

Preface: A Message from the President

Dear Membership,

Although there is an article in this issue of Communique by our Surveyor General and Executive Director specifically entitled "A Culture Change", I think that it is fair to say that Culture Change is a theme you will find common to almost everything ACLS is involved in these days. Many drivers are pushing these changes; be it the demographics our profession faces that have initiated the need for us to be far more proactive with public awareness, to Labour Mobility legislation that has resulted in the ACLS pursuing an on-line examination process. The initiatives are many and they take a considerable amount of time and effort. Fortunately, many of these initiatives are either '*one OFF'S*', or once completed they will enhance the association's ability to deliver its mandate.

Although the ACLS Staff, its Committees and Council are working very hard on your behalf, unless you are personally involved I can appreciate that this is not always obvious. Your best opportunity to catch up with all these developments is to attend our next conference and AGM. Catch up with old acquaintances, make new ones, and have an active voice in your profession.

See you in St. John's in May.

Best Regards,
George Schlagintweit

A Culture Change

The Surveyor General Branch has embarked on a major business transformation. Survey instructions are now available on-line, and eventually, Canada Lands Surveyors will submit their returns to the SGB in a digital format. A part of this transformation is the SGB decision to eliminate the process of submitting "provisional plan returns" in the short term. The SGB and the ACLS are hard at work on a major transformation of the plan review process.

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The next step in the business transformation process is to consider ways in which a Canada Lands Surveyor can confirm the quality of the plans produced thereby reducing the need for the SGB to comprehensively review all plans prior to acceptance into the Canada Lands Survey Records.

In 2003, the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors implemented an on-line "Electronic Plan Check List" which has considerably improved the quality of the plans being submitted for registration. So both ACLS Council and the SGB have decided to strike a joint task force to look at implementing a similar system to assist CLSs in their quality control for CLSR plan submissions.

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The Task Force has held many teleconference meetings since July and held a two day face-to-face workshop in Ottawa in October to define the business and technical requirements of the checklist system and the whole plan submission process. At the present time, the Task Force is working on the design of the Web based tool that will accommodate the Checklist system. An Advisory Committee formed by CLS private practitioners has just been set up with the mission of providing the Task Force with feedback from the end users of the system.

The overall objectives are to provide a practical tool to help our members to complete their plans to be registered in the CLSR, streamline the whole plan submission and quality control process and finally to reduce the number of critical errors to a minimal. Imbedded in the checklist will be hyperlinks to both the SG General Instructions and the ACLS Practice Manual making it easier for surveyors to find the information they need to complete their plans.

From the perspective of the Surveyor General Branch, the on-line checklist is a critical component of a modernized Canada Lands Surveys System. Over the last 5 years the SGB has been moving many traditional services to an on-line environment. The objective is to create a world-class survey system that makes effective use of available technology, integrates key partners in the property rights regime and operates to standards that meet or exceed those in provincial systems.

For this to happen, land surveyors will need to provide final returns for recording on first submission. The current process of accepting provisional returns for most plans creates significant delays in two areas: 1) during the SGB plan review process and 2) when proposed corrections are sent to surveyors. Delays can vary from a few weeks to several months.

The SGB proposes to use a combination of the completed on-line checklist along with an SGB internal critical error checklist to replace the current process. When a Surveyor submits a completed checklist to the ACLS, the SGB will automatically receive confirmation through an on-line process. So when a final plan is received for recording in the CLSR, SGB will only perform a *Critical Error* evaluation on the plan. The recording process will involve integrating the submitted digital file for the plan that will also provide a basic spatial check. Once a plan clears this process, it will be approved or confirmed under the *Canada Lands Surveys Act* and recorded.

The ACLS Practice Review Department will have access to all the members checklists stored in the ACLS database as part of the survey files that will be reviewed in the standard three year cycle.

The SGB recognizes that this approach differs dramatically from the current process and that a change in perspective (culture) internally and externally will be required to ensure success and overall improvement of the system.

The SGB will no longer be returning plans to surveyors for minor corrections. Close communication prior to submission of final returns will be encouraged with SGB regional offices. The checklist and associated changes to the plan review process will also encourage closer liaison between surveyors, land administrators and the land registration communities.

Support tools, such as the on-line checklist, will be required to help the land surveying community transition to the new process. For this reason, SGB is now committed to re-designing the *MyCLSS* web site and parts C and D of the Manual along with associated specimen plans to ensure that information is easier to find and use. Finally, the SGB is consulting with client departments to simplify existing standards and further improve the system.

The SGB and the ACLS look forward to their continued collaboration towards the development of an efficient and relevant modernized survey system that benefits all participants in the property rights systems on Canada Lands.

Peter Sullivan, CLS, ALS, MBA
Surveyor General
Surveyor General Branch

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

Summary of Council meetings

June 25th, 2009: teleconference

- Approval of a recommendation from the Board of Examiners to offer a Canada Lands Surveyor Commission to Tom Jones of Carleton Place, Ontario.
- Council approves the bylaws amendment package for the membership vote.
- Decision to proceed with proposal as presented to add a field project requirement in the CLS Regulations and add a section on practical training and another on field projects in the general bylaws.
- Council approved the updated Practice Manual.
- Council approved the new terms of reference template.

September 22nd, 2009: teleconference

- M. Robidoux will be the ACLS representative on the CBEPS Board of Directors.
- Council approves that an amount no more than \$32,000 be spent on setting up an on-line, on demand exam system for Labour Mobility candidates to be implemented as soon as possible.
- Council approves the new Bylaw amendments (after membership approval by mail in vote).
- ACLS will spend no more than \$10,000 to cover travel expenses and the Practice Review Managers time for the ACLS-SGB Plan Review initiative.

November 5th, 2009: face-to-face

- Council agrees that ACLS withdraw from any arrangements with CIG dealing with FIG representation.
- Council approves the new Terms of Reference for the CPD Committee.

November 6th and 7th, 2009 : face-to-face

- Council Strategic Planning meeting.

January 12th, 2010: teleconference

- Approval of a recommendation from the Board of Examiners to offer a Canada Lands Surveyor Commission to the following candidates:
 - Dagan Deslauriers of Sherwood Park, AB
 - Nicholas Ronsko of Camrose, AB
 - Scott Covin of Swift Current, SK
 - Cameron Twa of Yellowknife, NWT
- Council supports the ACLS-SGB Plan Review Checklist Project, and that some seed funding is needed to set the functional requirements for this project, ACLS will spend no more than \$11,200 to hire a consultant in January 2010 to work with SGB staff to set the functional requirements for the ACLS-SGB Plan Review Checklist.
- Council approves the new Bylaws and Legislation Committee Terms of Reference.

January 21st, 2010: teleconference

- Council accepts the Regulation amendments to be pre-published in the Canada Gazette and that a mail in membership vote be conducted.

Jean-Claude Tétreault
Registrar



Executive Directors Notes

New CLSs

The following people have just met the requirements for a CLS Commission:

- Dagen Deslauriers of Sherwood Park, AB
- Nicholas Ronsko of Camrose, AB
- Scott Colvin of Swift Current, SK
- Cameron Twa of Yellowknife, NWT
- Chris Bunker of Bracebridge, ON

Congratulations.

Discipline Cases

The Discipline Committee has issued its orders in respect to Discipline Cases 08-01 and 08-02. In both cases, the member had been found guilty of professional misconduct. A summary of the Discipline Committee's orders are posted in the member's only section of the ACLS Web site.

There are no active complaints or discipline cases at this time.

CPD Forms for 2009

We received a total of 99 CPD forms for the year 2009. This number is consistent with the past couple of years. Thank you to all members who sent in their form.

The winner of the \$100 Canadian Tire purchase card is Buster Davison of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

ACLS General Bylaws

The membership voted on amendments to the ACLS General Bylaws. We received 203 ballots which is 36% of the membership. Section 13.4(3) of the ACLS General Bylaws requires a 2/3 majority of members voting for amendments to be approved. This equals a minimum of 136 positive votes to pass. Here are the results:

- Amendments to eliminate the Student Member dues and give full voting rights to the Retired Members: 180 yes and 23 no (89%)
- Amendment to increase the dues for Regular Members, Licences and Permits: 176 yes and 27 no (87%)

So amendments are in effect. The updated bylaws are posted on the Web site. Thank you to all members who voted.

ACLS Geocaching Contest Winners

The Geocaching Contest ended on February 28th, 2010. The winners are:

- Kalman Czotter of Sidney, British Columbia for the coin that traveled the longest distance at 30,392 km
- Robert Allen of Sechelt, British Columbia for the coin that visited the most caches (240 caches).

They both win free airfare to the next National Surveyor's Conference and AGM in St. John's Newfoundland. Winners of the participation draw will be announced at the upcoming conference.

Congratulations to Kalman and Robert!

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

Labour Mobility

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 but now it has to follow suit.

The ACLS Board of Examiners met face-to-face in Ottawa on August 5th and 6th, 2009 to see how the ACLS could meet the challenge of reducing barriers for surveyors from other jurisdictions to meet the requirements to obtain a CLS Commission.

The ACLS Council approved the Board's recommendations to reduce the number of CLS professional examinations from three 3 hour exams to one four hour exam for individuals who are authorized to practice cadastral surveying in a Canadian province and who have demonstrated that they have taken a hydrographic surveying course that is approved by the Board or who have successfully written the CBEPS Hydrographic Surveying examination. To eliminate the time barrier for passing this exam, Council decided to go ahead with the implementation of an on-line, on-demand exam system similar to the ABCLS-ALSA model. We hope to have this place early next summer. The ACLS recently obtained a financial contribution from HRSDC to help adapt the ABCLS-ALSA to meet its needs and feed the exam question database for the random generation of exams by the system.

If all goes well, we will make a demonstration at the up coming annual general meeting.

Jean-Claude Tétreault
Registrar



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Public and Career Awareness Initiatives

At the 2008 ACLS AGM, the membership adopted a motion to invest a \$100,000 on initiatives to promote the profession. This article is to update you on the progress made since the last issue of *Communique*.

We have had printed out a considerable number of promotional post card targeting students. So far, the cards have been circulated at the last Blueprint for the future Aboriginal career fair in Saskatoon in November and, more recently, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) Aboriginal career fair. They are available to all members.

We had ads inserted in three issues of *School Counselor Magazine* and *SAY Magazine*. As a bonus, both magazines published informational articles on the surveying profession free of charge in one of their issues.

The joint ACLS-AOLS promotional video project is almost completed. It will be launched at the up coming National Surveyors Conference. A preliminary version was shown to AOLS members at its last AGM in February. The reactions were very positive. Since then, the video was improved considerably.

Some of the footage from the promotional video is being used to produce a 30 second television commercial to be viewed on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN). We just purchased 50 spots per weeks over 7 consecutive weeks to begin very soon. We found this to provide very good value for the funds invested because APTN does cater to the Aboriginal Peoples market but is also viewed by non-Aboriginals nationally. We will inform the membership by e-mail as soon as we find out when the spots will be shown.

Public Awareness Committee

Aboriginal Liaison Committee

The Aboriginal Liaison Committee forwarded the following article for inclusion in *Communique*. For those ACLS members who may work with first nations, it provides an example of how industry and the first nations community can work together in the spirit of mutual respect.



Manitoba Hydro sent writer Michelle Whetter and photographer Mario Palumbo to record one of the various, historically significant Aboriginal ceremonies that are taking place along with the construction of the Wuskwatim Generating Station. The ceremony they attended was for a stream crossing on November 30, 2006.

Chris Sawatzky (On-site Counsellor) fans smoke with an eagle feather for ceremonial cleansing. A traditional feast is also part of every ceremony and usually consists of wild berries, moose meat, or fish.

Stream Crossing Ceremony Will Put Wuskwatim Project in the History Books

It's unusual to say the least, that spiritual ceremonies lead the way for construction projects. But the historic Wuskwatim Generating Station project is setting a new standard in that regard. November 30 marked the third stream crossing ceremony so far during the construction of the 48 kilometre (km) gravel access road to the site of the future station.

So on a -31 C day, deep in the forest, 30 km down the partially completed winter road, a group of Manitoba Hydro employees, road construction workers for the Wuskwatim project, and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) spiritual leaders are sitting together on blankets in the snow inside a teepee made of evergreen trees. The group is acknowledging that the road will soon pass through a stream, which will change the path of the bear and cover the medicines growing in the area. "Acknowledgement is a sign of respect," said Dave Mark Sanderson, a Cree pipe carrier who helped lead the ceremony.

Numerous groups from the northern community felt that it was critically important and respectful to hold ceremonies during the construction as determined by the elders and Cree cultural tradition. In development of the partnership agreement between Manitoba Hydro and NCN, to honour that request, a contract was developed to provide services for ceremonies, cross-cultural training, and on-site counselling during the construction phase of the Wuskwatim project.

"This is historically significant. It is leading edge development for major projects around the world. And, it is the right thing to do," said John Markowsky who is the Resident Manager, for Manitoba Hydro's Wuskwatim Construction Department. "This was the first time in Manitoba Hydro's history, and quite likely the first time in North American major construction project history, that such a contract has been issued."

Respecting traditional cultural wishes has become a critical component for Manitoba Hydro in planning and developing major projects. "The execution of the ceremonies is important first and foremost to those who have a historical attachment to the area where the development is taking place," said John.

There has never been any pressure for the developer or the contractors to attend these ceremonies. However, NCN cultural leaders welcome anyone, and graciously and carefully explain various things they want people to understand about the cultural significance to the Cree leaders and elders.

"Our ancestors had ceremony in their everyday life," said Susan Kobliski, Cultural Coordinator for NCN. Susan administers the contract and helps organize and host the ceremonies. No matter how cold it is, she wears her colourful ancestral regalia and traditional beaded moccasins to honour her ancestors.

"It is very important to coordinate these site ceremonies with the contractor's work so that the ceremonies do not create conflict or interrupt critical work activities. To date we have been able to achieve that. This success is due to the flexibility and cooperation between the cross-cultural coordinator, Manitoba Hydro and the contractor," explains John.

Susan and Dave share an obvious passion as they speak about the land where they grew up, the problems facing their people, their beliefs about respecting all people and creation, and the challenges ahead on the road to healing.

A prayer is offered for the safety and well-being of those who are working on the construction. And each person around the fire participates by sharing something about themselves and what they are grateful for.

"We are not against modernization. We use the lights too," laughs Dave. "We are against development without consideration for future generations."

Susan heaps praise on Manitoba Hydro's supervisors and managers involved in the road construction.

"Most organizations don't like to try new things. But there has been a significant shift in the mindset of people in power in a powerful organization, as well as in our people," said Dave.

Those who attend the ceremonies are unanimous in their praise of the cultural leaders, how sensitive they are in carrying out the ceremony, and how much the experience is enjoyed by all.

Note: The Wuskwatim Generating Station is being constructed by the Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership - a partnership between Manitoba Hydro and NCN.