#)

[Presented by Jonathan Mark, GIS Manager, Information Technology, City of Vancouver](#)

On May 21, 2009, Vancouver City Council passed an important motion stating that the City would support open data, open standards, and open source software as well as related activities. This motion, now called the Open3 motion, set the stage for a major change in the way the City approaches the dissemination of data to the public. In particular, the motion called for the City to share "the greatest amount of data possible while respecting privacy and security concerns".

This presentation will focus on the following:

- The Open3 motion itself--what it says, what it doesn't say, and why Council passed it
- Open Data--the City's approach, early rationale, and focus of activities
- Demonstration of the City's Open Data web site
- Open Standards--the City's early thinking
- Open Source software--the City early thinking.

### Leveraging Open Data

Presented by Barry Logan, Executive Director, ICIS (Integrated Cadastral Information Society)

Leveraging open data offers both an opportunity and a challenge. The presentation offers insight into the drivers that are fuelling the phenomenon of the availability of geospatial open data. The factors supporting opportunity are economic, cultural, business and technical. The challenge is around the apparent loss of control. From there, the talk progresses to how an organization like ICIS can leverage the use of available open data and then add enough value to warrant the sustainability of a collaborative model.

### BIEAP/FREMP Atlas - Sharing Data of the Commons

Presented by Rob Knight, Director, Community Mapping Network

The Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program (BIEAP) and the Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) are inter-governmental partnerships established to coordinate the environmental management of two significant aquatic ecosystems in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia - Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River Estuary. BIEAP and FREMP function through Memoranda of Understanding. Since 1996, the two partnership programs have been jointly administered from an office in Burnaby. Land use proposals and decisions are informed and supported by a web mapping service of data layers for shoreline zoning, ground verified intertidal & riparian habitat inventory, habitat compensation sites, and shoreline videos. This provides a baseline inventory for basin wide state of environment reporting and for monitoring habitat damage and compensation.

The BIEAP/FREMP Habitat Atlas is a valuable tool for local governments to consider in their land use planning related to shoreline and intertidal areas within and outside of their jurisdiction.

### Open Data Access, from the Public's Perspective

Presented by Stephen Bohus, 3D Software Developer, Parallel World Labs

The presenter recently created a 3D computer model of the West End using the City of Vancouver's Open Data Catalogue.

The presentation will discuss the available data types, formats, accuracy, and comments will be made on the suitability and organization of this data for the tasks at hand.

The author will also comment on the question "is Open Data truly 'Open' to all of the public, or to only knowledgeable professionals in the public?"

### [VanTrash – A case study in building a service using Open Data](#)

[Presented by Luke Closs, Co-Creator of VanTrash.ca](#)

In this talk Luke Closs will discuss the collaborative process that created VanTrash, one of the first concrete examples of a service built using Open Data. He will conclude with some lessons and some questions moving forward.

### [Open Source, Open Data in Commercial Real Estate](#)

[Presented by Naz Ali, National Mapping Specialist, CB Richards Ellis](#)

Naz will discuss how open data initiatives, esp. by the City of Vancouver, have enhanced her mapping projects. She has used the information available on City of Vancouver's Open Data Catalogue to help with a recent Downtown Vancouver project. Currently, along with a BCIT intern student, Naz is working with an open source software package called MapGuide to develop an online mapping application for the brokers.

### [Data for Community Engagement: Research on Apps for Climate Change and the Green Communities Act](#)

[Presented by Karen Fung, Master's Candidate in Urban Planning](#)

This presentation will describe a research agenda and project in-progress exploring the Apps for Climate Action contest as a catalyst for collaborations between planners, municipal civil servants, private sector and individual citizens on the Green Communities Act. The project will focus on small and medium-sized municipalities sharing common concerns and needs that citizen-driven web applications can fill in multiple geographic contexts. Through collaboration with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development, this project will locate areas of common need, and explore assets and obstacles for citizens and government actors for open data projects going forward.

### [Open3 Motion](#)

[Presented by Darrin Fast, Systems Analyst, City of Vancouver](#)

Though the short-term response to the Open3 motion focused on open data, the City of Vancouver (COV) is tasked to provide a deeper understanding of what that motion will involve for the COV going forward. It is essential that the COV's approach to Open data and also OSS and Open Standards is business driven. For open data this requires the COV to identify key datasets and functionality that would deliver real value back to the citizenry and other constituents while at the same time ensuring that the program can be sustained long-term in a cost effective manner. Actions going forward must be carried out in an efficient way while ensuring key business, technology and legal considerations are addressed within a consistent framework.

The presentation will focus on the following:

- A brief discussion on OSS and Open Standards and what is required for the COV to embrace these principles going forward
- Emphasis on Open Data and key considerations and challenges moving forward and what we've learned so far
- What the COV hopes to achieve in the short and long term