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Empowering scientists, planners and the public to reduce landslide losses: a simplified web interface to access a national landslide database in Canada

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In Canada, landslides have been studied for well over a hundred years and such records remain a valuable asset in slope stability research. The Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) has started compiling landslide information from different sources across Canada and currently holds over 16 000 landslides in its geodatabase. By making this inventory available to all stakeholders (Provincial government agencies, municipalities, academia and the private sector), it is hoped that more informed decisions will be made to help reduce losses due to landslides.

Access to this database will be provided through an online geographic information system (GIS) designed with the needs of its potential users in mind. The application is designed using the open source Mapserver technology and includes a simplified user interface that requires little or no experience with GIS. In addition to the classified landslide layers, surficial geology, bedrock geology, historic earthquakes as well as other contextual information have been added to provide more depth.

In 2003 and 2004, the GSC conducted a series of workshops across Canada in order to better understand what data holdings existed and what stakeholder needs could be addressed through this application. This presentation will discuss how these findings were incorporated into the application and how this can be used in mitigation to reduce losses incurred by landslides.