

Ethical Principles for the Geomatics Professional Community: A First Edition of a Statement of Values

Presented by

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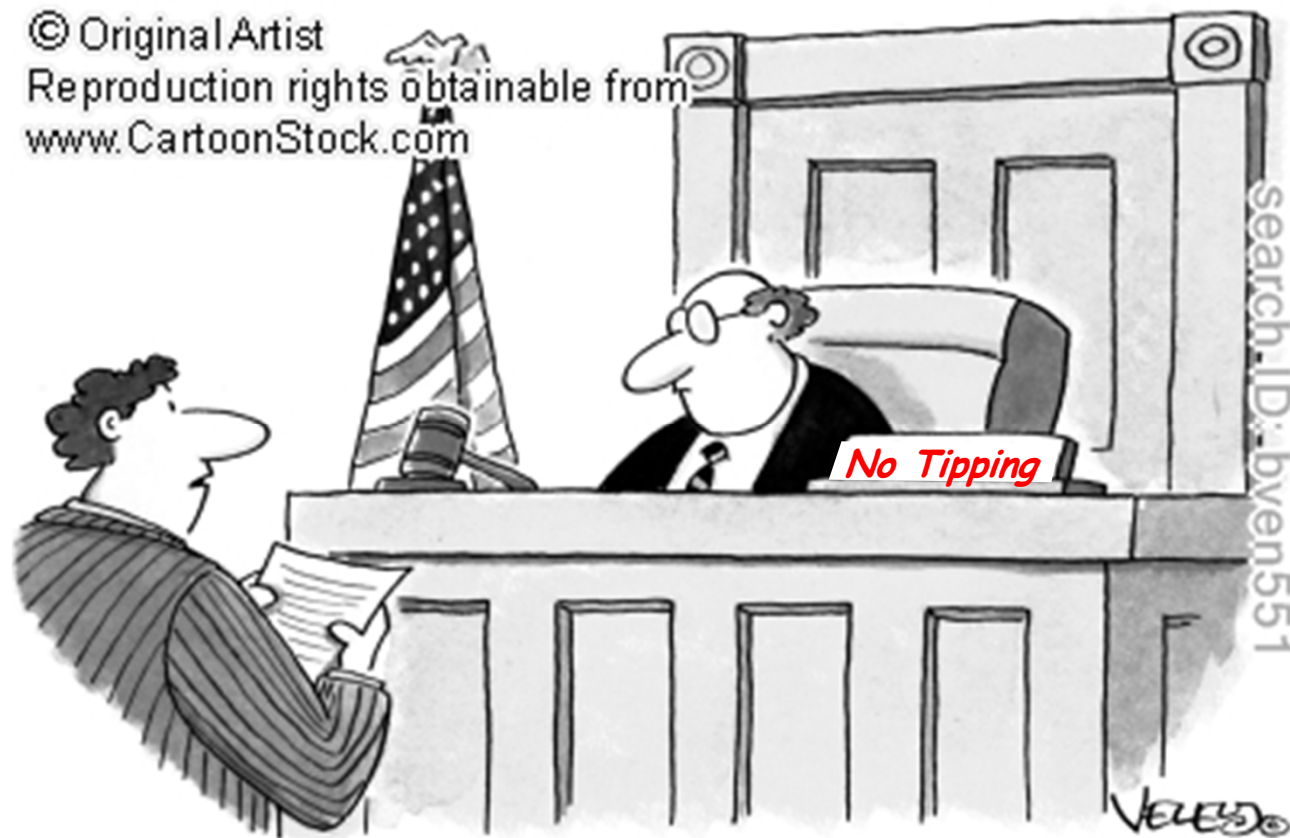


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Why ethical principles?



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Why ethical principles?

- The growing access to digital Geospatial Data (GD)
- The diversity of usages and users of GD (democratization)
- The various levels of “quality” of GD and the potential risk associated to its use
 - Is geospatial data dangerous?
 - Are geospatial data users and producers sufficiently aware of the limits of GD?
 - What is an appropriate usage?
 - What about the privacy when disseminating GD?

The overall “power” of GD in the decision making process



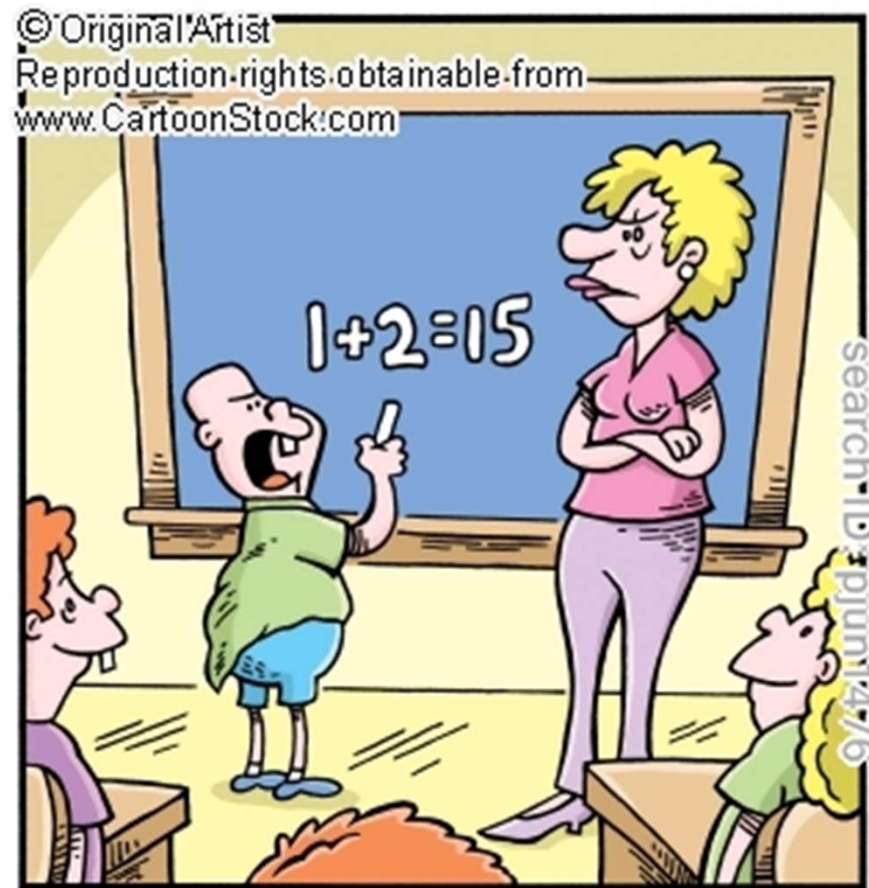
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THE EXAMPLES OF THE USE OF 3D MODELS IN PUBLIC CONSULTATION



What do you mean it's wrong?
In Ethics, we learnt that the truth
is always subjective!!

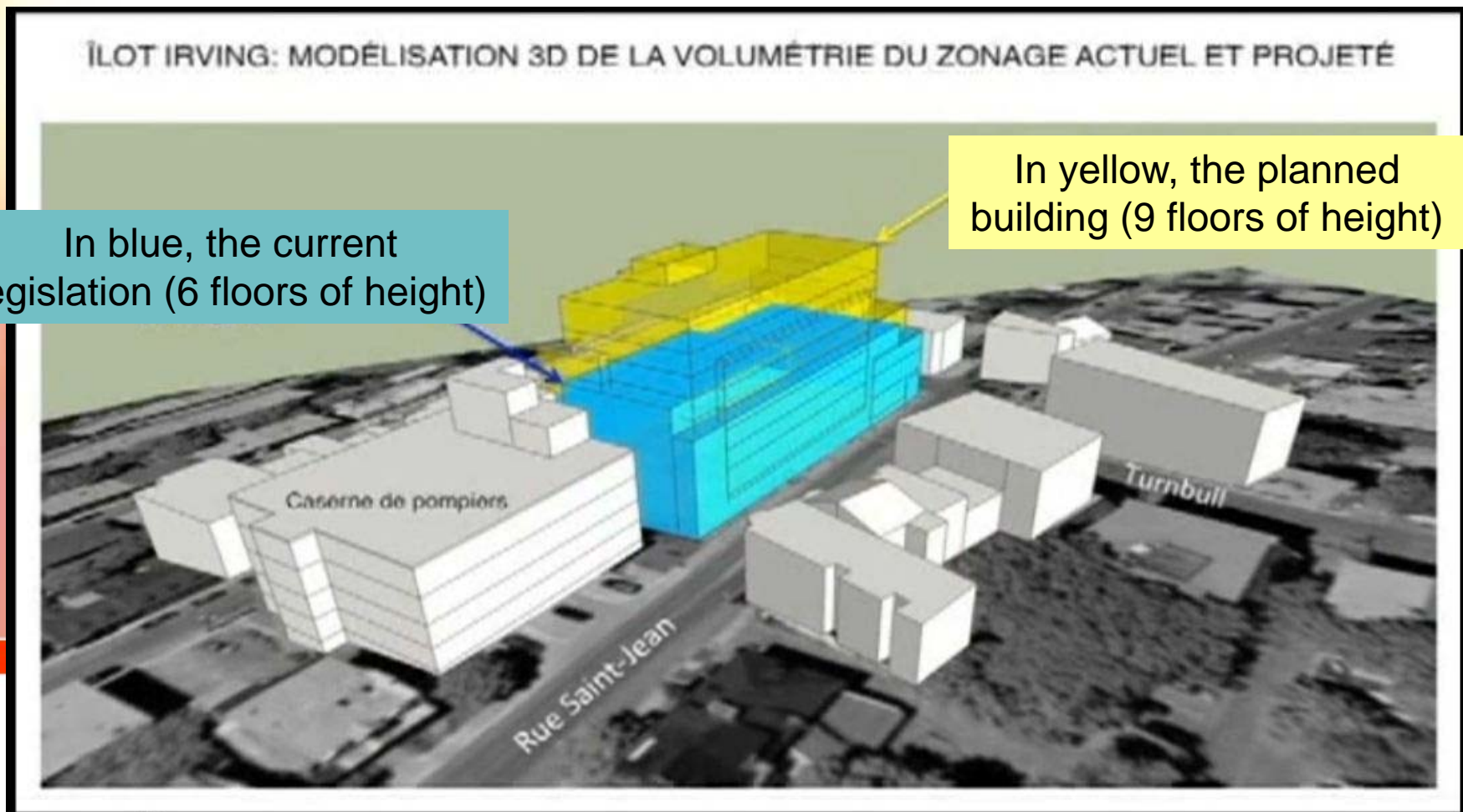


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Ilot Irving, Quebec City, Canada *Spring 11*

- A site for a future implementation of a building



et de géomatique

Pictures are extracted from the newspaper Le Soleil

Ilot Irving, Quebec City, Canada



Fribourg Theatre, Switzerland

- Comparison between the simulated building in 2006 and the constructed building in 2010

3D model presented to public in 2006



The constructed building 2010



Is it only a problem of scale effect, depending on the point of view ??



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www.lematin.ch/actu/suisse/theatre-grandit-vue-341232

Road construction, Montreal, Ca

2010

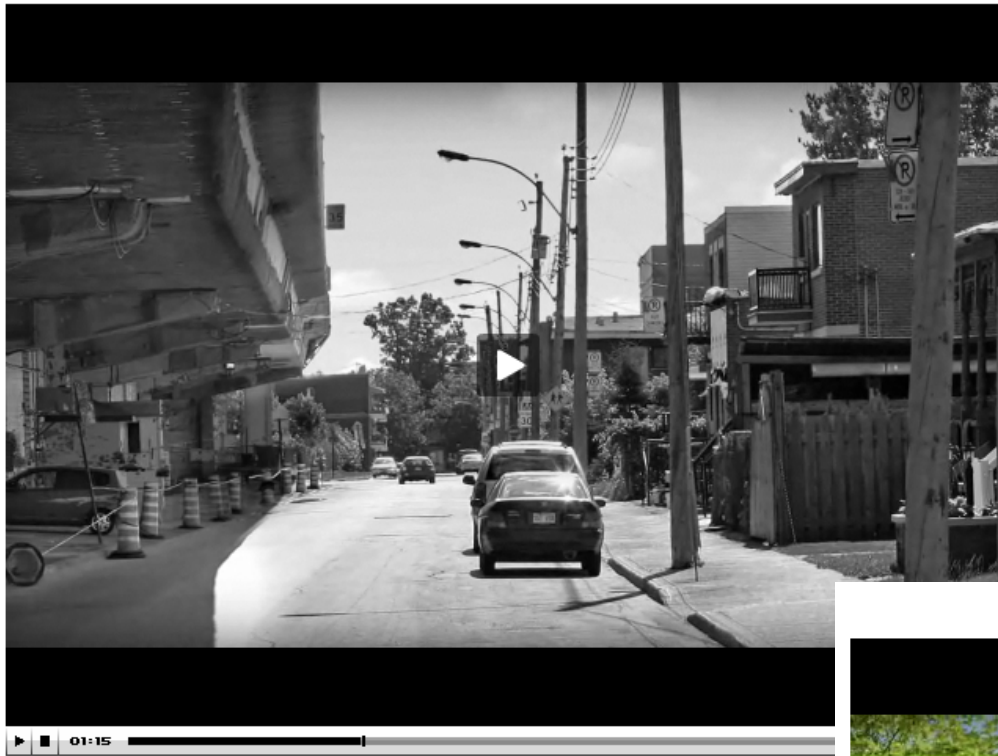


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BEFORE

Extrait de la vidéo promotionnelle du MTQ:
<http://www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca/presentationmodelisee.asp>



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AFTER





These representations
do not only invoke
human cognition but
also emotional
responses ...

PLANNED LANDSCAPE



CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Extrait de la vidéo promotionnelle du MTQ:
[http://www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca/presentationmodeli
see.asp](http://www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca/presentationmodeli see.asp)



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Our proposal

- A Statement of Values
 - Helps the Geomatics community to maintain and enhance the public confidence in geospatial data
 - Fosters/Encourages the responsible use and dissemination of geospatial data
- This talk will:
 - Explain the process undertaken to produce such a statement of values
 - Present the first edition of the statement of values
 - Discuss next steps



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GEOIDE Project IV-23

- Part of a 4-year Canadian GEOIDE project (2008-2012)
 - GEOIDE: GEOMatics for Informed Decisions
www.geoide.ulaval.ca
 - A Canadian Network of Centres of Excellence
- Project IV-23, <http://dataquality.scg.ulaval.ca/>
 - Public Protection and Ethical Geospatial Data Dissemination : Social and Legal aspects
 - Involved Geomatics engineering professionals, geographers and lawyers
 - 8 Canadian researchers, more than 20 students, 12 partners (industries and government)



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sub-project Statement of Values

- Resulting from focus group meetings
- 15 persons involved:
 - from industry, government and academia
 - from various disciplines (geomatics engineering, land surveying, GIS, management, transportation, natural resources, ...)
 - from all ages and genders
- Under the supervision of a specialist in ethics research
 - Institute of Applied Ethics, ULaval
- Under the direction of a senior geomatics specialist from the industry



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Methodology used

- Focus group meetings
 - Free and open discussions (cooperative approach)
 - About any related subjects, informal, no targeted experts (all participants are equal!)
 - Subgroup discussions on specific questions, followed by plenary sessions
 - Some presentations about ethics and examples of risk associated to GD
 - Iterative process to produce the final Statement of Values
- During 2012, 5 meetings of 3-4 hours each



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Meeting #1

- Each participant had to answer few questions before the meeting and share their answers with the group
 - What makes my job worthy?
 - How can we define quality for the work I do?
 - When I produce GD, responsibility mainly concerns who and what?
- Outcomes:
 - Various responses, contexts, lot of heterogeneity
 - Discussion not necessary specific to GD
 - General discussion about ethics
 - ethics, deontology and statement of values



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Ethics, Values or Deontology

– Code or Statement

	For Who?	For What ?	Normativity	Enforcement
Ethics and values Statement	All individuals	Convictions, Principles, Moral Good, Legitimacy of social practices	Quasi-nil	No coercion
Deontology Codes of ethics/conduct/ deontology	Professional body	Dignity of profession Behaviour in accordance with the ethical principles Specialized fields Emergence of issues	Depending upon the degree of institutionalization	From warning to exclusion

Based on Berleur and Bélanger text



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Meeting #2

- Group discussions over 3 questions:
 - Your point of view about risk associated to GD?
 - Do we feel a responsibility to inform users about those risks?
 - If yes, to what degree have you changed your actions to prevent the risk?
- Outcomes:
 - All agreed that we should be aware of the risk and inform our client, we have to protect the public
 - But not everyone agreed about the impacts or the levels of dangerousness and if we are doing this adequately
 - More coherence within the group,
 - More personal involvement,
 - but still no specific information about values and the discussion is not fully specific to GD (but start to converge)



Meeting #3

- Each group has to produce a practical case with ethical concerns
- In plenary, we tried to identify the specificity of GD
- Outcomes:
 - The importance of data democratisation is recognized as important but not yet as a potential source of ethical concerns...
 - We started to talk as a Group (producers/users of GD)
 - The importance to distinguish Personal values AND Values that we should have (social pressure)
 - nobody is against virtue ...



Meeting #4

- Based on an existing code of values (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat), the group tries to formalize a first draft of the Statement of Values
- Outcomes:
 - The democratisation of data seems to be of concern
 - now we seem to have an agreement about the risk for non expert users
 - A first list of values is identified



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Meeting #5 – *Almost the final version...*

Discussion, a Statement of Values for (?)

■ Why?

- Assist in the protection of the customers and the general public
- Produce more suitable GD or services with regards to the expressed needs

■ Who?

- Producers of GD, services or technologies



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Meeting #5 – *Almost the final version...*

- Identification and ranking of the values
 1. Integrity, Honesty, Transparency
 2. Adequately inform, Educate, Training
 3. Imputability, Responsibility
 4. Security, Protection (people+environ.), Diligence
 5. Competence, Professionalism, Rigour, Objectivity, Efficiency
 6. Innovation, Open-mindedness



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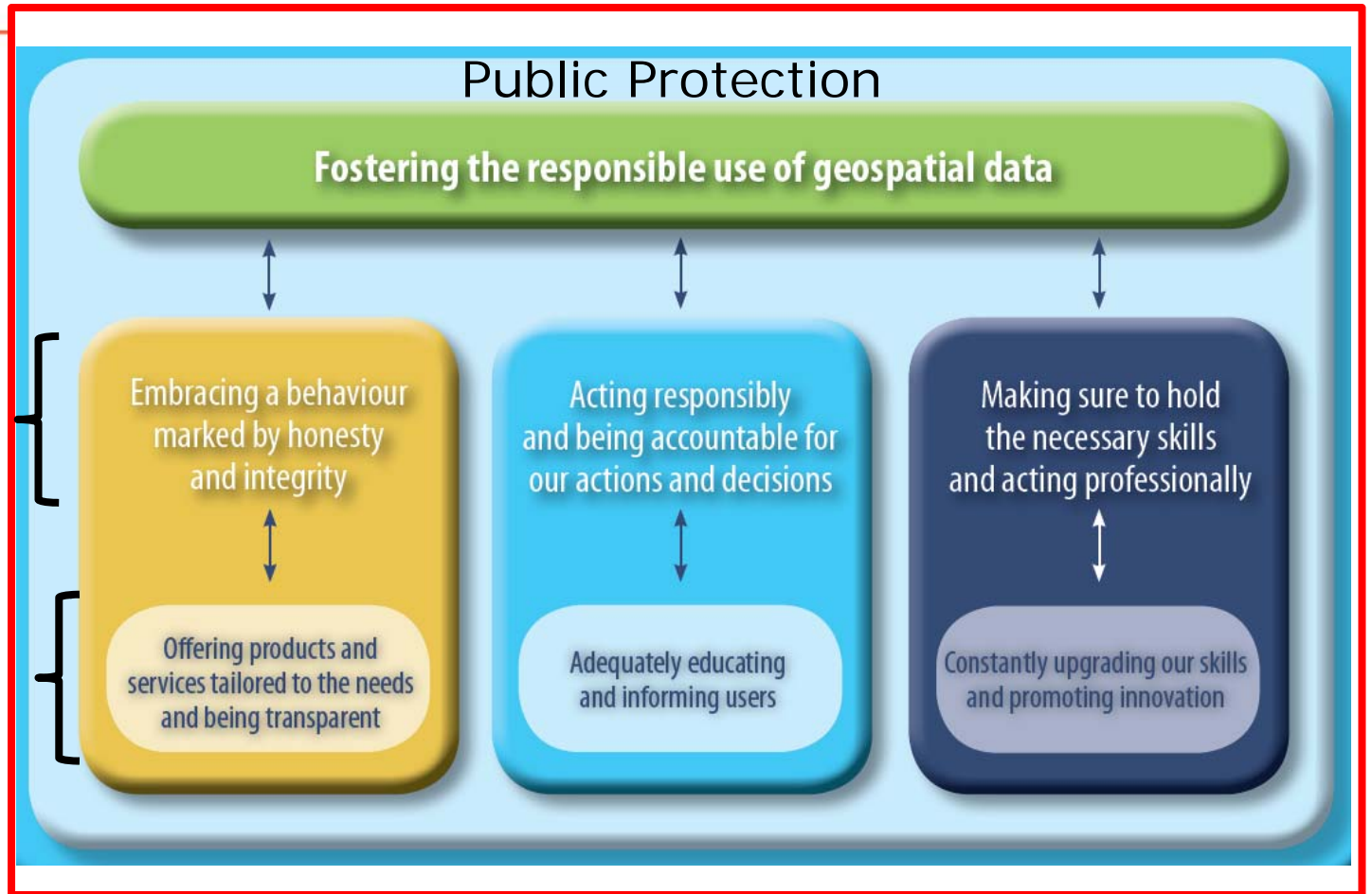
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Statement of Values

Geomatics Canadian professional community



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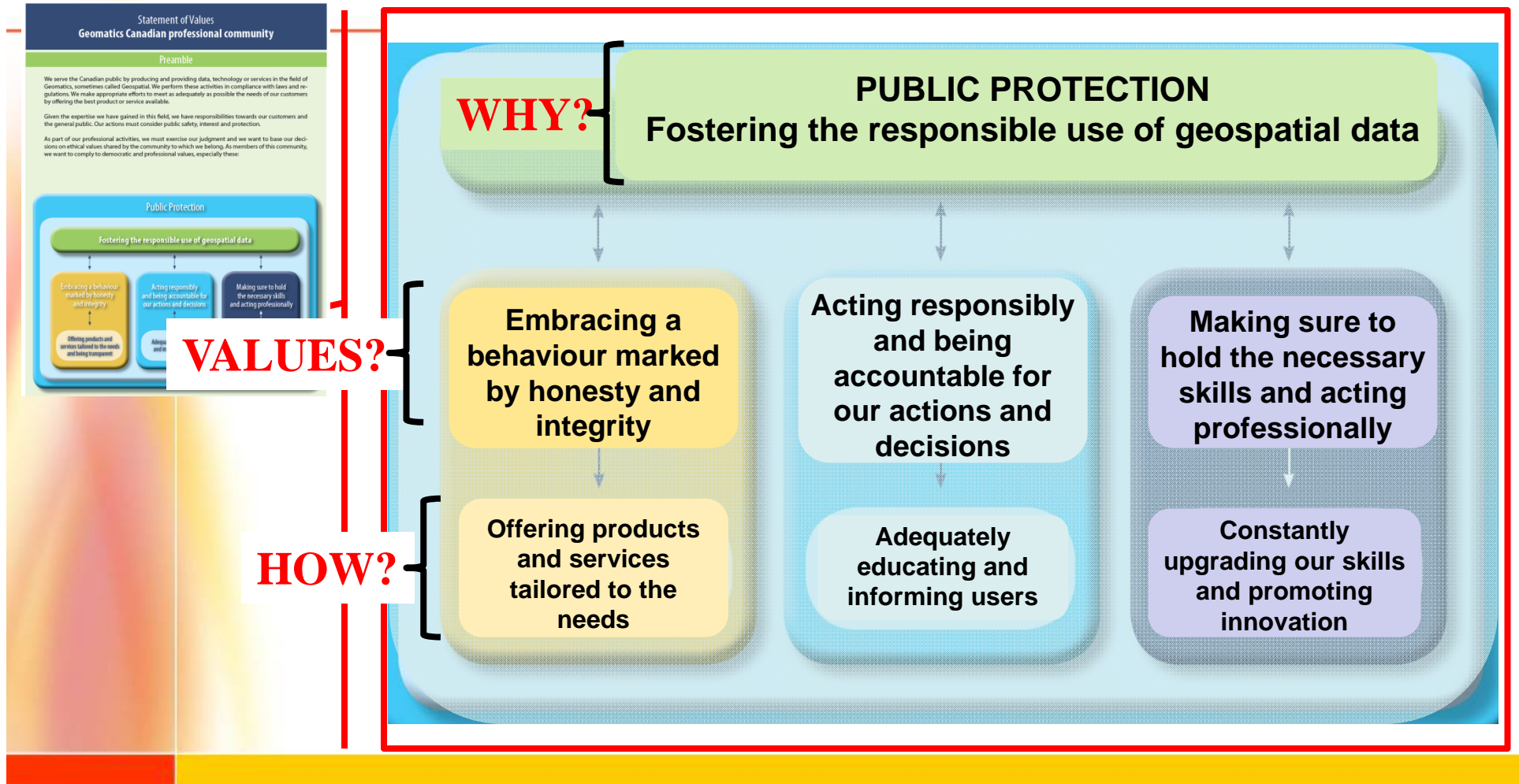
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Statement of Values

WHO? Geomatics Canadian professional community



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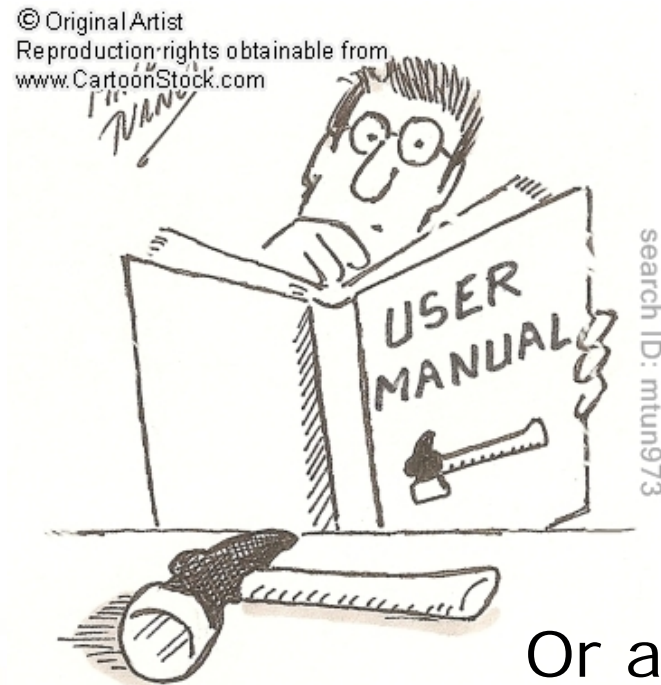
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What's next?

Just a new gadget...??



Or a new state of mind...??



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What's next?

- We would promote the Statement of Values to the Geomatics community
 - In Canada, in the World
 - In publishing, networking and sharing our experience
 - Submit a paper to explain each values, with examples
- Validate/Assess the real interest of the Geomatics community for adhering to such a Statement of Values
 - Questionnaire, meetings, ETC
- Validate the applicability ...



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- We would promote Geomatics community
 - In Canada, in the
 - In publishing, net
 - Submit a paper to
- Validate/Assess the community for added Values
 - Questionnaire, m
- Validate the applic



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**"I have to say I had a different impression
of what Reiki is all about."**

Acknowledgements

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