

Laval University – Reinventing Surveying and Geomatics Education in Canada since 1907

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Key words: Cadastre, Cartography, Curricula, Digital cadastre, Education; Engineering survey, Geoinformation/GI, GPS; GSDI, Hydrography, Land management, Photogrammetry, Positioning, Remote sensing

SUMMARY

Created in 1907, the Department of Geomatics Sciences of Laval University has trained hundreds of land surveyors, Geomatics specialists and researchers over the past century. The Department has been a major actor in the development of the Geomatics sector in Canada, in the French-Speaking areas and more specifically in the Province of Québec. Originally founded to train the land surveyors in Québec, the Department now offers a wide variety of programmes covering all the aspects of the geospatial – also called Geomatics - Sciences, including cadastral studies, Land Administration and Surveying, Geodesy and Satellite Positioning, GIS, Web Mapping and GeoInformatics, Imagery including Remote Sensing and Digital Photogrammetry, Cartography and Hydrography, Geospatial Data Quality and Integration, etc.

The curricula have been renewed in 2006, 20 years after Laval University implemented the first undergraduate Geomatics programme in the world. The development of the geospatial sciences and technologies, the evolution of the society's needs and perceptions regarding geospatial information and the needs for different educational approaches (eg. distance learning) certainly justified important changes in the curricula. The Department had the opportunity to answer to those needs and changes by recruiting 10 new faculty members in the last 5 years, regrouping now 20 professors, experts of the various disciplines of the Geospatial Sciences. The aim of this communication is to present the origin, objectives and content of the new curricula offered in the field of geospatial sciences at Laval University: 2 bachelor's and 2 master's degrees and a Ph.D programme, short curricula and web-based courses. Having made important moves recently, we believe that the Department of Geomatics Sciences is now ready to celebrate its hundredth anniversary in 2007 and is in a good position to be a leader in education and research in the next decades.

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