

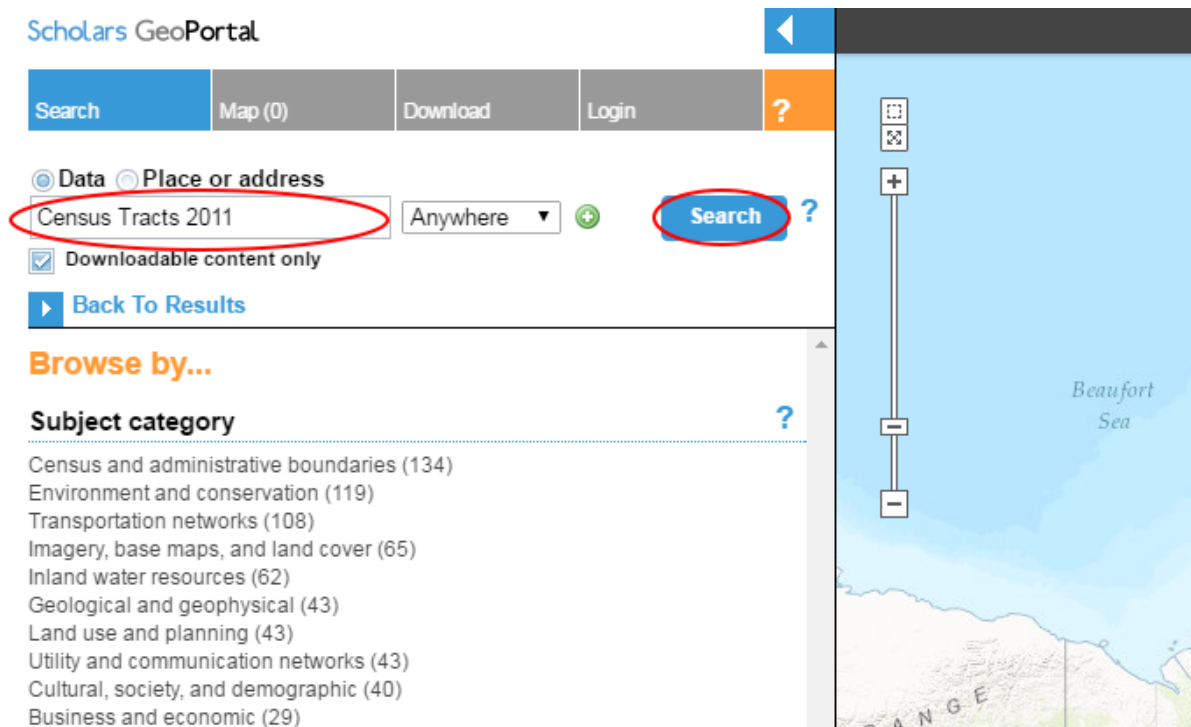
Downloading Census Boundary Files Using Scholars GeoPortal

Map and Data Library, Summer 2016

This exercise will showcase how to use Scholars GeoPortal to extract Census Tract (CT) census geography for the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Montreal using two methods:

- 1) querying the attribute table of the dataset, or
- 2) downloading based on a predefined census boundary (ex. CMAs).

1. Open Scholars GeoPortal by going to <http://geo.scholarsportal.info>
2. Use the main search box to search for census tract boundary files. You can search by phrase, keyword, title, and more.
Type in the phrase “Census Tracts 2011” and click **Search**.



3. As you hover over the search results a grey boundary will appear on the map; this represents the geographic coverage of the dataset.

Scholars GeoPortal

Search Map (0) Download Login ?

☒ Data ☐ Place or address

Census Tracts 2011 Anywhere Search ?

☒ Downloadable content only

[Back To Browse](#)

Found 5 results showing results 1 to 5

Sort by: Relevance

Refine:

Topics

Census and administrative boundaries (4)
Cultural, society, and demographic (1)

Keywords

Administration (3)
Boundaries (3)
Census (3)
Census Data (3)
Demographics (3)
Données Du Recensement (3)
Frontière (3)
Population (3)
Recensement (3)
Canada Post (2)

Cartographic Boundary Files (CBF), 2011 Census

[Add - 0/16](#) [Details](#)

Producer: Statistics Canada
Date published: 2012-01-01 (publication)
Type of data layer: Vector

Digital Boundary Files (DBF), 2011 Census

[Add - 0/14](#) [Details](#)

Producer: Statistics Canada
Date published: 2012-01-01 (publication)
Type of data layer: Vector

Census Tracts - Cartographic Boundary File (CT-CBF), 1981 Census


[Add](#) [Details](#)

Producer: Statistics Canada
Date published: 1982-11-01 (publication)
Type of data layer: Vector

Postal To Census Translation Table

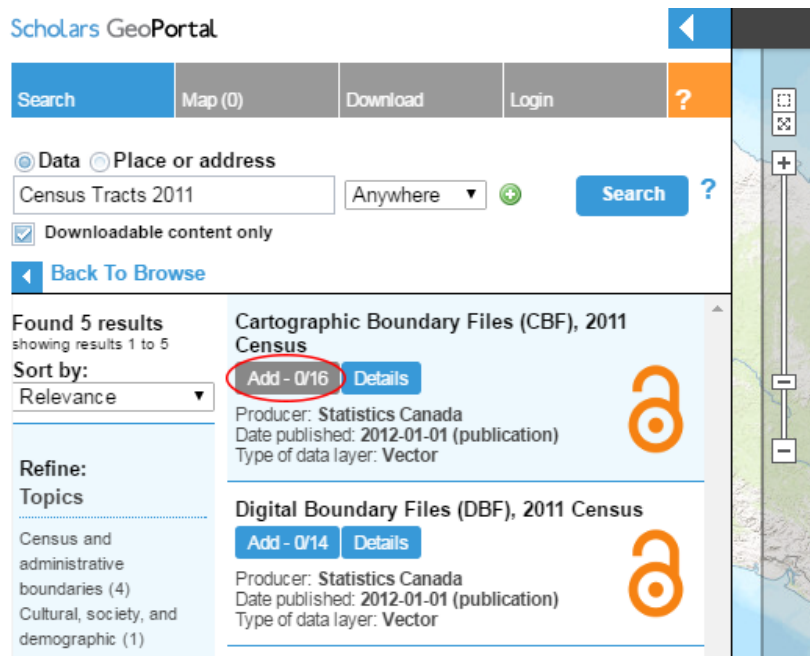
[Download - 8](#) [Details](#)

Producer: DMTI Spatial Inc.
Date published: 2007-08-09 (publication), 2014-05-15 (publication)



4. For this example we will work with Cartographic Boundary Files. Click **Add** to add the data to the map. If you want more information about the dataset you can click **Details**.

Note: You will notice two types of boundary files have been returned in the results: Cartographic Boundary Files (CBF) and Digital Boundary Files (DBF). Both are produced by Statistics Canada for the purposes of mapping the Census Geography. Cartographic boundary files depict the geographical areas using only the major land mass of Canada and its coastal islands. These files are good for creating thematic and choropleth maps. Digital boundary files depict the full extent of the geographical areas, including coastal water areas and boundaries.




5. After you click **Add** you will have to select the specific files you wish you add. For this example, add the file titled Census Metropolitan Areas & Census Agglomerations.

Scholars GeoPortal

Search Map (0) Download Login ?

☒ Data ☐ Place or address

Census Tracts 2011 Anywhere  Search ?


☒ Downloadable content only

[Back To Results](#)

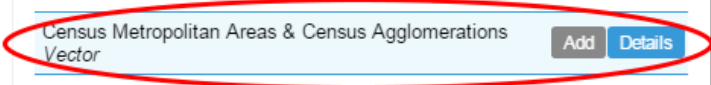
Downloads

Cartographic Boundary Files (CBF), 2011 Census

Producer: Statistics Canada
Date published: 2012-01-01 (publication)
Type of data layer: Vector



Agricultural Ecumene Census Divisions Vector	Add Details
Census Agricultural Regions Vector	Add Details
Census Consolidated Subdivisions Vector	Add Details
Census Divisions Vector	Add Details
Census Metropolitan Areas & Census Agglomerations Vector	Add Details
Census Subdivisions Vector	Add Details
Census Tracts Vector	Add Details
Dissemination Areas Vector	Add Details



Option 1: Querying and filtering data for export

1. After you've added data to the map, you can open the underlying data table (attribute table). You can access this table by clicking on the **Data Table** tab in the top right corner of the window.



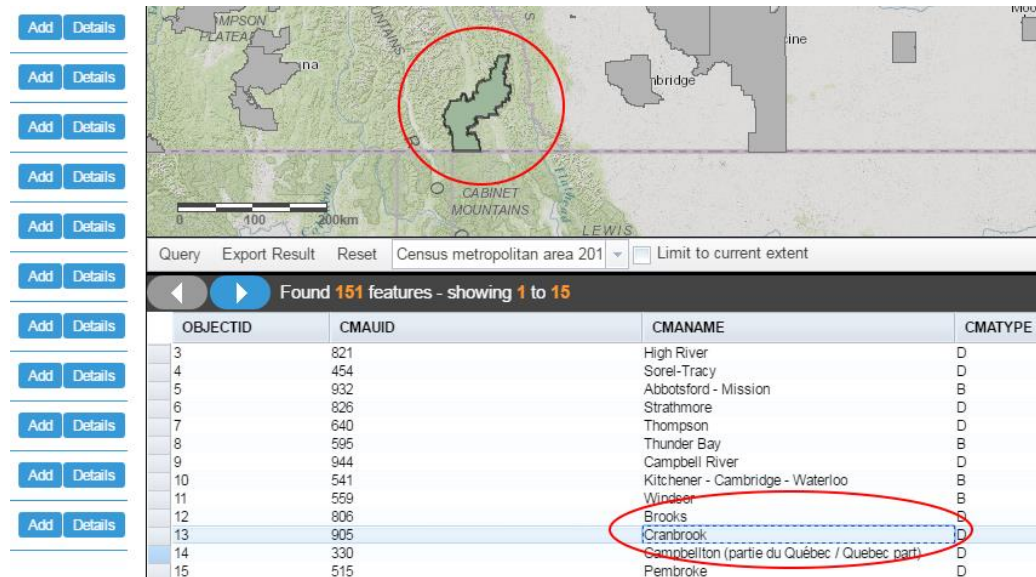
2. The data table will open at the bottom of the page. You can scroll through the table using the blue arrows.

The screenshot shows the data table at the bottom of the page. The table has four columns: OBJECTID, CMAUID, CMANAME, and CMATYPE. The first 13 rows are visible. The table is titled 'Found 151 features - showing 1 to 15'. The 'Data Table' tab is highlighted in the top right corner. The table is scrollable, and the blue arrows are visible on the left side of the table.

OBJECTID	CMAUID	CMANAME	CMATYPE
1	310	Saint John	B
2	720	Swift Current	D
3	821	High River	D
4	454	Sorel-Tracy	D
5	932	Abbotsford - Mission	B
6	826	Strathmore	D
7	640	Thompson	D
8	595	Thunder Bay	B
9	944	Campbell River	D
10	541	Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo	B
11	559	Windsor	B
12	806	Brooks	D
13	905	Cranbrook	D

- Clicking on a feature in the table will highlight the feature on the map.

Note: you can close the data table at any time by clicking on the **X** at the top right of the data table.

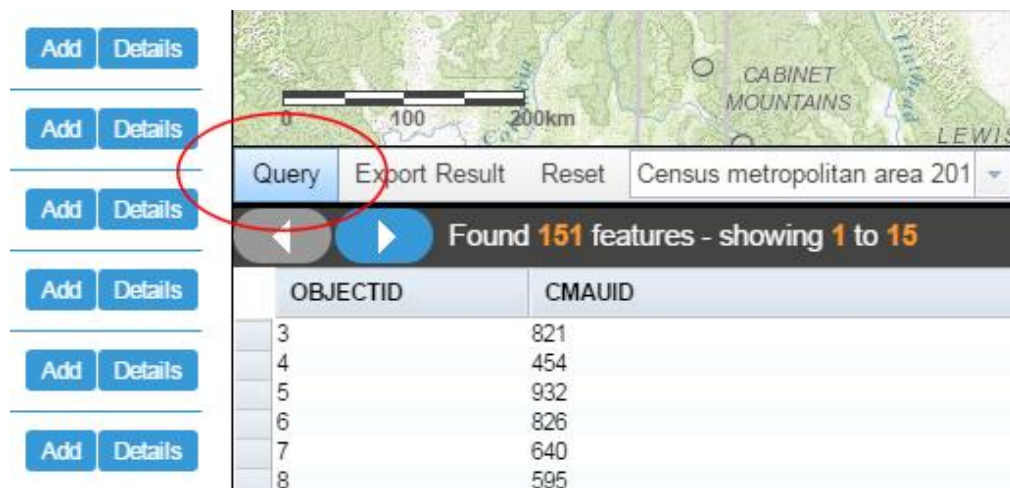


Query Export Result Reset Census metropolitan area 201 Limit to current extent

Found 151 features - showing 1 to 15

OBJECTID	CMAUID	CMANAME	CMATYPE
3	821	High River	D
4	454	Sorel-Tracy	D
5	932	Abbotsford - Mission	B
6	826	Strathmore	D
7	640	Thompson	D
8	595	Thunder Bay	B
9	944	Campbell River	D
10	541	Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo	B
11	559	Windsor	B
12	806	Brooks	S
13	905	Cranbrook	D
14	330	Campbellton (partie du Québec / Québec part)	D
15	515	Pembroke	D

- You can query data to filter out results based on the fields in the data. To open the query window click on the **Query** button.

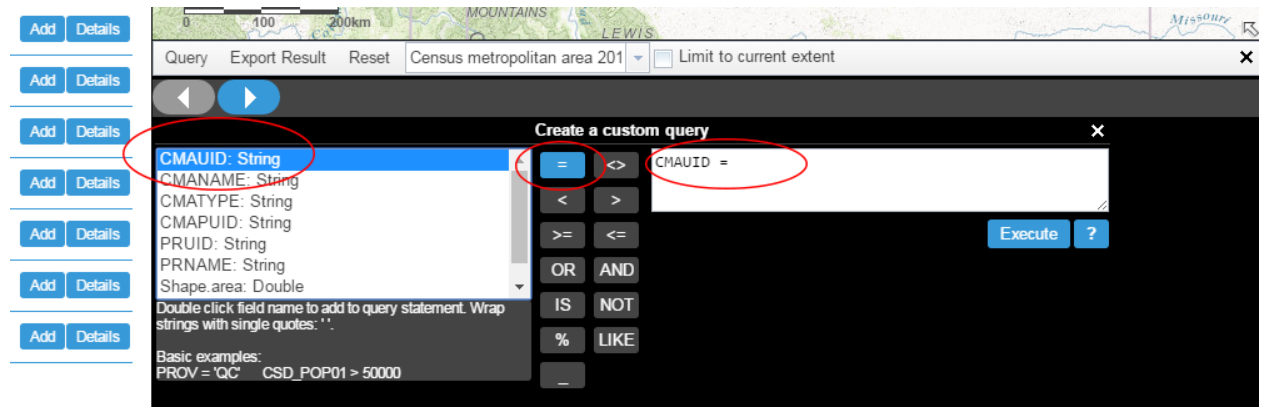


Query Export Result Reset Census metropolitan area 201

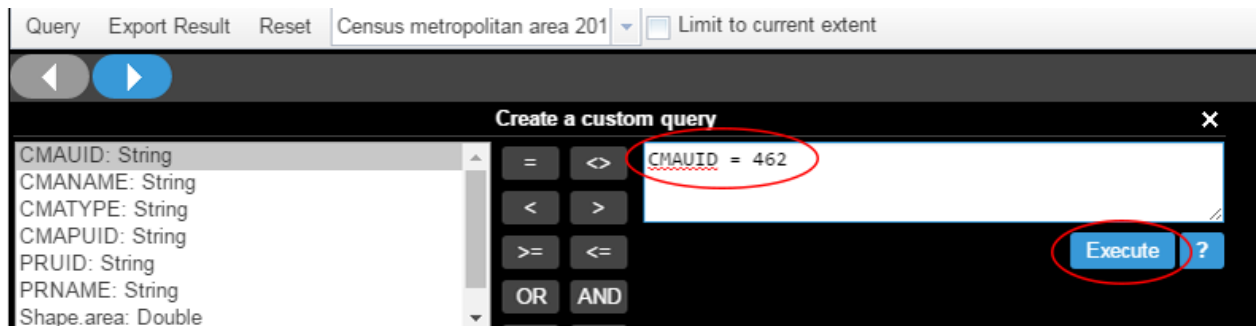
Found 151 features - showing 1 to 15

OBJECTID	CMAUID
3	821
4	454
5	932
6	826
7	640
8	595

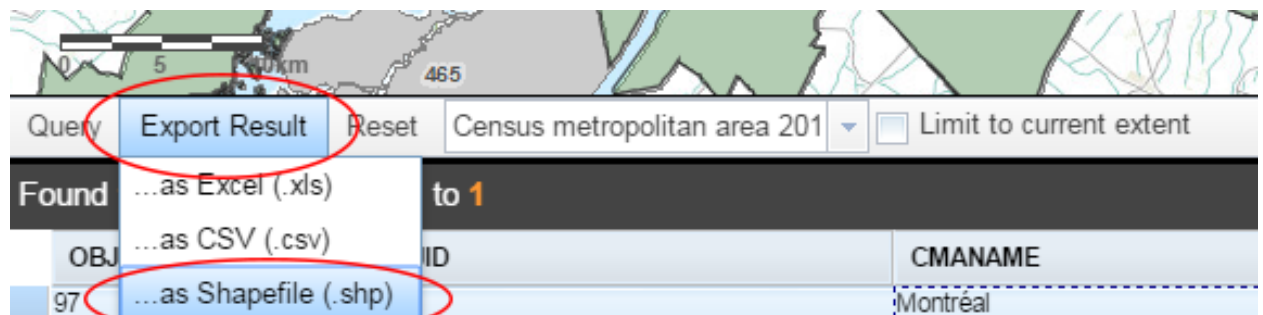
5. For this example we are looking for the greater Montreal area, so we will filter using the CMAUID code. First, double click on **CMAUID: String**. Next, click on the equals symbol. These selections will appear in the query box to the right.



6. Click inside the query box to the right of the equals symbol in order to type the CMAUID code, which for Montreal is 462. Once you have typed in the CMAUID click **Execute**.



7. Once your query results are returned you can export by clicking on **Export Result**, then selecting **...as Shapefile (.shp)**.



8. After the export runs you will be able to access your shapefile in the Download tab, or by clicking on the **Your file is available here** message which will appear at the top right of the data table.

The screenshot shows the Scholars GeoPortal interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Search', 'Map (1)', 'Download (1)' (highlighted with a red circle), and 'Login'. Below the navigation bar, there is a search section with 'Data' and 'Place or address' tabs, a search box containing 'Census Tracts 2011', and a 'Search' button. A 'Downloadable content only' checkbox is also present. The 'Downloads' section lists various datasets with 'Add' and 'Details' buttons. The map on the right shows the Montreal area with various regions highlighted. At the bottom, a table shows the results of a query, with a message 'Your file is available here' (highlighted with a red circle) appearing at the top right of the table.

OBJECTID	CMAUID	CMANAME	CMATYPE
97	462	Montréal	B

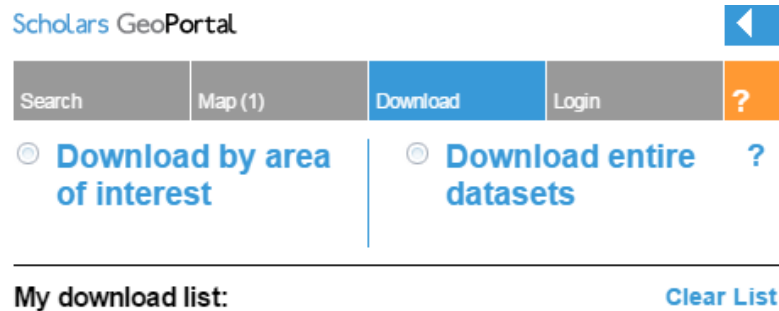
9. Click on the file to download and save to your computer.

The screenshot shows the Scholars GeoPortal interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Search', 'Map (1)', 'Download (1)' (highlighted with a red circle), and 'Login'. Below the navigation bar, there are two tabs: 'Download by area of interest' and 'Download entire datasets'. The 'My download list:' section shows a list of files, with 'DLI 2011 Census CBF Eng Nat cma.zip' (highlighted with a red circle) being the file to be downloaded. A 'Clear List' button is also present.

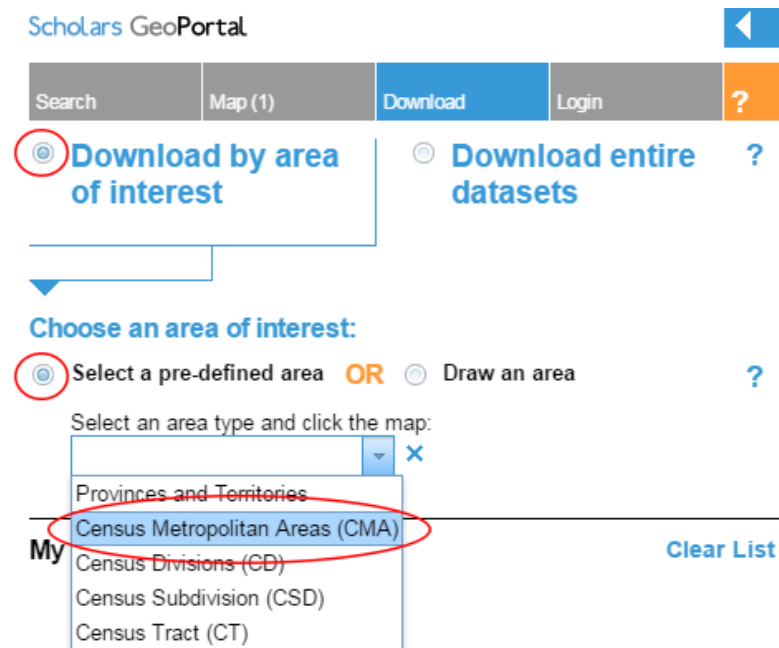
DLI 2011 Census CBF Eng Nat cma.shp:
DLI 2011 Census CBF Eng Nat cma.zip

Option 2: Download data by a pre-defined census boundary

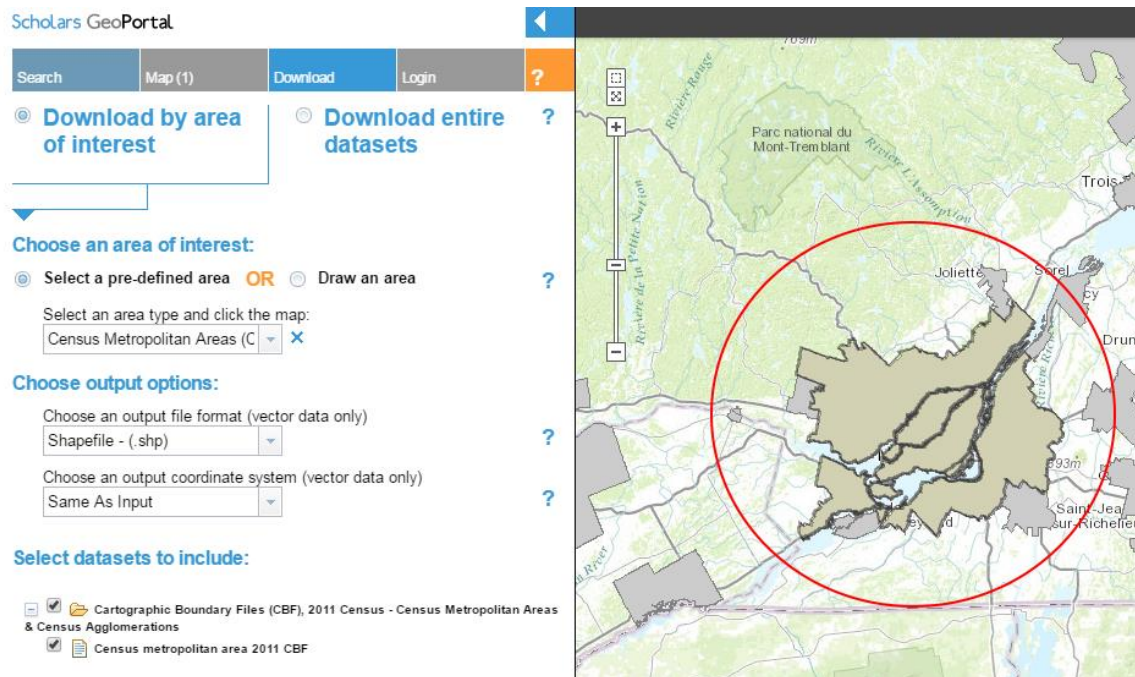
1. Once the CMA data has been added to the map, click on the **Download** tab. Here you are given the option of downloading the entire dataset (which is typically a very large .zip file), downloading based on a pre-defined area (such as a province), or downloading based on an area you define by drawing an area on the map.



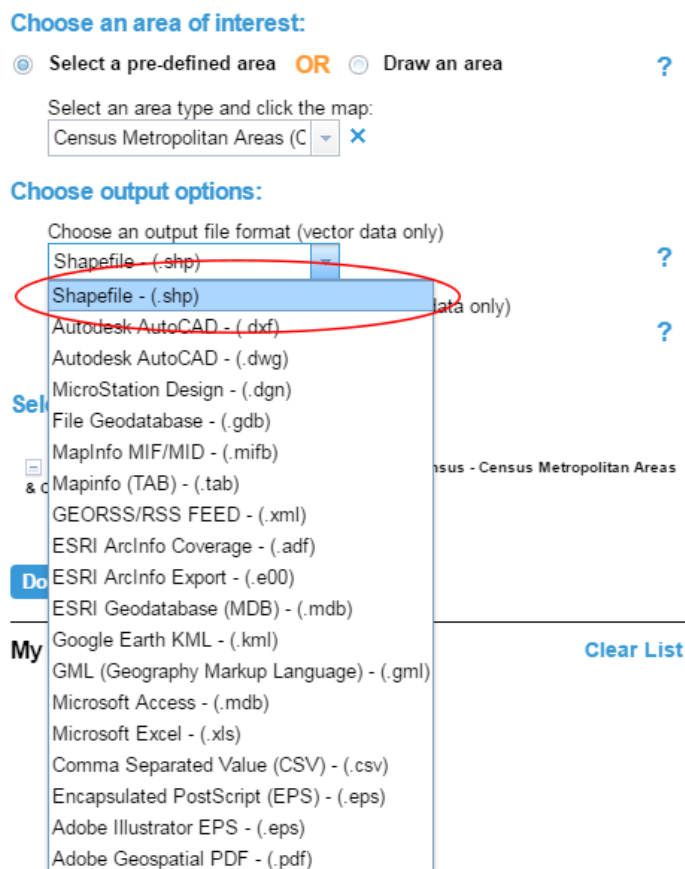
2. Since we want to download the Census Metropolitan Area of Montreal we will download by area of interest. First, select **Download by area of interest**, and then select **Select a pre-defined area**. Next, use the drop-down menu to select an area type, in this case Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).



- Zoom and pan the map to find your desired area. When you find it, click on the desired area; this will highlight the area.



- Select the desired output file format from the drop-down menu. To be able to use the file in ArcMap select **Shapefile – (.shp)**.



5. Keep the output coordinate system as **Same as Input** (this defines the spatial reference system used to display your data).

Choose output options:

Choose an output file format (vector data only)

Shapefile - (.shp) ?

Choose an output coordinate system (vector data only) ?

Same As Input

Same As Input

Canada Lambert Conformal Conic

Statistics Canada Lambert

Statistics Canada Lambert CSRS

WGS Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

Ontario MNR Lambert

Ontario MNR Lambert CSRS

WGS 1984

NAD 1983

NAD 1927

2011 Census - Census Metropolitan Areas

Clear List

6. Click **Download** to prepare the file for download. When the process is complete the .zip file will appear listed under the **My download list** section. Click on the file to download it to your computer.

Select datasets to include:

☒ ☒ ☒ Cartographic Boundary Files (CBF), 2011 Census - Census Metropolitan Areas & Census Agglomerations

☒ ☒ Census metropolitan area 2011 CBF

Download

My download list:

Clear List

Cartographic Boundary Files (CBF), 2011 Census - Census Metropolitan Areas & Census Agglomerations:

DLI 2011 Census CBF Eng Nat cma.zip