



## PlanMapper: [www.planmapper.ca](http://www.planmapper.ca)

# Users can search land-use plans on-line

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The beta version of PlanMapper has been completed and it couldn't have come at a better time. Over the past decade, millions of dollars and countless hours of volunteer time have been invested in producing land-use plans across British Columbia. Many plans are now complete and approved, but they are complex and lengthy, making them difficult to

use as a source for researching site-specific interests. Furthermore, some plans are being amended and updated, and now, First Nations are ramping up to do their land-use planning. The Province is also starting an ambitious program to make land-use information more accessible through on-line applications such as MapPlace BC. "PlanMapper is one application we have taken on as a partnership project, thereby supporting government's goals as well as supporting resource sectors, communities, and managers," said **Al Gorley**, President of the McGregor Model Forest Association.

An individual or organization needing to know which land-use objectives affect their area of interest is faced with the daunting task of searching thousands of pages across multiple plans. Built from the University of Northern British Columbia's (UNBC) Flexible Internet Spatial Template (FIST) platform, PlanMapper is a new on-line tool that links each land-use objective to its related spatial area. "This means that when you draw your 'area of interest' on the map and press the search button, a report will be created in seconds that will tell you which land-use objectives relate specifically to the area you described," said **Dave Leman**, Noratek's



During the 2007 Northern BC Business & Technology Award Ceremony, the Collaborative Research Award was presented to Dave Leman, Scott Emmons, Dan Adamson, and Steve Findlay, who were all nominated by Lorne MacGregor.

Elizabeth Anderson photo

PlanMapper Project Co-ordinator. An area of interest might be a proposed mineral claim, a cutblock, a proposed agricultural lease, or a pipeline corridor—essentially anything that can be described spatially.

During the 2007 Northern BC Business & Technology Award Ceremony, the Collaborative Research

... continued on page 2

## Inside

Central Interior Ecoregion: Conservation assessment underway .....	3
Diversity marks supported projects .....	5
Examining mature Interior Douglas-fir single tree retention .....	5
TASS-TIPSY advance growth and yield modelling in British Columbia .....	7
SISCO 2006 Field Tour: Harvesting and site preparation choices .....	9
Assessing habitat quality for management of marbled murrelets .....	10
Getting forest workers home safely .....	12
Forum highlights science, technology .....	12
EvaluTree™: Analyzing your fibre resource .....	13
Interactions among fire, mountain pine beetle, and forest management .....	14
AGM and conference announce achievement of non-profit status .....	16
Government-community partnership celebrates wetland construction .....	18
Upcoming Events .....	20



# PlanMapper innovation's awarded

... continued from page 1

*"PlanMapper is an important tool because it will help my members easily sift through all the land-use planning material so they know where they can go to work."*

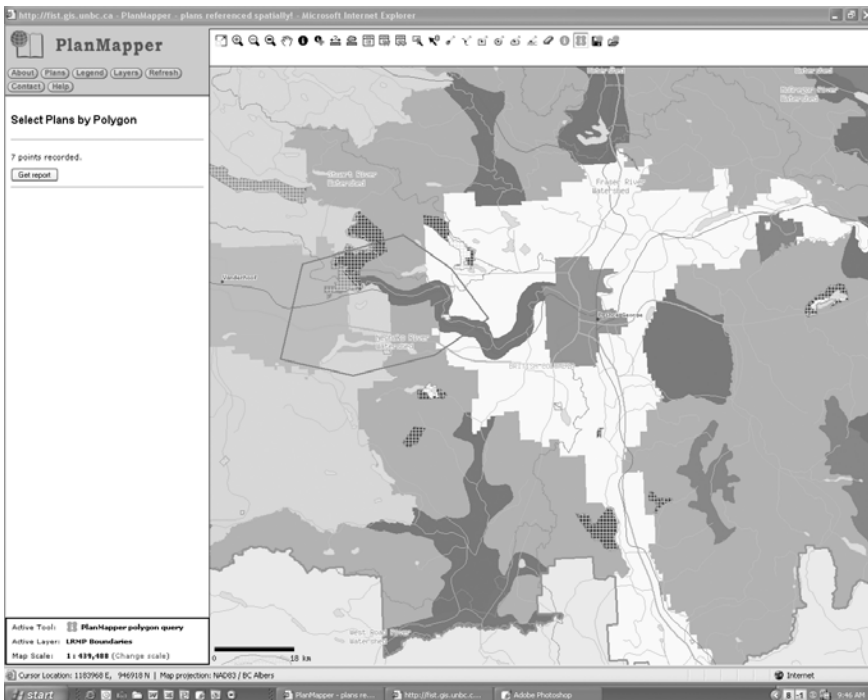
—Dan Jepsen RPF,  
CEO & President,  
Association of Mineral  
Exploration BC

Award was presented to **Dan Adamson** from the McGregor Model Forest Association, **Scott Emmons** from UNBC, and **Steve Findlay** from Noratek Solutions Inc. for their work on PlanMapper. **Dave Leman**, Project Co-ordinator, was also acknowledged with the award, which was sponsored by UNBC to celebrate a UNBC–Industry collaboration that fosters economic diversification and innovation.

"This award recognizes a project which is an exciting and very promising collaboration among UNBC, local innovative organizations, the provincial government, and the mineral exploration sector," commented **Max Blouw**, Vice-President of Research at UNBC.

PlanMapper is designed for broad, open, and free use in situations such as the following:

- Making decisions about allocating or tenuring Crown resources or lands
- Exploring for minerals or oil and gas, and needing to understand planning direction
- Developing strategies for diversifying or growing community economies
- Managing specific aspects of Crown lands and resources
- Developing and monitoring land-use plans
- Researching specific Crown land interests
- Needing to understand the varied land-use interests that make up communities
- Developing plans for forestry, wildlife and fire management, or other resources
- Undertaking applied and academic research on land-use and resources management



When users draw any shape on the on-line map of BC, PlanMapper will generate a colour-coded map and a report of all the land-use direction for the area described.

## Compatible with other tools

PlanMapper allows searches both within and between land-use plans, and serves as a source for non-legal information. This is complementary to, but different from, the Province's Integrated Land & Resource Registry (<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/ilrr/ILRR.htm>), which provides compatible information on legal interests and tenures. PlanMapper will also provide links to other important resource information such as mineral data from GeoScienceBC through MapPlaceBC. In this way, PlanMapper will serve as a useful "hub" of related and current information on other sites.

## Next steps

As a beta version, PlanMapper is now being demonstrated, tested, and refined across the area covered by the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC). Work with the provincial government is underway to look at ways that PlanMapper can use Web-based data linkages to make PlanMapper more useable, particularly with land-use plans that rely on a lot of spatial data. New plan layers are being added as they become available, and the area covered is being expanded to include planning information across BC. Several technical changes are also in progress that will improve the database, the Web page tools, and the loading of plans into the database. 🌲

For more information, please visit <http://www.planmapper.ca> or <http://www.mcgregor.bc.ca/mmf/397/planmapper>

## Partners

Partners that make this project possible include:

- McGregor Model Forest Association
- University of Northern BC, DataShare
- Noratek Solutions Inc.
- Omineca Beetle Action Coalition
- GeoscienceBC
- Province of BC, Integrated Land Management Bureau
- GeoConnections Canada
- Association of Mineral Exploration BC
- Integrated Resource Management Partnership
- Muskwa-Kechika Management Area