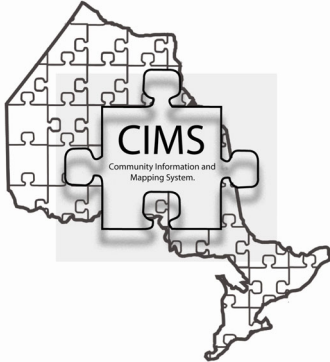


The Community Information and Mapping System (CIMS)

www.cims-scic.ca



The Community Information and Mapping System is a membership-based collaborative and sustainable infrastructure to support voluntary sector groups and community members to do local community based research on population health themes. It is a unique model in multi-agency co-operative research development, web mapping and information sharing. It is designed for urban and rural groups with limited resources to contribute what they can and to receive in return a range of supports and tools for doing their own community based research, planning and evaluation.

Three Core Elements

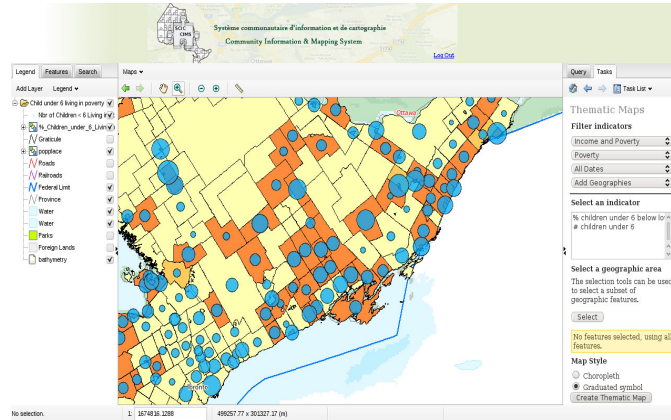
- **Supports and Training for Community Based Research and Mapping**
 - On-line training sessions on doing research and using the mapping and data tools
 - Monthly peer learning forums on research skills and research literacy
 - One-on-one support such as consultation on design of a survey, getting access to data, working with your own data
 - Opportunities to connect with others interested in or working on similar issues
 - Access to research resources such as evaluation plans developed by other CIMS members

- **An Interactive Web Based Mapping and Data Portal**
 - CIMS is not a data portal, but includes basic information on the non-medical determinants of health for rural and urban Ontario
 - Select the themes and geographic boundaries that matter to you
 - Bring your own data into the system with complete security (e.g. client records) and combine it with the information provided within the system
 - Use community data to explain local population health issues
 - Share data and maps with designated “others” as you choose
 - Create high quality maps to publish in your own work

- **The Membership and Their Projects**
 - Members pay an annual membership fee to access the supports within the infrastructure. This creates long-term sustainability.
 - Organizations who cannot afford the membership fee contribute in-kind
 - Members are encouraged to develop thematic collections of maps on issues that matter to them and to share their research and tools with other members
 - Provides opportunities and incentives for partnership development, especially to leverage additional data of relevance to members.

Data Within the CIMS

The CIMS is not so much about the data which is provided centrally, but more about what the members contribute to the collective. The mapping portal allows members to select the specific information of interest to them, and to view this information at the geographic level which is significant to them (down to the level of census sub-division, census tract or “forward sortation area” as available).



The CIMS provides or enables several sources and types of population health information.

a) Information available to all users:

- a modest amount of “foundational” data related to the non-medical determinants of health and community characteristics, available at the geographic level of census tract for urban areas (roughly 3,000 people) and of census sub-division for non-urban areas (roughly equivalent to a township or a small town).
- data available through data access initiatives such as the Canadian Geospatial Data Initiative. For example, this includes some environmental data and some data on community characteristics such as the location of community services.

This data has been selected to be of significant utility in rural areas, with respect to content, geographic level of data (census sub-division) and concepts.

This information will be continuously expanded through members of the CIMS collaborating to negotiate access to, or create datasets which are relevant for core users.

b) Information available only to the individual member or to a designated groups

- members can add their own data, and in a secure environment, combine it with the information available above. Such information could include client data or custom Statistics Canada data which the member had purchased.
- Members wishing to add their own data which is based on street addresses will need the assistance of the CIMS staff to prepare the data for uploading. The SPCO would sign a confidentiality agreement with the member, and would prepare up to 4,000 addresses per year as part of the annual membership.

This output would be available only to the member and specific users whom the member specified were authorized (e.g. members of a particular coalition)

We value community access to and use of social data and technologies, and to the extent possible within the business model, will implement this initiative in a manner which utilizes and supports resources and protocols which support an infrastructure of community access (including the Canadian Geospatial Data Initiative, the Canadian Social Data Consortium and data liberation initiatives such as CivicAccess.ca.)

Annual Membership Fees

The membership fees are based on a cost recovery model. Voluntary sector groups and organizations who cannot afford the membership fee (normally those with an annual budget under \$60,000) can become full members by contributing in-kind.

Individual Voluntary Sector Organization	\$2,000
Organizations with annual budget of \$60,000 or less	\$ & / or in-kind - negotiable
Provincial Organization with no more than 15 chapters	\$5,000
Provincial Organization with more than 15 chapters	\$5,000 + in-kind
Collaboratives, Partnerships, etc.	\$5,000 to \$10,000 negotiable based on # of members and financial capacity of members
Municipalities; Government Stakeholders; Quasi-governmental Bodies, Funders	\$10,000

Membership Services

- access to CIMS tools
- definition of one level of custom geography
- preparation of 4,000 addresses per year for uploading to the mapping tool (geocoding)
- 1-day group training and familiarization session
- 5 to 10 hours one-on-one support (depending on type of membership)
- monthly support briefing



Partners and Funders:

The Community Information and Mapping System (CIMS) is a membership based collaborative, with operational costs provided by membership fees.

The CIMS is led by the **Social Planning Council of Ottawa** (http://www.spcottawa.on.ca/z_home_e.asp), with the collaboration of the **Social Planning Network of Ontario** (<http://www.spno.ca/>) and the **Child and Youth Health Network for Eastern Ontario** (http://www.child-youth-health.net/en/child-youth-health/Welcome_p212.html).

We are grateful for the financial support of the following funders for the initial capital investment and for staffing resources for the development and early implementation:



With financial support from GeoConnections, a national program initiative led by Natural Resources Canada. GeoConnections and its program participants are working to enhance the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure, an on-line resource that enables decision-makers to access, combine, and apply geographic information to gain new insights into social, environmental, and economic issues.



We are grateful for the support of The Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario



This project was funded in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

To Join Or To Request Further Information

Contact the CIMS Manager, Vivien Deparday at vdeparday@spcottawa.on.ca 613-236-9300 ext. 304.