



INTEGRATED
CADASTRAL
INFORMATION
SOCIETY



The Customer Solutions Delivery (CSD) group at TELUS has an enormous responsibility. They are charged with designing, building and maintaining all of TELUS' physical plant and infrastructure to support their diverse business and consumer products and services from basic dial tone, high speed internet, TELUS TV and wireless networks that enable communication across BC and around the world.

Planning Manager, Bill Hain and a team of over 100 engineers and technicians working both in the field and at offices throughout the province are charged with, among other things, planning the placement of telephone poles and underground cabling. TELUS needs to determine the placement of other utilities in order to avoid interfering with their infrastructure.

This originally involved maintaining data sharing agreements with various levels of government including municipalities, regional districts, the province and government departments like the Ministry of Highways. Engineering technicians relied on paper records, map books and site visits to local governments in order to search and find the required information.

TELUS was also sharing all public information with anyone who submitted a request. They received multiple requests daily. A team of twelve had the task of fulfilling information requests through a paper-based system.

ICIS was incorporated as a non-profit society in 2001 with TELUS as a founding partner. ICIS is a partnership of British Columbia's major utilities, provincial government ministries, crown corporations and local governments. The Society was established specifically for the purpose of developing, maintaining and sharing a province-wide cadastral fabric and other related data sets for the use of the Society's members.

TELUS was using digital data and managing a number of data sharing agreements as far back as 1985. When TELUS became a founding partner of ICIS their

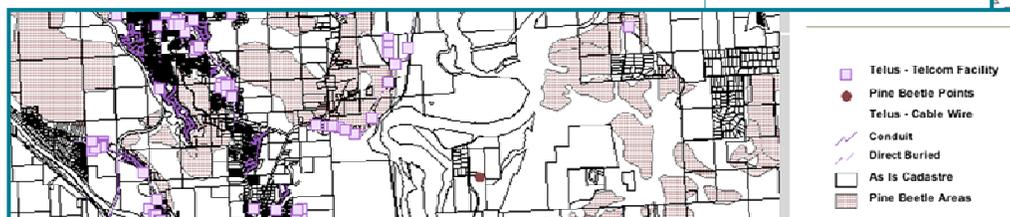
objective was to implement easier, more cost effective ways to share cadastral data. TELUS wanted to facilitate access to land-based legal descriptions and other utility data.

The partnership with ICIS now brings cadastral data to the desks of TELUS engineers and technicians. "ICIS data is easy to access and easy to use," says Bill Hain, Planning Manager of Customer Solutions Delivery for TELUS. "We've now been able to provide ICIS access to over 300 TELUS users through a mirrored site via our internal network." Access for TELUS employees through their internal network improves productivity and means that ICIS isn't required to administer the hundreds of user accounts that would be required. This has also brought cadastral data to the desktops of others departments in TELUS who make use of this kind of information like TELUS Mobility and rights of way. Data is used to determine land title and BC Assessment information, identify construction and research areas of alleged trespass.

The recent and on-going mountain pine beetle problem in British Columbia provides a great example of how access to the ICIS database was able to demonstrate a huge financial benefit. One of the challenges created by this province-wide blight is the number of dead and unstable trees that pose a significant hazard to TELUS copper and fiber networks.

With six service outages in the last two years that resulted in the disconnection of 3,000 TELUS customers and the destruction of equipment valued at \$120K, the CSD group at TELUS embarked on a proactive harvest of trees impacted by the mountain pine beetle infestation in order to ensure customer connectivity and reliability.

TELUS hired certified arborists to inspect trees along the 800 kilometers of TELUS aerial pole lines in Northern BC. The ob-





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jective was to identify dead trees of all species within one tree length of the pole line. In order to remove the trees that were identified as hazards, TELUS had to first identify the land owners with included crown, private and First Nations' land holdings. They then had to negotiate with various forest districts for cut permits.

To help identify areas of risk, TELUS used ICIS Pine Beetle Mapping Data. PID (parcel identifier) Info was also obtained through ICIS in order to identify land-owners and obtain land owner permission for removing trees that were identified as hazardous.

The Mountain Pine Beetle project is now in the third year of its estimated

3-5 year duration. So far, the project objective of protecting facilities and ensuring network reliability is being accomplished. To-date, there have been no injuries or damage to TELUS facilities due to the logging operations. TELUS is proud that they have been able to employ environmentally friendly

logging methods and have left a minimal footprint in the forests of northern British Columbia.

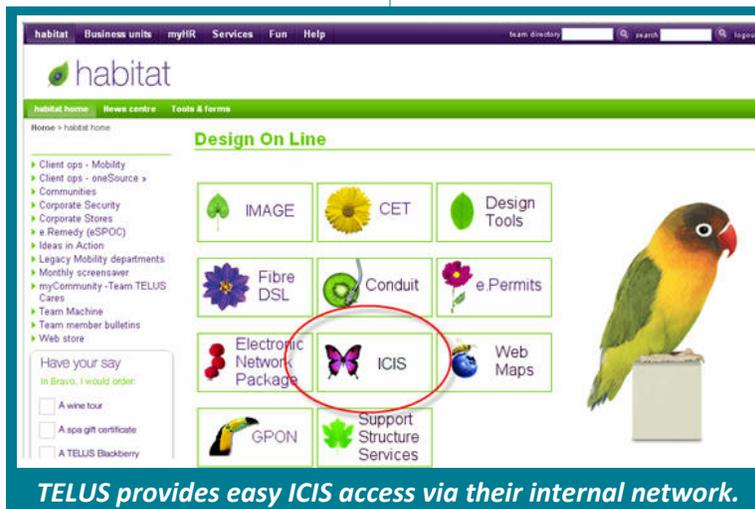
At TELUS, the future is friendly. The CSD group is looking forward to the day when the fabric for the province is complete. "Once the fabric for the whole province is available, we will be able to integrate ICIS more completely into our operations. There are synergies to be gained between TELUS and the other utility companies," states Bill Hain. "We're looking forward to future integration with Google Earth and the planned development projects database. I'm confi-

dent that there are possibilities that we haven't even considered at this point.

Dan Shannon, Engineering Manager with TELUS Communications states, "TELUS has implemented much of the integrated cadastre into its corporate GIS system. Thanks to ICIS we are not only able to implement legal land information that comes directly from the source; local governments, but we can access that information in a consistent format as a single product. This is a huge benefit for a utility whose area of operations spans so much of the province. Our participation in ICIS also allows us to supplement that cadastre with essential base mapping products from the BC provin-

cial government's Integrated Land Management Bureau."

He continues, "ICIS is about more than getting information from others. It provides TELUS with an efficient framework for sharing our structure information in a secure and structured environment. The more that each ICIS mem-



ber adopts, uses, and contributes information the more value will be created for all members."

"Perhaps the most significant value that has come from TELUS' involvement with ICIS is the strengthened relations that have come from working together with other society members toward a common vision; one that will make a positive contribution to the social and economic well being of British Columbians."

www.icsociety.ca

www.telus.com

"ICIS delivers tangible value to TELUS through increased efficiency in acquiring and sharing spatial data. At the same time the society has grown into a working model of collaboration between the

Province of BC, Local Governments, and Utilities,"

says Dan Shannon, Engineering Manager, TELUS Communications.