



SIX NATIONS NATURAL GAS

Case Study: Keeping the Community Warm

Six Nations Natural Gas provides natural gas services to approximately 3,000 community members and businesses of the Six Nations Grand River Territory and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation in Ontario, Canada. Its small team employs advanced technology to conduct emergency repairs, maintain over 190 kilometers of pipeline and accurately map expanding infrastructure. Learn more at sixnatgas.com.



Six Nations

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Brad Williams
Utility Foreman

Brad Williams takes his work seriously. As Utility Foreman at Six Nations Natural Gas, he oversees the energy needs of Six Nations reserve, nestled in Ontario. His team provides essential services to 3,000+ customers, ensuring natural gas flows reliably to homes and businesses, even as new infrastructure grows around them. “We just try to keep the heat on for everybody,” Brad says, summarizing the company’s simple yet critical mission.

But there’s more to their work. Beyond gas distribution, Six Nations handles everything from pipeline maintenance to emergency repairs, and even offers rental hot water heaters. It’s a small team, with just seven people in the field, and while their primary goal is providing uninterrupted service, their responsibilities stretch far beyond that. They’re constantly juggling repairs, maintaining the integrity of over 190 kilometers of pipeline, and keeping up with evolving technology.

THE CHALLENGE: PAPER MAPS AND HAND-DRAWN SKETCHES

For years, Six Nations relied on paper maps and hand-drawn sketches. When infrastructure work started ramping up on the reserve—new internet lines, water systems, and other utilities—keeping track of all these updates became a massive challenge. “A lot of the guys who knew where everything was have since retired,” Brad comments. The problem isn’t just a matter of convenience; it’s about safety too. Brad’s team often faced situations where, even though they relied on paper maps, they wanted to be certain about the location of underground lines, especially in the middle of the night when emergencies hit.

“It’s important to know where gas lines are at 2 AM,” says Brad. With the team relying on paper maps and institutional memory, it became clear they needed a solution to improve their infrastructure records, making them even more accurate, accessible, and efficient. “We were looking for something that could help our newer guys,” Brad says, “so they could locate mains and services quickly and confidently.”

DISCOVERING GEOLANTIS: THE TURNING POINT

Brad first heard about Geolantis through his General Manager, Tracy, at a conference hosted by the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) in Niagara Falls. “We’d been considering other systems and found that Geolantis best suits our needs,” Brad recalls.

When they met Abe from Geolantis, Brad comments, “Abe responded quickly and answered every question we had. He was willing to work with us, even though we’re a smaller utility.” This kind of responsiveness and dedication to customer service made Geolantis an easy choice for Six Nations. Brad didn’t want to feel like a small fish in a big pond, and with Abe’s help, they didn’t. “That’s what made us go with Geolantis. They wanted to work with us. They understand our needs and are active in ensuring our success with the new technology.”

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— Brad Williams
Utility Foreman



3,000+ customers
served by Six Nations



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190 kilometers
of pipeline maintained

TRANSITIONING THE TEAM TO NEW TECHNOLOGY

Switching from paper maps to GPS-based systems wasn't without its challenges. Brad knew that his team would take time to adjust. “The training was great and, as it is with most software, introducing new technology takes time,” Brad commented.

Despite the learning curve, the system itself proved easy to use. Brad recalls a recent job where he mapped a gas service line in just five minutes. “Once it's done, it's in the map forever,” he says. “I like the speediness of it.”

The system offered nearly instant benefits. “When you're out in the field, you want to be confident,” Brad explains. “With Geolantis, you just pull up the map, and you know where the lines are which eliminates uncertainties. It's a huge time-saver, especially during emergencies.”

THE BENEFITS: SAFETY, ACCURACY, AND TIME SAVINGS

For Brad, the biggest advantage of Geolantis is safety. Knowing exactly where gas lines and meters are located means fewer risks for his team when they're out responding to emergencies. “In the middle of the night, you want to know where a gas line is during a house fire,” Brad says. “With Geolantis, we can just check the map and know for sure.”



The system also saves significant time. Before Geolantis, his team would manually draw maps of each property they worked on. “It took about 5 to 10 minutes to make a drawing, and if we needed to go back to the same house for different contractors, we would redraw the map each time,” Brad explains.

Now, they can create a map once and use it again and again. “I’d say it saves us 40 minutes to an hour on each job,” Brad adds.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: EXPANDING THE ROLE OF GEOLANTIS AT SIX NATIONS

Brad has big plans for Geolantis. He sees it as a tool that can continue to grow with the company. “Eventually, I’d love for someone in the office to be able to pull up the maps,” he says. “That way, if someone calls about a service, they can easily check the map and know where a line was installed 15 years ago.”

They’re also considering adding more detailed data to the maps, such as meter sizes and other technical details. “It would make future inspections easier,” Brad says. “We could just type it into the map and know exactly where everything is.”

Brad believes that as his team becomes more familiar with the system, the benefits will only increase. “Right now, we’re still getting used to it,” he says, “but I have high hopes for the future.”

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——— **Brad Williams**
Utility Foreman



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saved on each job



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Brad Williams
Geospatial Manager

A PARTNERSHIP WITH POTENTIAL: GEOLANTIS AND SIX NATIONS

For Brad, the partnership with Geolantis has been more than just about technology—it’s been about the support. “Abe’s always there when we need him,” Brad says. “He’s helped us every step of the way.” As Six Nations continues to expand its infrastructure, Brad sees Geolantis playing a key role in keeping the community safe and the gas lines running smoothly. “It’s been a good experience so far,” he says. “The future looks bright.”





AT A GLANCE: SIX NATIONS NATURAL GAS

SIX NATIONS: CHALLENGES	HOW GEOLANTIS HELPS	BENEFICIAL OUTCOME
Paper mapping system	GPS-based system provides accurate, real-time mapping	Instantaneous uploading of points
Retirements leading to loss of institutional memory	Maps infrastructure for long-term use	Permanently stored maps, no need to redraw
Locating lines during emergencies	Enables technicians to check maps quickly and easily	Instills confidence and enhances safety
Time-consuming manual map creation	One-time GPS mapping replaces multiple drawings	Saves 40 minutes to 1 hour per job
Safety concerns, especially during night emergencies	Ensures precise location of gas lines and meters	Supports faster and safer response during emergencies
Adopting new technology among the team	Simple, user-friendly interface for quick adoption	Fast learning curve for technicians
Broken tracing wires making locates difficult	GPS mapping ensures accurate records even if wires are damaged	Saves from counting on unreliable tracing wires
Uncertainty about the exact location of services	Real-time, precise location tracking	Increases confidence among technicians



Upgrade To A Real-Time Utility Mapping Solution

Learn more at geolantis.com