

# **Canadian Geographical Names**

**2015-08-31**

**Natural Resources Canada  
Earth and Sciences Sector  
Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation**

## **GeoGratis Client Services**

Telephone: +01-819-564-4857

1-800-661-2638 (Canada and USA)

Fax: +01-819-564-5698

E-mail: [geoginfo@NRCan.gc.ca](mailto:geoginfo@NRCan.gc.ca)

URL : [www.GeoGratis.gc.ca](http://www.GeoGratis.gc.ca)

**Canada**

## Copyright notice

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, Department of Natural Resources.  
All rights reserved.

**RELEASES HISTORY**

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

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**WHAT IS GEOBASE?..... 1**

**DESCRIPTION..... 1**

**DOCUMENTATION ..... 1**

**METADATA ..... 1**

**USE AND RESTRICTIONS ..... 1**

**DATA FORMATS ..... 1**

**EDITING OR VIEWING FREE SOFTWARE ..... 1**

**DOWNLOAD DATASETS AVAILABLE ..... 2**

**VIEW ..... 2**

**CONTACT US..... 2**

**SERVICE STANDARDS..... 2**

## 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 GeoBase, 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 Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB) is the data bank of Canada's geographical names, maintained by the Geographical Names Section, part of Natural Resources Canada. Its purpose is to store names and their attributes that have been approved by the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) and to make these authoritative records available for government and public use.

The CGNDB data which is served up, consists of current officially approved names, and is referred to as the Canadian Geographical Names (CGN) dataset. Additional attributes for this dataset as well as information on formerly approved names are available from the [Canadian Geographical Names Data Base](#)(CGNDB).

The geographic extent of this data is the Canadian landmass and water bodies. The temporal extent of the data is from 1897 to present. The purpose of the CGN data set is to provide official names for mapping and charting, gazetteer production, and World Wide Web reference, and other georeferenced digital systems.

If you are trying to locate a specific name or place, we suggest that you visit the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base website.

Download the [Canadian Geographical Name Fact Sheet](#) [[pdf](#) 22.57 MB]

## Documentation

For more details on Canadian Geographical Names standards and specifications, see [Canadian Geographical Names, Product Specifications](#) [[pdf](#) 136 KB] and [Canadian Geographical Names Service \(CGNS\) Data Model and Data Dictionary](#) [[pdf](#) 70 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

Geographical Names datafiles are available in GML (Geography Markup Language), ESRI Shapefile and KML (Keyhole Markup Language) formats as well as Text files.

## 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.

## Download datasets available

1,051 datasets available

In the [GeoGratis](#) search tool, insert, if you know, the location in the "Geographic Location" section, insert in the "Subject Keywords" section "canadian geographical names", 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 [Canadian Geographical Names](#) GeoGratis API. Direct FTP link: [Canadian Geographical Names](#). 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.

## View

Navigate through [Toporama](#) tool to create your own views of the data.

---

## 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:** [geoginfo@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:geoginfo@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.