

Aboriginal Lands

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RELEASES HISTORY

Date	Description
2015-08-31	Updating links
2015-02-10	Adding direct FTP link to download the data.
2014-09-01	Original edition

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What is GeoBase?

GeoBase is a federal, provincial and territorial government initiative that is overseen by the [Canadian Council on Geomatics](#) (CCOG). It is undertaken to ensure the provision of, and access to, a common, up-to-date and maintained base of quality geospatial data for all of Canada. Through the GeoBase portal, users with an interest in the field of geomatics have access to quality geospatial information at no cost and with unrestricted use. [More on GeoBase initiative.](#)

Description

The Aboriginal Lands product consists of polygon entities that depict the administrative boundaries (extent) of lands where the title has been vested in specific Aboriginal Groups of Canada or lands which were set aside for their exclusive benefit. More specifically it includes the following lands:

Indian Reserves

Lands that include:

- Surrendered lands or a reserve, as defined in the Indian Act. This definition excludes Indian Settlements and Indian Communities.
- Sechelt lands, as defined in the Sechelt Indian Band Self-Government Act, chapter 27 of the Statutes of Canada, 1986.

Land Claim Settlement Lands

Lands created under Comprehensive Land Claims Process that do not or will not have Indian Reserve status under the Indian Act. They include:

- Category IA land or Category IA-N land, as defined in the Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act, chapter 18 of the Statutes of Canada, 1984. Category 1B and category II Lands are excluded from this definition.
- Settlement land, as defined in the Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act, and lands in which an interest is transferred or recognized under section 21 of that Act. Only Yukon First Nations Settlement Lands, which were surveyed and the survey plan recorded, are included in the dataset.
- Inuit Owned Lands (IOL) as defined in the Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada given effect and declared valid by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act. It includes all parcels that have been surveyed and those that do not require a survey (this includes the islands). Survey plans may not all be recorded in the CLSR at this time.
- Gwich'in Lands as defined in the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, given effect and declared valid by the Gwich'in Land Claim Settlement Act.
- Inuvialuit Lands as defined in the Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act.
- Sahtu Lands as defined in The Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement given effect and declared valid by the Sahtu Dene and Métis Land Claim Settlement Act. All parcels are included but not all survey plans are recorded in the CLSR at this time.
- Tlicho lands, as defined in the Tlicho Agreement, given effect and declared valid by the Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Act.

Indian Lands

Lands that include:

- Lands in the Kanesatake Mohawk interim land base, as defined in the Kanesatake Interim Land Base Governance Act, other than the lands known as Doncaster Reserve No. 17.

The Aboriginal Lands are created and maintained on a monthly basis by the Surveyor General Branch (SGB). Polygon entities are generated from the cadastral land parcels which form part of the Canada Lands Survey System and updated as new survey plans are recorded in the Canada Lands Survey Records (CLSR).

The purpose of this product is to provide a national coverage and promote the use of a common geometric representation for Aboriginal Lands in Canada. This data set is not to be used for defining boundaries. Administrative decisions should be based on legal documents and legal survey plans.

Download the **Aboriginal Lands Fact Sheet** [[pdf](#) 1.17 MB]

Documentation

Aboriginal Lands Data Product

- Aboriginal Lands, **Data Product Specifications**, Edition 1.1 [[pdf](#) 156 KB]
- Aboriginal Lands, **Conceptual Data Model**, Edition 1.0.1 [[pdf](#) 37 KB]
- Aboriginal Lands, **Feature Catalogue**, Edition 1.1 [[pdf](#) 88 KB]
- Aboriginal Lands, **Product Distribution Formats**, Edition 1.1.1 [[pdf](#) 89 KB]

National Vector Data

- National Vector Data, **Identification Rules**, Edition 2.0 [[pdf](#) 63 KB]
- National Vector Data, **Change Management**, Edition 3.0 [[pdf](#) 92 KB]

Metadata

Metadata are provided with each dataset. Among other, the validity date and the planimetric accuracy are shown in this file.

Use and Restrictions

Use of the GeoBase data is subject to the [Open Government Licence – Canada](#).

Data Formats

Aboriginal Lands datafiles are available in GML (Geography Markup Language), ESRI Shapefile and KML (Keyhole Markup Language) formats.

Editing or Viewing Free Software

It is possible to see data using free software, see the question 'How can I open a raster or vector dataset if I do not have a GIS software?' in the GeoGratis [FAQ](#) section.

Alignment of the Aboriginal Lands

In most cases, users will find that the alignment between boundaries of Aboriginal Lands and other GeoBase features such as the National Hydrographic Network (NHN) and the National Road Network (NRN) fits well and falls within the accuracy of the data.

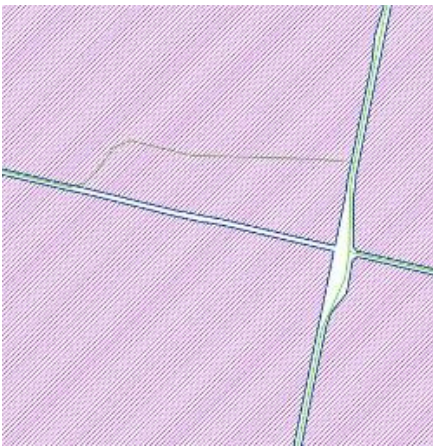


Example of proper alignment between limits of Aboriginal Lands and NHN data.

However in some cases, users will notice misalignments between boundaries of Aboriginal Lands and other features (e.g. river edge, road segment, etc.). These misalignments may be the result of various circumstances. Misalignment issues should always be verified with appropriate authorities and confirmed using legal documents and official survey plans. A hyperlink, which allows access to more detailed information, is provided with each Aboriginal Lands (See webReference descriptive attribute). The misalignment should never be assumed to be the simple result of inaccuracies in the data.

Road allowance

In the example below, the road allowance is excluded from the Aboriginal Lands and does not coincide with the NRN road segment. The parcel framework information shows that the road segment follows a road allowance which forms part of the Aboriginal Lands.



Example where road allowance is excluded from the Aboriginal Lands and does not coincide with the NRN road segment.



Previous example with parcel information as background.

Flooded lands

This case occurs when the Aboriginal Lands were granted before the dams, controlling the water levels, were built. In such cases, parts of the Aboriginal Land become flooded as shown in the example below. The parcel framework information shows that the parcel fabric follows the current water level but also that portions of the Aboriginal Lands are covered by water.



Example where a portion of land are flooded.



Example where a portion of land are flooded, but the limits correspond to the parcel informations.

Shore allowance

In some cases, a shore allowance is reserved and excluded from the Aboriginal Lands to allow for changing the water level to produce hydro-electricity. The example below shows a strip of land between the boundary of the Aboriginal Lands and the shore of the lake.



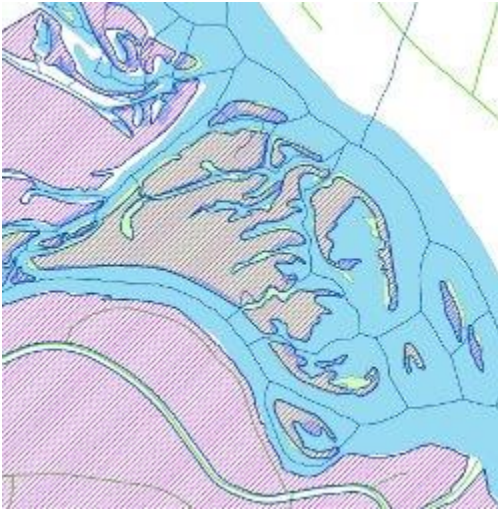
Example where a shore allowance is reserved and excluded from the Aboriginal Lands.



Extract from survey plan CLSR 80168 clearly shows the shore allowance excluded from the Aboriginal Lands.

Erosion (natural and imperceptible or sudden)

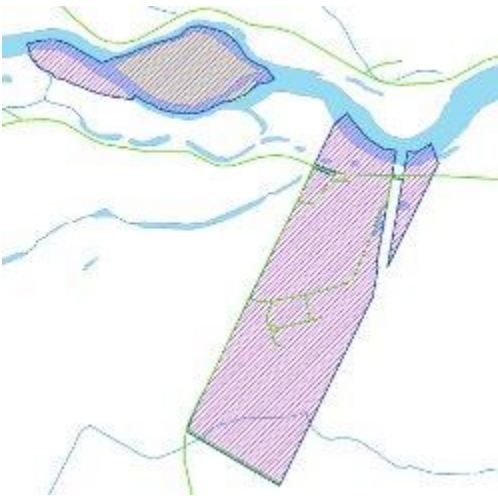
Erosion, whether it is sudden or natural and imperceptible, may, over time, affect the limits of Aboriginal Lands. Differences appear when comparing data collected at various periods (i.e. the Aboriginal Land limits and NHN shore lines). Both representations are good but only a new survey will confirm if the two are coincident or not.



Example where the limit of Aboriginal Lands and the river shorelines do not match.

Bed of water body granted

In some cases, the Aboriginal Lands include portions of water bodies. This case is different than the case of flooded lands described in the above example. These lands were always covered by water and it is the bed of the water body that was granted and forms part of the Aboriginal Lands.

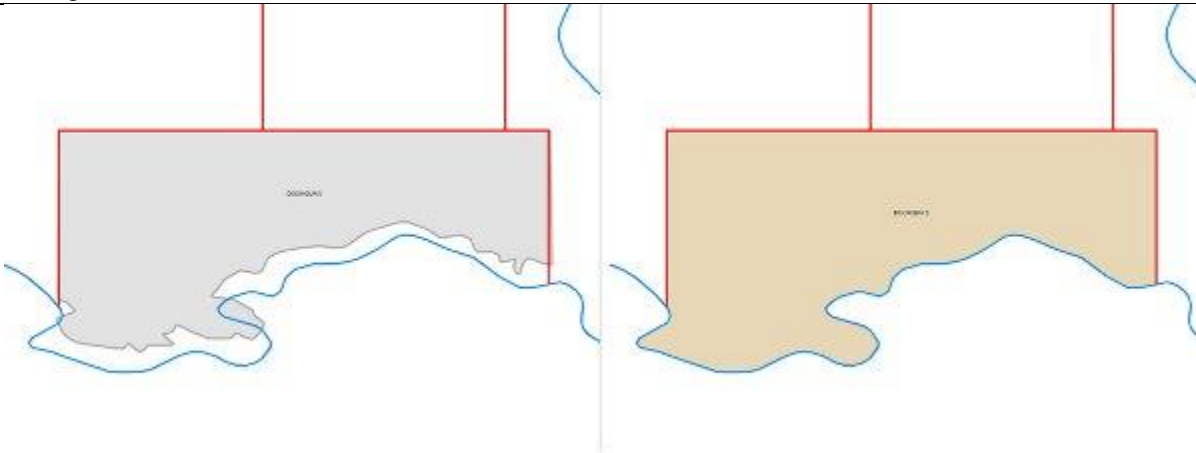


Example where the bed of the water body was granted and forms part of the Aboriginal Lands.

Enlarged view of the previous example.

Inaccurate alignment

From time to time, the limits of Aboriginal Lands are inaccurately placed as a result of insufficient positioning information. As new more accurate information becomes available, some themes get improved while other data themes do not benefit from the same improvement. Any issue related to Aboriginal Lands alignment problems should be reported using the [report a data observation](#) section.



Example of incorrect alignment of the limits of Aboriginal Lands.

Report a Data Observation

In order to improve the quality of Aboriginal Lands product, an Observation reporting process has been implemented. An Observation on data or metadata that do not meet the product's standards and specifications will be treated as a Data Discrepancy. Any additional comments are also welcome.

You have any suggestions or comments regarding the Aboriginal Lands product, please send it at: geoinfo@NRCan.gc.ca.

The Data Provider agency involved in the production of the Aboriginal Lands product wish to thank you in advance for your contribution in improvement of Aboriginal Lands product.

Feedback and Responses Disclaimer

Any comment or material sent to the Data Provider, including but not limited to, feedback, data, questions, comments, suggestions and any other response shall be deemed to be non-confidential and free of any intellectual property restrictions. The Data Provider shall have no obligation of any kind to respond to the sender, and the Data Provider shall be free to use, modify, enhance, reproduce, redistribute and publicly display on any medium, in whole or in part, the Observation reports for any purpose whatsoever and without restrictions.

Download datasets available

14 datasets available

In the [GeoGratis](#) search tool, insert, if you know, the location in the "Geographic Location" section, insert in the "Subject Keywords" section "aboriginal land", click on "Data (vector, tabular, etc.)", and finally click on 'Search'. You can reduce the number of products found by zooming on the map in the area of interest and click on the "Redo Search with Map Extent" option available under the map. You can also go directly to the list of datasets in the [Aboriginal Lands](#) GeoGratis API. Direct FTP link: [Aboriginal Lands](#). For more information about the GeoGratis Search tool, see the question '[How do I conduct a search in the GeoGratis tool?](#)' in the GeoGratis FAQ.

Contact us

For answers to technical questions, please consult the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section. In addition, the content of metadata files delivered with digital data can provide answers to most of your questions.

If you do not find answers to your questions or to submit your comments, suggestions and ideas about **GeoGratis**. Please contact us using one of the methods below:

- **By email at:** geoinfo@nrcan.gc.ca

- **By telephone: +01-819-564-4857 / 1-800-661-2638 (Canada and USA)**

Service Standards

The service standards are guidelines intended to ensure a uniform service to our customers. Service must be fast, reliable and of quality. The service is examined and improved regularly, based on customers' feedback.

We are committed to:

- Answer to users during business hours: from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (Eastern Time).
- Respond to inquiries within 2 working days. When applicable, follow up on request within the period agreed with the user.
- Insure the availability of our website 90% of the time on a monthly basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.