# Volcano Risk Reduction in Canada

Monitoring Canada's Volcanic Threat with InSAR

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#### Volcanism in Canada



Map showing location of Canadian vents (small grey triangles), lumped volcanoes used for this study (large red triangles) and volcanic belt/province divisions. GVB – Garibaldi volcanic belt; CG – Chilcotin group; AVB – Anahim volcanic belt; CQVP – Clearwater-Quesnel volcanic province; NCVP – Northern Cordilleran volcanic province.

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Aerial view of prominent volcanic features around the Garibaldi Volcanic province. The barrier, a volcanic flow feature emanating from Mt Price with significant lava-ice interaction features and. The Black Tusk

- Threat of Volcanism is thought to be commonly underestimated
  - No Major eruptions in living memory
  - Lack of monitoring, no observations of unrest events
  - Most Canadian Volcanoes aren't shaped like classic volcanoes due to glacial interactions
- 348 Known vents Pleistocene age or younger, 54 known to be active during the Holocene
- Notable events:
  - 220BP eruption of Tseax Cone
  - 2360BP eruption of Mt Meager
  - 2007-2008 Seismic swarm at Nazko Cone
- based on evidence of past eruptions, annual probability has been estimated at 1/200 for any eruption, and 1/3333 for a major explosive eruption (Stasiuk et al., 2003)



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#### **Volcano Threat Ranking**



Known vents lumped into 28 volcanic fields/complexes

 Threat scores assigned based on the methodology developed by the United
States Geological Survey (USGS) as part of a National Volcano Early Warning
System (NVEWS) (Ewert et al., 2005; Ewert, 2007; Ewert et al., 2018)

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### **Volcano Threat Ranking**



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USGS recommendations minimally a remote sensing approach for volcano threats low and above



#### Volcano InSAR monitoring system



Front-End Dashboard UI



#### **RADARSAT** Constellation Mission (RCM)

- RCM is a constellation of 3 identical Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation of the RADARSAT-1 & RADARSAT-2 programs
- Launched June 12, 2019
- C-band 5.55cm wavelength
- Typically collect 3-5m strip-map mode with repeat passes varying from 4-12 days
- Owned and operated by Canadian Space Agency
- Dedication to Federal Government Scientific and Security Purposes





#### **Guiding Scientific and Development Principles**

- Align as closely as possible with the principles of Open Science and Open Government as defined by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS)
- Cloud Native but portable
- Sensor Agnostic
  - Build around RCM but maintain flexibility to handle RADARSAT-2, TerraSAR-X, Sentinel-1, NISAR and even commercial SAR Sensors
- Iterative development principals





#### **Cloud Native Architecture**



#### **Routine Monitoring – Highest Threat Volcano Sites**







#### **Routine Monitoring – Highest Threat Volcano Sites**



- Over 5000 interferograms and counting over 10 sites processed fully automatically this year
- Testing atmospheric modelling/correction with commercial tools as well as weather model and GNSS informed models







## 1<sup>st</sup> Year of observations – Subsidence of potential lava tubes - Mt Edziza











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## Conclusions

- VRRC InSAR monitoring system running fully automatically, generating new InSAR measurements daily
- Deformation phenomena observed within the 1st year of operation
- Work remains in better atmospheric corrections, automated detection and deformation test cases

#### **Future Directions**

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Growing training dataset of natural fringes



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#### Growing number of volcano sites globally





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