



Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional

*Council Technical Services Improve
Communication and Coordination*

➔ **THE CLIENT**

More than 30 years since its inception, the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council (LSLIRC) was born out of the desire to improve economic and social conditions of the First Nation people in the Lesser Slave Lake area. Today, the LSLIRC consists of five First Nations including Driftpile, Kapawe'no, Sawridge, Sucker Creek, and Swan River First Nations.

➔ **THE CHALLENGE**

LSLIRC Tech Services is responsible to the five First Nations so the development of an interactive communication tool would be a valuable asset for their communication initiatives. Tech Services had a great deal of information in their files and wanted to make it readily available to the First Nations. The development of a centralized Internet site would give access to the five First Nations allowing them to log on and obtain up-to-date reports and data as well as maps for planning and communication purposes.

➔ **DESIRED OUTCOME**

LSLIRC and its member First Nations wanted to explore and develop a variety of programs that would improve communication and coordination between the First Nations.

➔ **THE SOLUTION**

LSLIRC Tech Services wanted to create an interactive web GIS (geographical information system) and provide the First Nations with an interactive communication tool. Verne Harrold and Bob Scott, LSLIRC's technical leaders for Tech Services, took the initiative in developing a GIS site that would bestow the First Nations with powerful information not just how things are, but how they will be in the future based on real time changes applied in the field.

Implementing GIS presents a unique set of challenges and requires significant groundwork for data acquisition. GIS uses certain types of data sources or file formats, and Verne had to invest significant time into the development and maintenance of GIS data before the site could be built. Verne enrolled in several of IMAGINiT's GIS courses throughout the years and learned about the latest spatial and 3D technology. "With the help of IMAGINiT, I was able to create the maps and the reports to set the foundation for this site," noted Verne.

➔ **ACTUAL RESULTS**

In the past this data has been relatively difficult to access, Verne use to travel between all the First Nations to communicate; now he can sit in his office and point the Leadership and applicable staff to the site. "The site empowers the First Nations to easily get the maps and information they need instead of calling and requesting it from me. This frees my time for other important projects and is a major cost savings particularly because of the vast distance between the First Nations," stated Verne.

The purpose of this website is to improve the accessibility of this information by making it available on the Internet. The site accumulates the reports and the data providing a central repository for the bands that is easily accessible. "An example of the site's functionality would be obtaining accurate, up-to-date reports on capital plans, asset, environmental assessments, existing infrastructure, and much more. Everyone who has seen the site is very enthusiastic about using it. They see the benefits and the value of having their own log on and password to obtain the most recent maps and reports of their First Nation for planning purposes," noted Verne.

This interactive GIS site sets Tech Services miles ahead of the other First Nations in Canada. This was a major stepping stone in terms of geographical and spatial technology utilization. Verne concluded, "Our Chief Executive Administrator Allen Willier has been extremely supportive and has really made this site possible." The site has been a long time in the making for LSLIRC and is considered a living site that will always be improving. "Our future plans are to continue site development and technical training and continue to maintain a site that will be a proud representation of the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council's Technical Group," confirmed Verne.