Infodep Termination of Agreement
Questions and Answers

The subsequent Q's & A's are provided as a result of questions received following the Infodep notice on the Termination of Agreement with all Depository Services Program clients, sent Friday September 20, 2013. We hope this information will be helpful to you.

What will happen to the electronic version of the Weekly Checklist?
How will we know when there are new publications?

For the moment, our plan is to have the electronic version of the Weekly Checklist (WCL) continue as is at the start of the new year. There just won't be any orderable items on it.

Since there will no longer be the ability to order hard-copy publications from us, we are also going to modernize the way we present checklist content on our Web site in order to make it more flexible. If there are changes to the WCL, it will still allow you to view which publications have been recently added to our catalogue. More information about this will follow in 2014.

What about hard-copy publications? Will the DSP still list them?
Will there still be a central point of access to order them?


You will still be able to find out what has been newly added to our catalogue from our Web site. However, according to the Procedures for Publishing, starting in April 2014, government departments will only be obligated to send us copies of the electronic publications that they produce. They will not be obligated to send us copies of what has been produced in hard-copy formats. That said we will encourage departments to continue sending us cataloguing copies so that we can include them in our database. Publications we receive will be catalogued.

PDS will remain a central point of access for electronic publications produced by the Government of Canada. However, we will no longer act as a central point for ordering and distributing hard-copy formats.
It is very likely that each individual department and agency will need to be contacted for their respective hard-copy information products.

How does the termination of agreements affect the responsibilities of depository libraries going forward?

As of January 1, 2014, depository libraries will no longer be subject to any of the terms of the agreement. We will not be requesting annual reports from depository libraries for this year or future years, and neither selective nor full depository libraries will be required to continue following the retention guidelines. Starting in 2014, you may rely on your own internal retention guidelines concerning DSP-supplied items. If you do not have related internal guidelines, you could always continue
following our retention guidelines as a baseline even after they are no longer in effect, but you will not be obligated to follow them.

We encourage you to consider which hard-copy resources provided to you in the past have become important resources for your client community when making future decisions related to retention. Your participation in the Depository Services Program has created a network of institutions with a valuable collection of print documents from the Government of Canada that remain accessible to the public in locations around the world.

How will this affect the distribution of printed maps?

A notice was sent by mail to all map depository libraries earlier this year. This notice indicated that the DSP would complete the distribution of topographic maps released by NRCan during the 2011-2012 fiscal year, after which, the client accounts for all map depository libraries would be closed. As such, the distribution of printed maps through the DSP has already ended and accounts have been closed.

How does the termination of this agreement affect depository libraries outside of Canada?

PDS updated and formalized the agreements with Canadian depository libraries a few years ago. These agreements were not formalized with depository libraries outside of Canada because these institutions might already have made formal agreements with other Government of Canada departments concerning their participation in our Program. Earlier this year, PDS sent notices to Library and Archives Canada, the Library of Parliament and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (now Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada) informing them that we would no longer act on their behalf as the distributor of Government of Canada publications to partners with whom they had made formal agreements.

Our agreement termination letter was sent to all of our active clients (regardless of whether or not we have a signed agreement with them) as an indication that our relationship as supplier of Government of Canada publications to all depositories will be ending this year.