

President's Message

Here is a copy of George's speech at the May 29th Business Meeting:

I am truly privileged and honored to have the opportunity to assume a leadership role with the ACLS. From my past and present involvement with its various Task Forces, Committees and Council, I continue to be impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment provided by participants. At a CCLS meeting I attended earlier this week, most delegates shared a common resignation that the days of volunteering for an organization were all but over. My experience with the ACLS has been to the contrary; we are very fortunate to enjoy a culture of 'participation'. Just to put it in perspective, our Council is presently augmented with approximately 65 volunteers that actively participate on one or more of our 16 Committees, 3 Task Forces, or 3 Joint Task Forces. I must take this opportunity to thank all of you who give your time to the benefit of the Association. Our success is no coincidence.



New President of ACLS
George Schlagintweit

appropriate actions in response to these challenges.

Incidentally, Will Rogers also said, "Always drink upstream from the herd".

As your second president with a hydrographic background, I am particularly sensitive to ACLS's Strategic Priorities that deal with our offshore area of jurisdiction. In this regard, I hope to work closely with DFO officials in order to evaluate and align potential opportunities or initiatives that strive to benefit the Canadian public at large.

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Since we are having this AGM in Alberta, it seems only fitting to relate a quote to you from the famous cowboy Will Rogers who said, "Just because you are on the right track doesn't mean you are not going to get hit if you don't move". There is no question to me that we are on the right track. There are a number of initiatives however that have been bubbling to the surface – Labour Mobility and Professional Surveyors Canada – to name a few – that will keep your Council busy in the coming year. I am confident that your Council can reflect the membership's interests and take the

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Summary of Council meetings

October 28th, 2008 : teleconference

- Council agrees to renew the contract for practice review services with Survey Review Incorporated for two years beginning on October 9th, 2008.
- Decision to hold the 2010 National Surveyors Conference in conjunction with the Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors in Newfoundland.
- Council agrees with the Board of Examiners recommendation to approve the new Syllabus as was proposed by the CCLS with no changes and instructs the Board to add the subject entitled "Hydrographic Surveying", as described in the Syllabus, to the CLS Professional Exams for all CLS candidates and MRA applicants and that those who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners that they have taken a Hydrographic Surveying course in a recognized institution or passed a CBEPS examination for that subject will be exempted from writing that particular CLS exam.
- Council directs the Bylaws and Legislation Committee to draft an amendment to section 52 c) of the Act, to not require proof of experience from candidates who have a provincial surveying commission.
- Until that Act is amended we need a transitory solution so Council directs J.C. Tétreault to propose a new form of affidavit and statutory declaration specific for applicants who have a provincial commission.
- Council approves the new Public Awareness Committee Terms of Reference dated September 11, 2008.

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I must take this opportunity to thank Varick for his solid leadership over the past year. His practical, no-nonsense approach to issues has been an inspiration and in the coming year I will depend on his contributions as Past President.

About ten years ago, my family and I were in the process of moving back to Victoria after having spent two years in St. John's Newfoundland. My daughter was pretty upset about the whole thing – having to say goodbye to her friends and such – and she came to me all soaked in tears and in a plea of desperation said, "Daddy – you make maps – why can't you just put Newfoundland next to Victoria?" Now wouldn't *that* be nice? Imagine the possibilities ...

I am convinced that anyone who goes to Newfoundland will always want to return, so it should come as no surprise to you that I might have had a little to do with the selection of the location for our next AGM. This event will be co-hosted with the Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors and coincides with iceberg and lobster season. I encourage you to mark your calendars as 'away' from May 5 – 8, 2010.

Hope to see you in St. John's.

Thank you.

George Schlagintweit, CLS
President

October 30th, 2008 : teleconference

- Council accepts the recommendation of the Complaints Committee to dismiss Complaint Case 08-03.

November 27, 2008: face-to-face

- Council approves the Finance Committee report on changes to staff benefits dated November 14, 2008 and its recommendations as tabled.
- Review of first draft of a major list of amendments to the CLS Regulations to mostly address the concerns of the Federal Government Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations.
- Review of on going projects.
- Review of committee and task force population and performance.
- Update of the ACLS Strategic Plan.

March 10th, 2009: teleconference

Council reviewed a new proposed logo and membership survey and agreed to proceed with modifying the logo to address some issues raised in the survey. Council will vote on new mock up by e-mail later

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- Appointment of G. Schlagintweit as the new CCLS representative beginning on May 29th.
- To address Labour Mobility, Council directs the Board of Examiners to start looking at logistics of a 4 hour exam.
- Council agrees to propose to the membership to amend subsection 8.5 (2) in order to give full voting rights to retired members and to amend section 8.5 (1) and (2) and subsection 12 (k) to remove the membership fee to student members.
- Council appoints Jean-Noël Lechasseur for another 5 year term of the Board of Examiners.
- Council appoints its Secretary Treasurer, J. C. Tétreault, to sign and submit an application form for financial help from the Heritage Canada for simultaneous translation of the conferences that will be presented during the seminar on May 28, 2009 in Canmore, Alberta.

March 24th, 2009: teleconference

- Council, in accordance with the recommendation of the ACLS Public Awareness Committee, approved the new ACLS logo design. This new logo will replace the present ACLS logo right after its launch at the next ACLS Annual General Meeting
- Council accepts to contribute an amount of \$5,000 toward the drafting of a new Survey Law Book.

April 28th, 2009: teleconference

- ACLS will cover expenses of members of the Practice Review Committee to go to Canmore during the National Conference to hold a face-to-face meeting to discuss changes to the Practice Review Program.
- Council approves the key decisions from the March 27th AIT Vancouver meeting (see article on Labour Mobility).
- Council accepts to present the 2010 budget with due increases for approval by the membership at the May 29th, 2009 business meeting.
- Council awards an amount not exceeding \$30,000 to the Marine Cadastre Task Force to hire a consultant to draft a communications plan to promote the Marine Cadastre Concept.
- Approval of the Board of Examiners recommendation to offer a Canada Lands Surveyor Commission to 12 candidates who met all of the Board requirements.

May 27th, 2009: face-to-face

- After reviewing other scenarios for due increases, Council accepts to present the same 2010 budget that it approved on April 28th.
- Council approves allotting 2 round trips (airfare) for members whose GeoCoin has travelled the longest distance and the coin that has travelled the most different geocaches.

May 30th, 2009: face-to-face

- Council decided to participate in a ACLS/SGB working group to be set up very soon to implement an integrated practice/survey review process.
- Approval of the November 2008 Strategic and Operational Plan.
- Approval of the Committee and Task Force roster.

Jean-Claude Tétreault
Secretary Treasurer

ACLS Foundation Scholarships

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors Foundation Inc. received a total of 20 excellent applications for scholarships. The Foundation Board of Directors had a very difficult task to come up with the three following winners for \$1,500 scholarships:

- Joseph Chessie of the University of New Brunswick
- Jacky Chow of the University of Calgary
- Nancy Benoit of the CEGEP Ahuntsic

To obtain an application form and further information on the ACLS Foundation Scholarship Program, visit the ACLS Website at: www.acls-aatc.ca

Deadline for application is May 15 of each year.

The Association of Canada Lands Scholarship Foundation Inc. is registered as a charitable organization so it can issue tax receipts. Donations are welcomed.

At this year's auction held at the last National Surveyors Conference, the Foundation accumulated a total amount of \$1,173. The Foundation would like to thank all that participated.

Foundation Board of Directors

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ACLS GeoCoin

The highlight of the last National Conference was the launch of the ACLS 25th Anniversary GeoCoin. The coins were issued to the members in attendance.

The idea is that to help raise the awareness of the ACLS, a coin would be issued to all members who want to participate. Members would then activate the coin on www.geocaching.com (each coin has a unique identifier) and hide the coin in an official cache. Finally,

the member would log the cache on the geocaching Web site. Our hope is that the coin would be picked up, and moved to other caches, and geocachers would visit our Web site. To encourage participation the following contest was announced at the business meeting:

- Round trip airfare for one member to next year's National Surveyors Conference:
 - For the coin that traveled the longest distance
 - For the coin that traveled to the most different caches
- Draw of fleece jackets with the GeoCoin logo for members who participate

The contest will end on February 28th, 2010.

Send us an e-mail to get your coin and one when you place your coin in a cache.

Jean-Claude Tétreault, CLS, a.-g., P. Eng., MBA
Executive Director

New ACLS Logo

At the beginning of Web site project, we held a meeting with our marketing consultant and the Web site contractor to discuss the layout and structure of the new site. The marketing consultant asked us if we were considering changing our logo because, in her opinion, our Logo:

- Was old fashioned
- Will not appeal to younger audience
- Does not present the ACLS as bold and innovative.

This shocked us and we went ahead with the design of the site without changing the logo but it stuck to our minds. Almost a year later, the Public Awareness Committee recommended to Council to at least look at other designs to see what we come up with. So the ACLS asked our marketing consultant to present two new designs.

The Public Awareness Committee was impressed with two designs and decided to conduct a quick informal survey of people between the ages 10 to 30 years. The survey form had four designs, the two proposed by the consultant, the present ACLS logo and another concept which is a modified version of the logo that was proposed and defeated by the OAGQ membership three years ago. In two weeks, the committee gathered 174 responses. Kudos to members of the committee for their fast work. We've obtained surprising results:

- 79% preferred other than the current logo
- 49% preferred the one closest to the one that was adopted
- 21% preferred the current logo
- Leaving 30% split between 2 other concepts.

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Gord Webster, New SLSA Life Member

In a voice trembling with emotion, G. A. "Gord" Webster expressed his appreciation for the support his nomination for a Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association life membership received from those present at the SLSA 2009 annual meeting at Elkridge Resort on June 12 and 13. His election made Gord the thirty-eighth commissioned SLS to receive the honour since W. T. Thompson (commission #013) was granted the first life membership in 1922.

Gord was born in Davidson, Saskatchewan and raised on the family farm in the R.M. of Loreburn, near the village of Elbow. Immediately upon graduating from grade 12 in 1966, he began working with his uncle R.A. "Al" Webster and Al's partner, J.H. Webb in the Saskatoon-based survey firm of Webb and Webster Ltd.

By 1970, it had become clear to Gord that his future lay in the land survey profession and, on August 1 of that year, he signed "Articles of Pupil to Saskatchewan Land Surveyor" with his uncle Al. Six years later, on June 11, 1976, Gord was granted SLS Commission and on April 13, 1982, he was also granted CLS commission. Following proclamation of the new Saskatchewan Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Act on January 1, 1997, Gord rounded out his professional designations with Professional Surveyor Registration.

Throughout his thirty-three year career as a Saskatchewan land surveyor, Gord has been the consummate professional, contributing at least as much to the association and profession as he received in return. He served on council from 1969 to 1971 and was elected president of the SLSA in 1983. He also served on most association committees including Convention, Legislation, Discipline, Government Liaison, Land Surveyors Act, and Promotion.

Perhaps Gord's most distinguished role has been with the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors (CCLS) where he was instrumental in the success of

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The Committee came to the conclusion that a change was definitely needed. Here are some comments on the present ACLS logo that were communicated to some committee members during the survey:

- Don't know what it means
- Looks like a factory or a building
- To many lines; what do they mean?

And people gave the following comments about the logo that came out first:

- Like the curves
- Canadian flag is nicer
- Line work on left looks like a map
- Lettering is nice

With this info on hand, the Public Awareness Committee conducted a survey with the ACLS Membership using the Survey Monkey Web based tool. A total of 178 members responded which represents 31% of the membership. For the survey, we asked the members to choose between the current and the winning logo from the 10 to 30 age group survey and people were encouraged to provide comments. Again we obtained surprising results:

- 101 (57%) preferred new concept
- 77 (43%) preferred to stick with the present logo
- Recurring comments about the new concept:
 - Oceans are not represented
 - Acronyms to prominent compare to the graphic.

Council studied the results of the survey and decided to have the logo modified to reflect those two comments. The marketing consultant came back with a modified design and the logo was approved by Council on March 24th, 2009.

The new logo was presented at the last business meeting and most members embraced it without hesitation. A new display kiosk was also unveiled at the meeting.

As you will see, when you read the article on Public Awareness, this is only a first step in a fairly aggressive communications program.

Public Awareness Committee

Executive Directors Notes

New ACLS Council

Council positions were filled by acclamation, no election was necessary. The ACLS Council is now formed by the following people:

- President: George Schlagintweit, CLS from Sydney, BC
- Past President: Varick Ollerhead, CLS P. Eng. From Yellowknife, NT
- Vice President: Jeff Fee, NSLS, CLS from Toronto, ON (just moved from Nova Scotia)
- Councillor: Rick Beaumont, ALS, CLS from Edmonton, AB
- Councillor: Ivan Royan, BCLS, CLS from Kamloops, BC
- Councillor: Estelle Moisan, a.-g., CLS from Québec City, QC
- Lay Councillor: Zakary Hargrove from Clearview, NB
- Lay Councillor: Paul Scott from Calgary, AB
- Surveyor General: Peter Sullivan, ALS, CLS from Edmonton, AB.



New Councilor Estelle Moisan



New Councilor Ivan Royan and his wife Valerie

New CLSs

New CLS Commissions were presented to the following people at the business meeting: Eryn Gibbs, Calgary, AB; Cody B. Moser, Whitecourt, AB; Arne O. Hals, Edmonton, AB; Ryan M. Pals, Edmonton, AB; Carlo Monnett, Calgary, AB; Charles Zwicker, Yellowknife, NT; Johnathan Lunn, Whistler, BC; Iain Skinner, Calgary, AB; Rares Caraba, Calgary, AB; Jason Bartlett, Burlington, ON; Calvin Bourassa, Saskatoon, SK; Jeffrey Patton, Calgary, AB; Todor Latev, New Westminster, BC; Rocky Annett, Calgary, AB; Matthew Bigney, Canmore, AB; Nicole Head, Calgary, AB; Kristopher Jewett, Calgary, AB; Roger Leeman, Calgary, AB; Gregory Williston, Moncton, NB; and Jason Wilband, London, ON.



New CLS's

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Discipline Cases

At this time, the Discipline Committee is dealing with two cases which resulted from complaints filed in 2008. Discipline hearings for both cases were held in Whitehorse on May 6th and 7th. The Committee is in the process of drafting its findings.

So far no complaints were received in 2009.

ACLS Web site

This was a major undertaking but long overdue. The contract was signed with a firm called NVision IT back in December 2007. In the spring of 2008, the firm built the layout of the site but because of time constraints on my part, I could only provide the necessary content during the Summer of 2008.

After a lot of testing and fixing technical issues, especially with regards to the e-commerce functions, the Web site was finally launched in early December 2008.

Here are some of the new features:

- A promotional video
- E-commerce capabilities with a store
- Forum which allows on-line discussions. To post a message or reply to one, you first have to register. That process sends a message to Kevin here at the office. Within a week, he will activate your account which automatically generates an e-mail to you and you're ready to go. The reason why it takes a few days is that the system gets a lot of spam which unfortunately requires some time for Kevin to weed out.
- "Job Opportunities" which has just been moved to the "Careers" section so that it's open to the public. We encourage you to visit it regularly if you are looking for a job or looking to hire people.
- ACLS News in the members section: this is for news of interest to only our members. For example, up coming bylaw amendments, messages from Committees, membership surveys, etc.
- News and Events on the left margin: this is for news of interest to all such as up coming events, CLS exams, David Thompson Awards, etc.
- News in "Aboriginal Expertise" section: this is for news of interest for the Aboriginal community and for our members who work in that environment.
- New in the "Offshore Expertise" section: news of interest on the offshore.
- News Releases in the "About ACLS" section: we will post ACLS press releases on that page.
- Member's tool-kit containing a lot of useful information to help members in their practice.
- Find a surveyor module for people to look for licensed CLSs in their area.

A reminder, to access the members section, your user is your e-mail address and the password is your commission number. Once in, you can change your password. The old access codes (aclsaatc3 and canada3) don't work anymore. If you have problems, get a hold of Shelley at the office and she will set you up.

Jean-Claude Tétreault, CLS, a.-g., P. Eng., MBA
Executive Director

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the CCLS professional liability insurance committee (PLIC) and program - the flagship program of the CCLS. Gord joined the committee as chair in 1984 when he took on the role of CCLS Director for the SLSA, and has been a member of the committee since that time including a second period as chairman from 2004 until the present - almost a quarter century of service!

Perhaps Gord's most distinguished role has been with the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors (CCLS) where he was instrumental in the success of the CCLS professional liability insurance committee (PLIC) and program - the flagship program of the CCLS. Gord joined the committee as chair in 1984 when he took on the role of CCLS Director for the SLSA, and has been a member of the committee since that time including a second period as chairman from 2004 until the present - almost a quarter century of service!

Second only to his CCLS involvement was Gord's contribution to the Board of Examiners for Saskatchewan Land Surveyors. First appointed to the Board in 1998, Gord was a consistently a guiding influence in shaping the new board when passage of the new Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Act returned responsibility for professional examinations, from the University of Saskatchewan, to the SLSA. Gord stepped down from his position with the board nearly a decade later.

Gord's stature in the profession is well recognized, not only within the SLSA, but all across the country as he and Jan visited most other jurisdictions on a number of occasions.

As the sun slowly set at Elkridge Resort on the evening of June 12, 2009, Gord was justifiably proud as he sat basking in the admiring glow of his family, friends, and professional colleagues, while gently holding the plaque containing the names of all those other Saskatchewan land surveyors who had been so honoured before him.

Congratulations, Gord!



Labour Mobility and the ACLS

In the summer of 2008, the provincial and territorial Premiers signed an agreement to further reduce barriers to Labour Mobility in all trades and professions. So following that event, pressure was applied on our sister associations to implement full mobility. Since the ACLS is the only self-governing profession under federal jurisdiction, it was basically forgotten at first. That being said, I still actively participated in most of the CCLS Labour Mobility Monitoring meetings.

The ACLS office received a visit from the people who coordinate the Labour Mobility Initiative from Human Resources Social Development Canada (HRSDC) in February of this year. They enquired about our entry to the profession process. That confirmed that the ACLS is officially involved.

CCLS organized a meeting in Winnipeg on June 7th and 8th, 2009. All surveying associations were represented in addition to two representatives from HRSDC. The objectives of the meeting were to identify and deal with the various labour mobility issues across the board. I participated on behalf of the ACLS. People present had the chance to see a demonstration of the very sleek Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors Web based exam on demand system which is presently in operation (it wasn't at the time of the demo).

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The ACLS Council, at its June 26th meeting, approved the ACLS Board of Examiners' recommendation to work towards a shorter exam for candidates having a licence to practice from one of the Canadian provincial associations and to accept the ABCLS offer to join their Web based exam on demand system. The ACLS Board of Examiners will meet face-to-face in Ottawa on August 5th and 6th, 2009 to work out the details of this new process. Our hope is to have all this in place by January 1st, 2010.

On another issue that is related, I attended a meeting with representatives from the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors, the Alberta Land Surveyors Association, the British Columbia Government and HRSDC in Vancouver last March. The reason for that meeting was that both the ABCLS and the ALSA have opened their new entry requirements (because of TILMA) to all provinces. Both associations expressed concerns with ACLSs entry to profession requirements because there is no oral exam and no project for candidates not having a provincial commission applying for an ACLS licence. So at this meeting we came to key decisions that were approved by the ACLS Council on April 28th, 2009. In summary those decisions are:

- ACLS implement a licensing requirement of 18 months experience post Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors Certificate of Completion.
- ACLS to include code of ethics in the examination process for licensure to address the ethics component of licensure.
- ACLS to include in certification requirements a report (project) requirement to accompany the current Log of Experience and Practical Training.
- Implement the following transition plan to their respective boards to accommodate currently licensed CLS surveyors that will not have met the new requirements:

Canada Lands Surveyor (CLS)	Provincial Requirements	Duration
CLS holding a licence for more than 5 Years.	Sit the Jurisdictional Exam for each Provincial Association	Effective Immediately
CLS holding a licence for 2 to 5 Years	Sit the Jurisdictional Exam and the professional Assessment Interview/Oral Qualifying Exam	Effective Immediately and continue until conditions agreed upon have been in place for a minimum of 6 months to allow for any overlaps
CLS holding a licence for less than 2 Years	Sit the exams as laid out in the CCLS Mutual Recognition Agreement as approved in 2001	Effective Immediately and continue until conditions agreed upon have been in place for a minimum of 6 months to allow for any overlaps

The first two decisions and the transition plan have been implemented. The Bylaws and Legislation Committee is presently working on amendments to the CLS Regulations and ACLS General Bylaws to include the project report concept in the requirements for an ACLS licence to practice.

Jean-Claude Tétreault
Executive Director and Registrar

Strategic Plan Membership Survey

In preparation for last fall (2008) ACLS Council Strategic Planning meeting, we conducted a membership survey to get a feel of what you think about some key issues. A total of 98 members have fill out all or part of the Survey Monkey Web based questionnaire. That represents 17% of the total ACLS membership. Here is a summary of the results.

1. Do you think that the profession needs a new individual member driven national organization that will replace CCLS?
 - 98 people answered the question
 - 52% said Yes
 - 48% said No
2. What benefits should this new organization provide to its members (give three)?
 - 54 people answered the question
 - The most popular benefits in order of frequency (10 or more) of answers were:
 - Educational Opportunities (mentioned by 24 members)
 - Public Awareness (19 members)
 - Inter-provincial Collaboration (18 members)
 - Advocacy (17 members)
 - Insurance Coverage (10 members)
3. If the membership fee was in the \$100 to \$200 range, would you join this new organization?
 - 96 people answered the question
 - 65.6 % said Yes
 - 34.4 % said No
4. At the 2008 Victoria ACLS Business Meeting, the membership passed a motion for the ACLS to spend an amount of \$100,000 for the Future of the Profession. The ACLS Council formed a special task force to come up with a plan to spend the money at the next Council face-to-face meeting at the end of November and is looking for ideas from the grass roots. Please provide some ideas (maximum of 3):
 - 69 people answered the question
 - The most popular ideas in order of frequency (9 or more) of answers were:
 - Public Awareness (mentioned by 35 members)
 - Promotion to students (24 members)
 - National Association (14 members)
 - Education (13 members)
 - Expanded Profession (9 members)
 - Research & Development (9 members)
5. Do you think that the ACLS should make CPD mandatory?
 - 95 people answered the question
 - 58.9 % said Yes
 - 41.1 % said No
6. Would you take continuing professional development courses over the Internet (online)?
 - 91 people answered the question
 - 81.3 % said Yes
 - 18.7 % said No

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7. Should the ACLS invest a considerable amount of funds on distance learning?
 - 89 people answered the question
 - 53.9 % said Yes
 - 46.1 % said No
8. What course topic(s) would you like to take online (maximum of 3)?
 - 58 people answered the question
 - The most popular topics in order of frequency (6 or more) of answers were:
 - Survey Law (mentioned by 46 members)
 - Business Management (40 members)
 - GPS (16 members)
 - New Technology (13 members)
 - New Regulations & Survey Standards (6 members)

These results were very useful in updating the ACLS Strategic Plan. Council understood that the membership at least has an interest in the CCLS initiative to morph into a new individual member driven organization, is ready for a move toward mandatory CPD, wants the ACLS to explore the distance learning concept and there seems to be a market for this service. On how to spend the \$100,000 for the Future of the Profession, members would like to focus that money mainly on public and career awareness initiatives. The new Strategic Plan reflects those wishes.

Council would like to thank the 98 members who took the time to fill out the Web based questionnaire. Check your e-mail, because we will repeat the exercise with a new set a questions this fall.

Jean-Claude Tétreault
Executive Director

Easements being prepared by non-CLSs in the Yukon

The Yukon Land Titles Office and the Yukon Lands Branch are registering sketches of Easements and Licenses that have been prepared by someone other than a licensed Canada Lands Surveyor. In many cases, these sketches do not adequately describe the extent of the land covered by the Easement or License, and they are difficult to use because they are not integrated into the Canada Lands Surveys System. The most common example of these sketches is those prepared by the Yukon Electrical Company Limited (YECL) and Yukon Energy Corporation for their power lines.

The RG and the National Body of the ACLS have been making an effort over the past couple of years to convince the LTO not to register such plans, but so far we have been unsuccessful. We have had some success in convincing Yukon Energy not to create such easements, but Yukon Electric is still considering their position.

The RG took advantage of Jean-Claude Tétreault, David Jardine, the ACLS Legal Counsel, and the other visiting CLSs to discuss the issue at the ACLS Yukon Regional Group AGM in May. Prior to that meeting the group in general was quite militant and wanting to move forward toward a confrontation with the LTO. However, David Jardine et al, gave the group a significant dose of legal reality, and diminished that militancy.

Lately, a few meetings have been held between members of the R.G. and Yukon Electric officials to discuss possible solutions to the problem of registering easements in a timely and cost effective manner with the involvement of licensed CLSs. Some options have been developed and positive discussions are under way. We feel confident that we are close to resolution of the problem. We will keep the membership posted.

G.C. (Carl) Friesen, CLS
For the Yukon Regional Group

PROPOSAL FOR A MANDATORY CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that our members maintain professional competence as Canada Lands Surveyors.
- To demonstrate to our regulator and the public that our members maintain professional competence as Canada Lands Surveyors.
- To harmonize our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program with provincial surveying associations.
- To foster cooperation and partnerships to develop CPD courses and Distance Learning.

BACKGROUND

The ACLS has been a self-regulating professional association for 24 years. One of our key obligations is to ensure that our members maintain an acceptable level of professional competence. This objective falls under our mandate to protect the public interest as it relates to real property and the cadastre.

The ACLS implemented a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program in 2002. Members document and submit a CPD form on an annual basis. The form is reviewed and commented on by a member of the ACLS CPD committee. Participation in the program, including reporting, is voluntary.

Member participation in this program has steadily declined since inception. In 2003, member participation was at 35%. By last year it was down to 14%. Research of other self-regulating professional associations confirms that voluntary reporting does not work.

Last year the ACLS conducted a membership survey by email. We asked our members if the CPD program should be mandatory. 59% of our members responding said yes. The Council of the ACLS would like our members to reconsider the merits of a Mandatory CPD program.

RATIONALE

The majority of our members maintain a high level of professional competence. Members participate in courses, workshops and seminars. They also attend professional association activities, serve on committees and boards and help in their communities. All of these activities contribute to a member's ongoing professional development.

Many of our members also participate in CPD programs through provincial surveying associations and other professional bodies.

Maintaining professional competence requires a commitment to ongoing learning. Members must be current with ever changing technology, legislation, professional and business practices.

Mandatory CPD ensures participation by all members and provides the metrics needed to demonstrate our commitment. Our regulator and the public have a right to know that our members are worthy of the right to exclusive practice.

The CPD Committee researched programs with our sister associations and summarize:

- ANLS-voluntary, considering mandatory
- APEILS- voluntary
- ANSLS-mandatory
- ANBLS-mandatory
- OAGQ-voluntary, proposed mandatory in 2009
- AOLS-voluntary, proposed mandatory in 2009
- AMLS-voluntary, proposed mandatory 2010
- SLSA-mandatory

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- ALSA-voluntary, considering mandatory
- ABCLS-voluntary, considering mandatory

Clearly there is a trend toward mandatory programs and this initiative will help to align the ACLS with our sister associations. Other professions are also moving in this direction, responding to political pressure to de-regulate the professions.

How would you feel knowing your doctor or accountant had not been to a seminar in 20 years?

PROPOSAL

Most of our members already participate in CPD. The majority, however, do not report. With a mandatory program, participation and reporting will be required and the member will be recognized for his/her efforts. Those who do not currently participate in CPD will need to make a commitment to achieve a minimum level of ongoing professional development.

The program will be modeled after our current voluntary program. We will simply incorporate the mandatory component and make some adjustments. The ACLS already has a monitoring mechanism in place through the CPD committee. The level of effort will be increased to handle participation by the entire membership. Their role, however, will be the same: to review member reports, tabulate CPD statistics and provide feedback to members and Council.

The program will be limited to members with an active Licence to Practice. CLS's without a Licence to Practice and retired members will be exempt.. The program will be broad based. Credits will be earned for survey related courses, seminars and workshops as well as association participation. Non-survey related study and training; extra-curricular activities and community involvement will also be recognized. The program will be flexible, permitting the transfer of credits from any comparable CPD program administered by a provincial survey association. Courses offered by educational institutions and seminars and training provided by professional bodies will also qualify for credit.

The Mandatory CPD program will be administered through the annual Licence to Practice. In addition to the applicable fees and proof of insurance, an annual CPD report will be required for the licence to be renewed. Recommended targets for CPD activity will be reviewed by the committee, modified where appropriate, approved by Council and made mandatory. It is expected that minimum annual targets and a cumulative points total will be tracked over a three-year period.

The minimum number of required CPD credits will not be onerous. If reporting is mandatory, we do not anticipate that compliance will be an issue. Recognizing the geographically diverse nature of our membership, the ACLS will enhance the delivery of CPD through Distance Learning (DL) initiatives. This will include DL courses offered through partnership with sister associations, academic institutions and through the ACLS website.

The CPD Committee will make available to the membership user friendly tools such as the current spreadsheet and/or "Survey Monkey", for simple and efficient reporting.

The transition plan contemplates development of the program details in 2009-2010 and implementation of the program following approval at the 2010 AGM in St. John's NF.

CPD Committee

Tim Koepke and the Board of Examiners

At the beginning of the last Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) face-to-face meeting on December 9th in Moncton, NB, Tim Koepke was presented with a statue highlighting his 30 years of service as a member of the Canada Lands Surveyors Board of Examiners. Here is the content of presentation speech.

"The members of a profession are bound together in a common discipline, dedicated to serving the public, linked by a spirit of fraternity and individually and collectively to the scholarship necessary to increase and improve the body of knowledge upon which the discipline is based". (Koepke and MacPhee, 1986)

In the early 70's, Tim received his first Commission as an Alaska Land Surveyor. He has since received his Dominion of Land Surveyors and British Columbia Land Surveyor commissions.

Along with being a professional surveyor Tim is also a Civil Engineer and is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of the Yukon (APEY). As well as being a member he has also served on many APEY committees and at one point was the president of the Association. On April 29th, 2008, Tim was presented with a "Fellowship" by Engineers Canada for his involvement with APEY.

For many years now, he has been working under contract for INAC to help in negotiations of Aboriginal land claims. He was instrumental, by his integrity, knowledge and sense of justice for all parties, in the signing of land claim agreements in the Yukon. Tim was also instrumental in the land claim negotiations in British Columbia and Alberta.

Throughout his career Tim has sat on many committees such as the NRCan Advisory Committee, and the CCLS Harmonization Committee. With his many committee responsibilities Tim was also president of the ACLS in 1987-1988 and was the principal founder of the ACLS Yukon Regional Group. In 2005 the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors welcomed Tim into the association as an Honorary Life Member.

The statue was sponsored by the ACLS head office and the Yukon Regional Group.

Thank you Tim!

Jean-Claude Tétreault
Executive Director



The Case For A National Home For Land Information Professionals

This article was published in the "Ontario Professional Surveyor" magazine in the Fall of 2008.

Canada is relatively unique in the world with its system of provincial and federal regulation of property systems and of the self-regulating profession of land surveying.

Government initiatives such as the national Agreement on Internal Trade; the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) between British Columbia and Alberta and the Ontario / Quebec labour mobility initiative are attempting to effect common standards in the regulated professions through the requirement of professional mobility. This is long overdue and necessary for Canada's role in the global economy of the 21st Century.

Within the professions of surveying / geomatics / land information there have been similar steps. In 2001 the eleven regulating associations signed a Mutual Recognition Agreement which required all signatories to recognize and accept the professional status of applicants from other Canadian jurisdictions. Allowance was made for a demonstration or testing of local knowledge by applicants but the lack of a clear and consistent process led to differences in the testing by various regulators.

In 2005, the Western Board of Examiners and the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors created the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) as the evaluation and testing agency for their associations with respect to applications to article. The Canadian Council of Land Surveyors (CCLS) subsequently prepared a recommended harmonized syllabus for acceptance to articles focussed on the national scene and aimed at strengthening the basis of the MRA. By 2008 all jurisdictions except Quebec, PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador had accepted the harmonized syllabus and were or had applied to become shareholders and active members of CBEPS.

However, all of these steps have been focussed on the regulated area of the profession, that is, on cadastral surveying.

The non-regulated or non-exclusive disciplines of geomatics exist throughout Canada but some of these are only recognized in legislation in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and the federal jurisdiction of Canada Lands. There is no national system to address issues of professional interest in these disciplines and little interaction amongst the four associations that do some level of certification.

So, in the global context, we do not have a consistent national property framework nor do we have a consistent national profession encompassing all related disciplines in the realm of land information or geomatics.

In 2006 the President's Forum, an advisory group within the CCLS organization, agreed that the CCLS itself must evolve or be replaced to better address issues of national mobility and fair access for foreign trained professionals and students and to ensure the future viability of the profession in Canada. Over the next two years representatives of the regulating associations, other geomatics groups, academia and individual members of the profession met to discuss and formulate a solution to these issues.

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National Surveyors Conference 2009

The last National Surveyors Conference was held from May 27th to 29th, 2009 in Canmore, Alberta. The Conference was a success with over 160 delegates attending.

It all began with the National Surveyors Golf Tournament at the beautiful Canmore Golf and Curling Club. A total of 56 golfers benefited from the perfect weather to perfect their skills in highly distracting scenery (the Rockies). The winning foursome was formed by: Rob Stirling (again), Richard Andrews, Terry and Sharon Ingraham.

The following day was devoted to CPD activities. In the morning, the following program of seminars was presented:

- “Coordinates and Monuments: What People Want, and Good Survey Practice” by Dr. Michael Barry, CLS, PrL (South Africa), Department of Geomatics Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary.
- “Land Administration Domain Model (ISO 15925 -LADM)” by Daniel Fortin, CLS, a.-g., Natural Resources Canada, Surveyor General Branch.
- “Land Administration and Traditional Knowledge Registries” by Marie Robidoux, CLS, LL.M. Challenger Geomatics



In the afternoon, the meeting room was divided in two for simultaneous seminars. On one side a technical seminar entitled “GPS for Land Surveyors” with the following presentations:

- “Towards a National Geomatics Strategy- SHAPING CANADA'S LANDSCAPE, Federal Budget 2009 Consultations” by Dave Gariepy, ESRI Canada Limited, Chairman of the Board of the Geomatics Industry Association of Canada (GIAC).
- “The Evolution of GPS Technology and its Impact on Geomatics” by Roger W. Leeman, ALS, P. Eng., CLS and Rocky Annett, ALS, CLS – MMM Group
- “Recent work to develop a UWB augmented RTK system for surveying applications” by Dr. Kyle O’Keefe – Department of Geomatics Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary.
- “Loss Control and Prevention with GPS” by Rob Radovanovic, ALS, CLS – SARPI Ltd.

At the same time, a half day seminar was presented on Solving The Employee Training, Motivation & Retention Challenge by Bruce Lee, President of Encore Seven Inc.

At the Friday Annual National Surveyors Luncheon, the keynote speaker was the super dynamic Marty Avery who talked about Evolutionary Change and Reinvention.

The accompanying person’s program covered activities from hiking along breathtaking trails, to zip-lining, gondola ride, spa and shopping in beautiful Banff.

Next years conference will be co-hosted with the Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors held in St. John’s, Newfoundland from May 5 – 8, 2010.

Jean-Claude Tétreault, CLS, a.-g., P. Eng., MBA
Executive Director

Public and Career Awareness Initiatives

Both the Aboriginal Liaison and the Practice Review committees have been working for the past two years on a comprehensive marketing communication plan for the ACLS. The end of the work on the plan was timely because at the 2008 ACLS AGM, the membership adopted a motion to invest a \$100,000 on the Future of The Profession.

One of the questions in the Strategic Plan Membership Survey in the Fall of 2008 was how to spend the \$100K. The majority of members suggested public and career awareness activities. So Council has allocated the funds towards the following initiatives from the communications plan:

- New ACLS brochure targeting students (\$5,000)
- GeoCoin (\$4,000)
- Adds in specialized magazines (\$12,000)
- Promotional Video for the Web site, Career Fairs (\$38,500)
- TV add on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) (\$25,000)
- Send promotional materials to Canadian embassies to help draw more foreign trained professionals to Canada (\$500)

The rest of the funds will be set aside to help the CCLS with branding the new National Association.

The GeoCoin project has been completed within budget. We are currently working a new promotional post card (instead of a brochure) targeting students, adds for the School Counselor Magazine and SAY Magazine and the promotional video. For the video project we have just been informed that the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors will be full partners in the project allowing us to increase the video budget to obtain a top notch product. Filming started in the beginning of July.

In addition to these exciting projects, we unveiled the new ACLS display kiosk at the last AGM. The look is breath taking and the display is easy to set up, light and compact for transportation.

Public Awareness Committee

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It was unanimously agreed that the solution must be national, must address all geomatics disciplines, must involve all levels of membership and must be governed by the individual professional members.

The exponential increase in the number of disciplines which are now aligning under the 'geomatics' umbrella further demands a distinct professional home focussed clearly on the land information profession.

In short, we need what we have never had – **a national home for land information professionals.**

The proposed route to achieve this goal is the re-organization of CCLS from an association of regulating associations to an association of individual members in the profession but including related associations, academia, para-professionals and students. It would not be a regulating body by legislation but would provide a level of regulation and certification by choice. It would advocate for the professional, it would promote for the profession and it would align the Canadian profession with corresponding organizations across the globe.

The new association would also carry on and expand on certain activities of CCLS which benefitted all professionals and related associations including communications, public awareness, availability of professional liability insurance, continuing education and ongoing support to continue to move toward common standards and certifications.

The land information profession has tremendous potential if thought of as more than cadastral surveying with its restrictive focus on municipal, regional or even provincial boundaries. We cannot let provincial legislation based on 19th Century needs define the limits of the now multi-disciplined profession of the 21st century.

Over the next year it is expected that details of the new association will be communicated to all potential members but success will be solely dependent on all of us to adhere to the PIC principle – **participation, involvement, commitment.**

Jim Statham OLS, OLIP, CLS

Now is the time for Mandatory Continuing Professional Development

This article was published in the "Ontario Professional Surveyor" magazine in the summer of 2009.

Ontario Land Surveyors have, for the past ten years or so, preferred a process of mandatory special assessment for the provision of continuing education courses and seminars. There is no doubt that the vast majority of members took advantage of such courses and seminars to maintain their professional knowledge and competence, but is this "internal" approach to continuing professional development (CPD) providing our clients with the necessary perception of a well qualified and competent profession?

Mistakes inevitably happen and questions arise about one's knowledge. However, as seen in most insurance claims, mistakes are not usually about lack of knowledge. But that is what the client assumes and there is no program of mandatory continuing education to demonstrate the profession's mandate to focus on proper maintenance of the professional's knowledge base other than our Code of Ethics.

In 2009 the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors and all other Canadian regulated professions and occupations will embrace a nationwide program of equal labour mobility. It will begin with a basic assumption that all members in good standing of a regulated profession or occupation in one of the Canadian regulatory jurisdictions may be granted membership in another Canadian jurisdiction without any requirement to again be tested on material specifics of that profession or occupation.

Eventually this long overdue and necessary approach to Canadian regulation of professions and other regulated occupations will result in common and consistent standards and requirements throughout Canada and, one day, Canadian licenses may replace provincial licenses.

First we need to look at ourselves through our client's or the public's eyes. Are we seen as some of the best qualified surveyors in Canada? Naturally we think so but what convinces our clients? In the very visible and public arena of mandatory continuing professional development, we are lacking. That does not mean we are unqualified but it does send a negative message when other provincially regulated surveyors and other self-governing and non-exclusive professions and occupations can demonstrate their commitment to professional development through mandatory continuing education requirements. The public does see our profession as a highly technical one and all know that technology is progressing at record pace. Given the rapid pace of technology, how can they be confident of up-to-date, competent professional services?

In the past, members argued that mandatory CPD was unfair to those practicing in rural areas where courses or seminars could not easily be provided. Others criticized schedules that could not be met or the lack of options in schedule and topic. Today virtually all educational material can be made available online through distance learning processes. Materials and presentations can also be provided on demand and thus fit with anyone's schedule or change in schedule. Quite simply all options are available and, as a technology based profession, we should be amongst the first to embrace technology for ourselves.

Today's reality is that there is no downside to a formal program of mandatory continuing professional development. Costs should be equal to or less than the current mandatory special assessment program. Options will increase and members will only pay for what they need and want, not for a program that tries to please all. Public confidence will improve with the demonstration of a profession committed to excellence through a defined and published

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Distance Learning for the Surveying Community

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) and the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors (AOLS) have a plan in place for a collaborative effort to set up distance learning courses.

The AOLS is looking more closely at distance learning options in support of its project to improve access for foreign trained professionals and students as well as its own needs, the ACLS CPD Committee developed a partnership with the AOLS and we invited our other sister associations to join in the partnership. So far the Alberta and British Columbia Land Surveyor associations have shown their interest.

At the beginning of this year, the ACLS and the AOLS representatives approached the Chang School, which is the continuing education branch of Ryerson University in Toronto, to gauge its interest in partnering with us in setting up distance learning for our industry. Chang showed a lot of enthusiasm for the project.

The ACLS CPD committee has identified the following courses as topics of interest, which could be prioritized with courses identified by each member association for development as distance learning courses:

- Survey Law
- The Cadastre
- Water Boundaries
- Delineation of wetlands

The next steps are to select a course topic, find an instructor and sit down with people at the Chang School to draft a business case in order to go back to our partners to seek financial help if needed. Once a course is in place, we will count on our partners and other associations to help with marketing of the courses with respective memberships.

Jean-Claude Tétreault, CLS, a.-g., P. Eng., MBA
Executive Director

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program of annual professional development requirements. Labour mobility candidates will find a professional home that values its members, that ensures their knowledge and competence and that demands that same commitment from new members.

Mandatory continuing professional development must be enshrined in Regulation and therefore must be accepted by the membership. What better demonstration of commitment to excellence can there be than member approval of a mandatory program of continuing professional development. Professional surveyors in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have made the commitment and Canada Lands Surveyors are expected to consider a mandatory program at their 2010 Annual Meeting. Ontario surveyors have expressed support at recent Annual meetings to enshrine a mandatory program proposed by the Association's Continuing Professional Development Committee and this can hopefully be accomplished over the next year.

Jim Statham O.L.S., C.L.S., O.L.I.P.