



## DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Welcome to Ottawa, the Capital of Canada, for this Specialty Conference which is a joint effort of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (CRSS/ASPRS). As geospatial professionals, we are often challenged by the constraints that borders impose on our work. The answers to the questions that we are asked must often transcend these borders, and that is what this Conference proposes to do. Through the mutual cooperation of our two Societies, many organizations, and friends, we hope to demonstrate that one's own interest doesn't need to end at a common border. Environmental, public safety, and homeland security issues - to name a few - demand that we work with our neighbors at the local, state, provincial, national, and international levels to build a foundation, apply the best technology, and leverage the best talent to solve our common problems.

We hope you will enjoy and support this unique endeavor. Its success is based on the efforts of many people to broaden our horizons, and is the harbinger of a new way of doing business. The Global Earth Observation System of Systems is well represented, as is the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure, supported by the Canada's GeoConnections and the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee; world-class technology, research, and exhibits from Canada, the U.S., and elsewhere; environmental remote sensing, including land cover and wetlands mapping; and new ways of building technological capacity for homeland security, public safety, and law enforcement. In addition to CRSS and ASPRS workshops, the Great Lakes Commission is holding its Regional Data Exchange (RDX) conference in conjunction with the CRSS/ASPRS Conference to share information about technologies and methods to study, monitor, map and manage the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River system. Participants in the RDX are encouraged to stay for the entire CRSS/ASPRS Conference.

In particular, we would like to thank our distinguished keynote and plenary speakers from Canada and the U.S., Mark Corey, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Earth Sciences Sector, Natural Resources Canada, and Timothy Petty, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, US Department of the Interior. They will be discussing the topic of "Harmonizing Geospatial Activities Across the World's Longest Common Border," at the opening session on Tuesday, October 30th. We would also like to thank the Technical Program Co-Chairs, Monique Bernier (University of Quebec) and Carolyn Merry (The Ohio State University); and the staff and volunteers from the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute (CASI), the Canadian Remote Sensing Society (CCRS) and the Central New York Region of ASPRS, as well as ASPRS staff and volunteers. By recognizing that our border is common to both sovereign nations, they are helping to overcome barriers to our ability to address the problems shared by our peoples.

We hope you take advantage of the opportunity provided by this Conference to enjoy the cosmopolitan delights of the Nation's Capital. And don't forget to visit the exhibit hall where many commercial, government and not-for-profit organizations will demonstrate the cutting edge geospatial technology, systems, techniques and applications from both North and South of our Common Border.

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting conference.

Sincerely,

Olaf Niemann  
Canadian Conference Co-Chair  
Chair of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society

Ed Freeborn  
U.S. Conference Co-Chair  
National Director, CNY ASPRS



Olaf Niemann



Ed Freeborn

