Ken Chase

Front-end Design Portfolio

kenchase@kenchase.com
www.kenchase.com

Algonquin College - Design System

Front-End Designer / Full Stack developer - 01/2024 - 02/2025

Project Overview

Multiple departments were using inconsistent UI patterns, branding, and codebases, which slowed development and created accessibility gaps. This project established a centralized design system to unify visual styles, improve WCAG compliance, and speed up project delivery.

About Algonquin College

Algonquin College delivers 200+ programs across three campuses (Ottawa, Pembroke, and Perth). The College manages 100+ websites and microsites, supporting a large, diverse audience of students, faculty, and staff. The college employs approximately 5,765 people and and serves approximately 46,000 students.

My Role

- Led planning, design, and implementation of design system using Figma
- Created accessible, reusable components for forms, navigation, and layouts
- Defined design tokens for typography, color, and spacing
- Built documentation for both designers and developers
- Delivered training and governance processes for long-term maintenance

Process

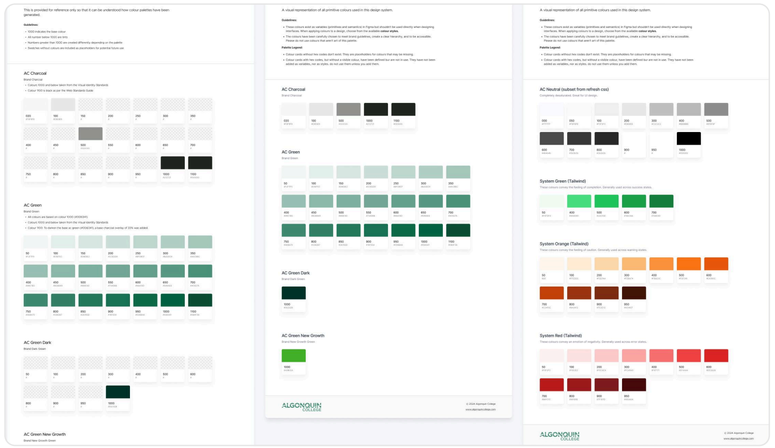
- **Discovery & Audit:** Reviewed 20+ digital properties; identified branding and accessibility inconsistencies
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** Conducted workshops with marketing team to identify paint points and constraints
- **Token Setup:** Established primitive and semantic design tokens to enable global updates
- **Component Development:** Iteratively designed UI patterns with responsive behaviour
- **Documentation:** Created design system documentation for designers and developers
- **Training:** Ran workshops to onboard design and development teams.

Outcomes

- Ability to efficiently explore multiple design solutions
- Faster design-to-development handoff
- Consistent branding across 100+ web properties

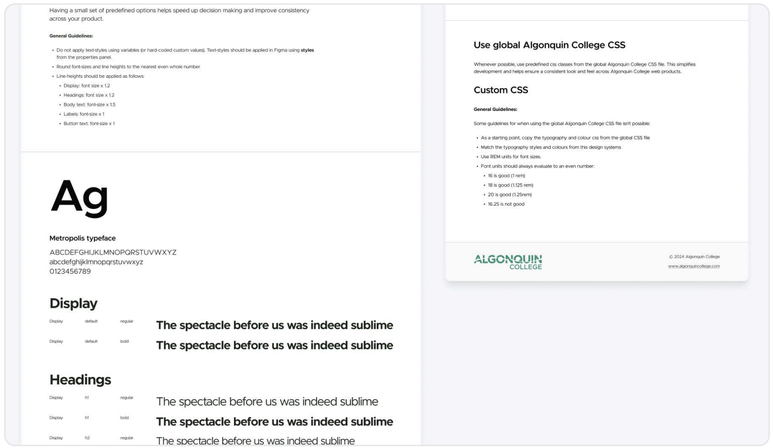
Skills & Tools

Figma · Design Tokens · WCAG 2.1 AA · HTML/CSS · JavaScript · Agile Collaboration



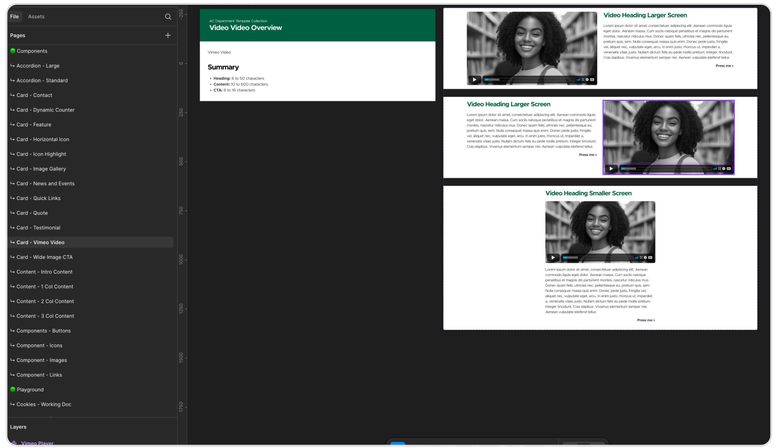
Colour Palette

A defined colour palette enhances brand coherence and accelerates decision-making throughout the design workflow.



Typography

The typography selections were documented, providing clarity for both designers and developers.

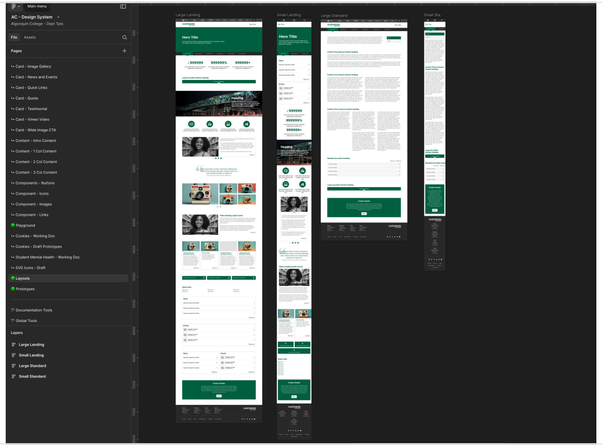


Components

The design system introduced a variety of responsive component variants that significantly accelerated the brainstorming process.

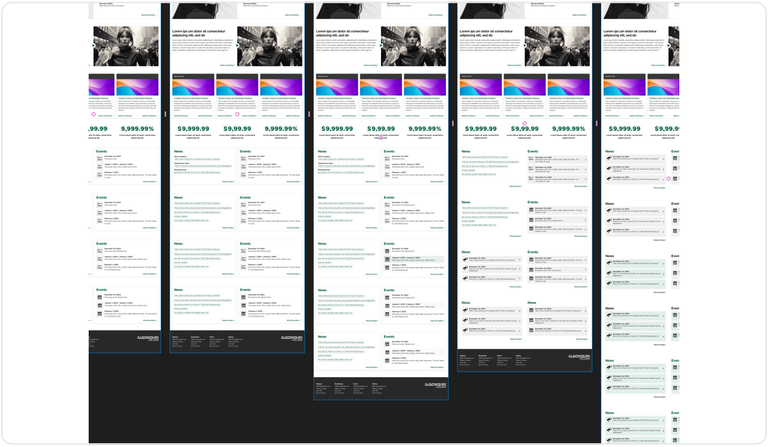
Algonquin College - Design System

Front-End Designer / Full Stack developer - 01/2024 - 02/2025



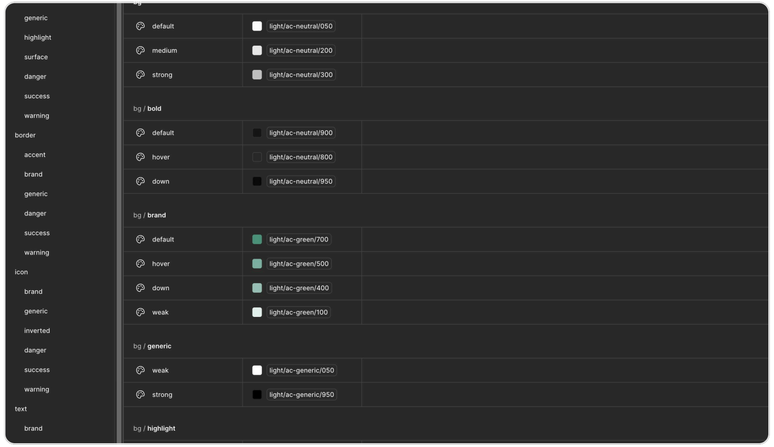
Prototypes

Responsive prototypes enable testing with internal stakeholders and offer valuable insights for developers.



Exploring Options

The component library, styles, and variables with the design system make it quick to iterate over ideas during design sprints



Design Tokens

Design tokens ensure consistency and scalability across platforms and themes.

Natural Resources Canada - Federal Geospatial Platform and Flood Mapping

Front-End Designer (UI/UX) - 12/2020 - 08/2022

Project Overview

Natural Resources Canada required an updated, accessible, and mobile-friendly web interface for a key government platform. The existing site had outdated design patterns, inconsistent styling, and limited adherence to WCAG standards, making navigation difficult for some users. This project delivered a refreshed UI and improved underlying front-end architecture to ensure performance, usability, and accessibility compliance.

About Natural Resources Canada

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is a federal department responsible for energy, forestry, minerals and metals, and earth sciences. With thousands of employees and numerous public-facing web resources, NRCan serves a broad audience, from researchers and industry stakeholders to the Canadian public.

My Role

- Served as design lead for geospatial platform rebranding and co-ordinated the development of a web presence for a multi-departmental flood mapping strategy
- Collaborated with managers, product owners, and development teams to align on design decisions
- Implemented design systems and functional prototypes
- Created reusable UI components aligned with Government of Canada Web Experience Toolkit (WET)
- Conducted accessibility audits and implemented WCAG 2.1 AA improvements

Process

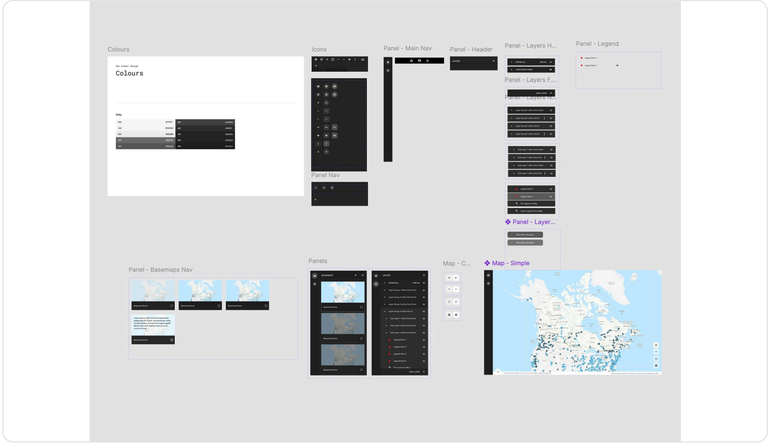
- **Discovery & Audit**: Reviewed existing products, user feedback, and required outcomes
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** Conducted workshops with product owners to enhance product comprehension
- **Iterative Design:** Developed wireframes and high-fidelity mockups in line with GC branding standards
- **Testing & QA:** Conducted accessibility checks, and cross-browser/device QA
- **Developer Handoff:** Delivered design files and code to developers for implementation

Outcomes

- Helped successfully launch GEO.ca after addressing critical project delays and design roadblocks
- Facilitated design strategy process across 5 federal departments and multiple provinces
- Improved inter-governmental collaboration on flood mapping through user-centered design approach
- Earned promotion from contractor to UI/UX lead on national flood mapping initiative

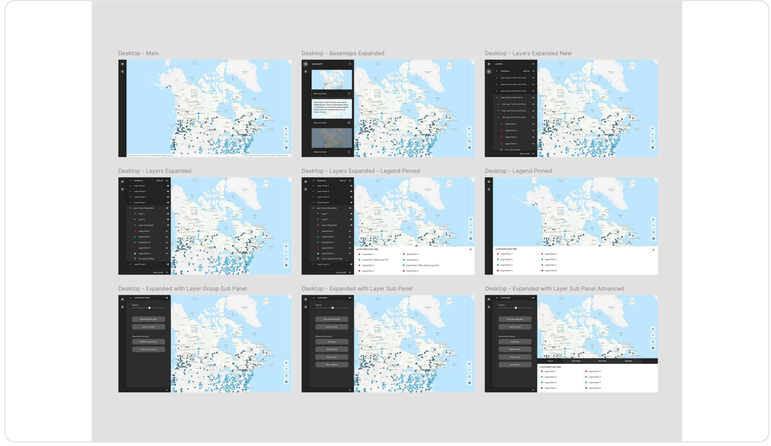
Skills & Tools

Figma · Government of Canada Web Standards · WCAG 2.1 AA · Agile Collaboration · WordPress



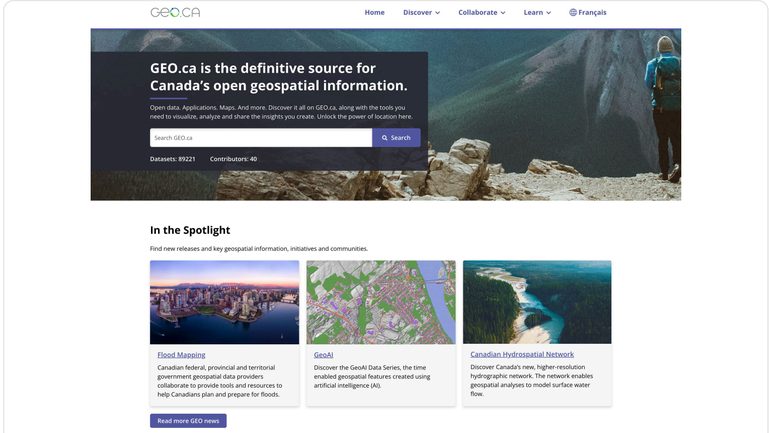
Components

Components were setup within Figma to allow for quick prototyping using consistent design patterns.



Functional Prototypes

Prototypes were used to iteratively validate design decisions. This approach ensures clear communication and encourages quality feedback.



Landing Page Design

One example of the end result of an iterative and inclusive design process.

Health Canada - Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)

UI/UX Designer & Accessibility Advocate - 02/2023 - 07/2023

Project Overview

Health Canada required assistance in transforming legacy applications and pdf forms into user-friendly web-based intrefaces that would reduce support burden while maintaining strict accessibility and Government of Canada compliance standards.

About Health Canada

Health Canada is the federal department responsible for helping Canadians maintain and improve their health. With ~10,000 employees across the country, the department oversees programs and services that impact all Canadians, manages complex regulatory frameworks, and maintains a vast network of public-facing digital resources.

My Role

- Collaborated with cross-functional teams including managers, product owners, and developers
- Streamlined intricate processes into user-friendly interface designs
- Conducted WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility audits and implemented improvements
- Designed and developed prototypes aligned with Government of Canada branding standards
- Created accessible and reusable UI components in Figma for use across multiple Health Canada products

Process

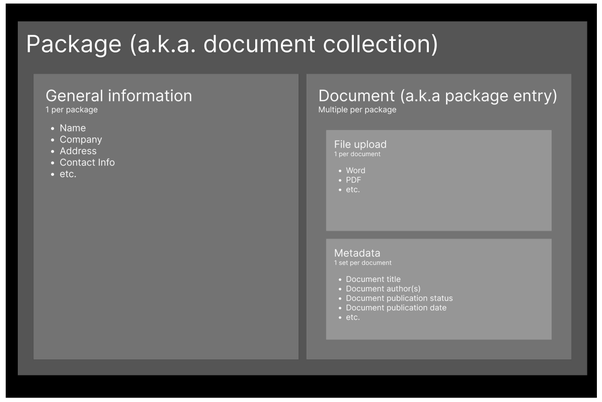
- **Discovery & Audit:** Reviewed existing products, user feedback, and required outcomes
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** Conducted workshops with product owners to enhance product comprehension
- **Iterative Design:** Designed functional prototypes that developers and stakeholders could interact with
- **Testing & QA:** Conducted usability testing, accessibility checks, and cross-browser/device QA
- **Documentation & Handoff:** Delivered design files, code, and guidelines to developers for implementation

Outcomes

- Reduced task complexity for end users by improving UX and UI
- Decreased internal support workload (less client enquiries)
- Achieved WCAG 2.1 AA compliance across redesigned interfaces
- Accelerated design delivery by developing reusable Figma component library

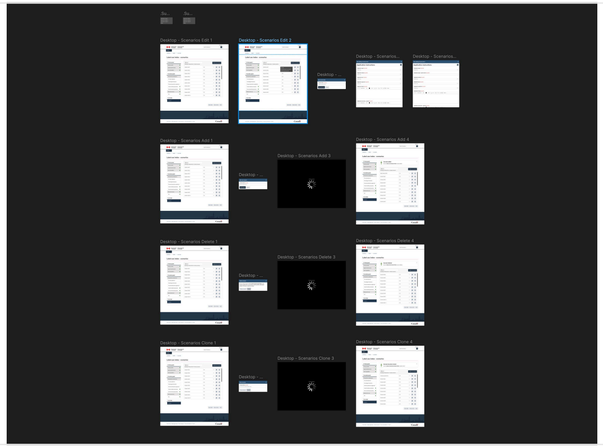
Skills & Tools

Government of Canada Web Standards · Figma · WCAG 2.1 AA · HTML · CSS · JavaScript · Agile Collaboration



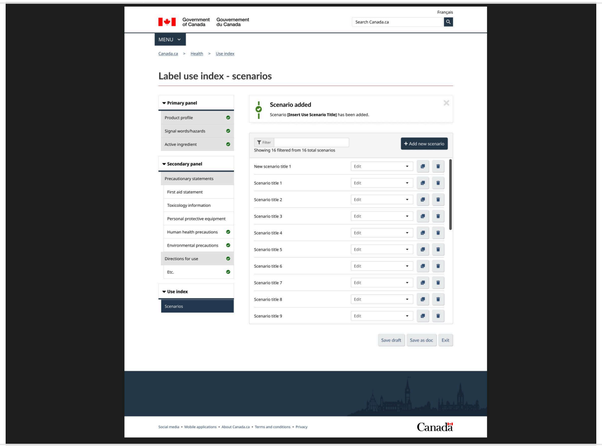
Sample Working Document

Concepts and requirements were documented and streamlined so that all stakeholders had a shared understanding and vocabulary.



Functional Prototypes

Functional prototypes were iteratively designed and presented to stakeholders to validate product development.



Sample Screen

At the end of the design iterative process