

Message from the President, J. Anne Cole

Thank you to Zak Hargrove, who has served as our lay councillor since August 1st, 2006. Zak was appointed by the government to represent the interests of the public on Council. He has served the public faithfully throughout his term and served Council well with his practical, wise and judicious questions and advice. Zak is a practicing engineer in New Brunswick and along with other members of his family, an owner of one of the largest maple syrup operations in Canada. The other ACLS lay representative is Geoff Connelly, a lawyer from PEI and we are also most appreciative of his ongoing contributions to decision making at the Council table.

I also want to thank and acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our ACLS staff – Jean-Claude Tétreault, Kevin Jones, Martha Reeve and Teri McKay. I know that the members are receiving excellent value for our collective investment in the operation of the Association.

Council worked last November to “refresh” the statements of our purpose and work as an Association. They are statements of this Association’s past as much as statements about our future. We have been and continue to be a leader and valued partner in advancing the survey profession in Canada.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the President	1
David Thompson Awards.....	2
Summary of Council meetings	3
Executive Director’s Notes	4
NSC 2015.....	5
James D. Gunn, Champlain Award Winner 2015	6
NSC 2016.....	6
NSC 2017.....	7
GeoEd.....	7
Tribute to our Volunteers.....	7
Scholarship.....	8
Acts and Regulation courses for CLS candidates.....	8



ACLS President Anne Cole thanking Past President Estelle Moisan for her service

The ACLS has much in common with our sister associations and there is much activity going on this year as we capitalize on this common ground. It is my view that the most important part our core work as associations is to invest in member professional development and to educate the public about the value of our profession to society. These interests are most certainly aligned with our sister associations and Council has endorsed continued efforts to join forces on a number of initiatives with other associations including holding our 2017 AGM on February 28th and March 1st to 3rd in Ottawa, together with the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors and the Ordre des Arpenteurs-géomètres du Québec.

We are also working on some time sensitive initiatives including efforts to:

- Advance the implementation of a marine cadastre
- Develop & implement hydrography certification.
- Capitalize on changing landscapes in the north/arctic/aboriginal governments

We are all aware of the importance to the public that we address recruitment challenges & the impact of retiring surveyors, in order to continue to serve the public. Council has established a task force to develop an Association human resources plan that includes focus on the impact of the current ACLS staff workload, succession planning, and to

adopt strong financial processes to mitigate the impact of declining & volatile revenue streams. This work will also include a study of the capacity of CLSs to meet current and future surveying demands in Canada. With the support of the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) we are developing an application to a federally funded initiative (Foreign Credential Recognition Program) to improve and support the entry of internationally educated

professionals to the profession. This is an initiative to enhance entry to the profession that we expect will benefit all potential future surveyors.

There is much to be done; we have plans, direction, staff and volunteers that have demonstrated their ability to lead us, and to get a lot done. When Jim Gunn received the Champlain Award he said “this profession attracts the nicest people”. I agree. We are also hardworking, smart and ambitious. We have over 75 volunteers working on various committees and initiatives. We have an excellent staff. This accounts for a high success rate on collective initiatives.

I encourage all ACLS members to participate, talk with one another, within our areas of practice, in our regions, across the country, and across generations. Choose a way to contribute to our profession that returns a dividend to you.

You can promote the value of the profession: Believe it, say it, use your relationships with others – individuals, organizations, and government – and build new ones. Our individual personal efforts matter a great deal to our collective goals. I am enjoying the opportunity the role of President provides to work with members, Council, staff, and the wider members of the geomatics world. Thank you.

J. Anne Cole, CLS, OLS
President

David Thompson National Geomatics Awards

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Canada are proud to announce the winners of the eighth annual David Thompson Awards! The awards were presented during the National Surveyors’ Conference in Winnipeg on May 14, 2015.

The David Thompson National Geomatics Awards are presented for excellence in the profession of surveying in three categories:

- “*Innovation in Geomatics*” recognizes a project that involved the most innovation, such as using never or seldom used technology to solve a survey problem.
- “*Contribution to Society*” recognizes a project that has the most positive impact on society, such as important involvement in new infrastructure in Third World countries, major contribution in cases of natural disasters, or technological transfer or capacity building in less fortunate communities. (No entries this year)
- “*Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying*” recognizes a project that applied cadastral surveying methods and technology to solve the most challenging technical problem.

Innovation in Geomatics



In the category *Innovation in Geomatics*, the winner was Dave Gurnsey from Altus Geomatics LP for the project entitled “Altus Adventurer – Sonar Jet Boat”. Due to concern for safety when surveying waterbodies by boat, Altus Geomatics developed a remotely-controlled sonar jet boat purpose-designed for waterbody surveys. This sonar jet boat is able to be controlled by an on-shore operator from up to 76 metres away and is powerful enough to withstand extreme weather and water conditions, including powerful currents. It is designed to work independently without the need of a chase boat and for ease of use assembling, operating, and transporting.

Runner up for this award was Leighton Greenstein from Altus Geomatics LP for “Data Integrity App”, developing an app for pipeline construction projects where survey field crews could collect and query vast amounts of data about pipes, welds, foreign crossings, and other systems. Also runner up for this award was Peter Mueller from the City of Surrey for “Creation of a Road Tenure Layer in a Municipal GIS”, a project to create a GIS map that held detailed information on all individual road parcels in the city of Surrey.

Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying



Douglas Dodge, left, and Varick Ollerhead, right, holding their David Thompson Award plaques

In the category *Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying*, the winners were Douglas Dodge from Exton and Dodge for the project entitled “Survey of Lots 4 to 149, Nesuch IR3 and Lots 1 to 35, Mount Currie IR 8, BC” and Varick Ollerhead from Ollerhead and Associates for the project entitled “Winter Survey of NU/NWT Border”. Both are pictured left with their awards.

“Survey of Lots 4 to 149, Nesuch IR3 and Lots 1 to 35, Mount Currie IR 8, BC” meant that Douglas Dodge had to survey a contentious portion of land to resolve the issue between the province of British Columbia and the Lil’wat Nation. Research revealed that a previous survey done in 1949 had been mathematically incorrect and resulted in all subsequent plans being unreliable. Using aerial photography from 1946 and 1950, he and his team were able to recreate the physical evidence at the time of the survey and resolve the original error.

Varick Ollerhead’s project “Winter Survey of NU/NWT Border” (shown below) focused on the logistical challenges of surveying and placing monuments along a stretch of 329kms of the Nunavut/Northwest Territories border in weather of -40°C. Pre-planning meant



that his team was able to place up to 17 control points a day at pre-planned locations. Using the weather to his advantage, he created force centered control points by drilling holes, using water and 1 metre threaded rods which instantly froze in place.

A close runner up for this award was Joe Iles from the Challenger Geomatics for “Carcross Tagish First Nation Land Claim parcel R-12A – ‘Montana Mountain’”, a project that required the retracement of 23km of the British Yukon Railway Company R/W which needed careful research to discover lost or damaged monuments.



The David Thompson National Geomatics Awards Program is open to all commissioned surveyors who are members of a Canadian surveying association, submitting projects that have been completed within the last three years. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, March 31, 2016.

For more details on the David Thompson National Geomatics Awards Program, please visit: <http://davidthompsonawards.ca/home/>

Summary of Council Meetings

March 3, 2015: Go to Meeting

- Discussed actions plans in line with the new strategic plan.
- Discussed proposed changes to the National Syllabus of Subjects for academic entry requirements.
- Received presentation on a proposed concept paper for the Foreign Trained Credential Recognition Initiative.
- Received Nominating Committee report.

March 31, 2015: Go to Meeting

- Update provided by the ACLS members’ representative on the PSC Board of Directors, Carl Friesen, on the affairs of PSC.
- Approval of the new Terms of Reference for the Aboriginal Liaison Committee.
- Review of proposed submission to ESDC for the Foreign Trained Credential Recognition Initiative.

April 23, 2015: Go to Meeting

- Approval of budget for implementation of a Learning Management System for GeoEd.
- Approval of Bylaws and Regulation amendments to be presented at the May ACLS Business Meeting.
- Approved drafting a concept paper for submission to the ESDC for the Foreign Trained Credential Recognition Initiative.

May 7, 2015: Go to Meeting

- Approved the Generally Accepted Land Surveying Principles document.
- Moved to offer a CLS Commission to Tyrell Sayd Willier-d'Aoust.
- Appointment of a new Special Examiner for the On-shore Property Rights subject.

May 15, 2015: Face to Face

- Debriefing on NSC 2015.
- Discussed upcoming NSCs.
- Review of ACLS Committee composition and appointment of Council Liaisons.
- Approved support for CBEPS to look into implementing a competency based assessment process for its candidates.

June 8, 2015: Go to Meeting

- Dominique Fecteau welcomed as newly elected councillor.
- Discussed proposed amendments to the complaints and discipline legislation.
- Approved supporting Yukon Regional Group's upcoming presentation with Izaak de Rijcke.
- Approved bylaw and regulation amendments to be put to the membership for vote.

June 30, 2015: Go to meeting

- Discussed how to develop regional groups.
- Approved working with ABCLS to move the CPD Tracking to GeoEd to be a collectively used tool.
- Review of staff salaries and benefits.

July 28, 2015: Go to Meeting

- Appointment of Estelle Moisan to the Board of Examiners for a term of 5 years.
- Approval of a document entitled "Maintenance Plan National Standards for Surveys on Canada Lands" dated July 8th, 2015 which ensure that the standards are updated regularly.
- Decision on an action plan to gather support for the Foreign Credential Recognition Initiative.
- In reaction to the news of the resignation of the ACLS members' representative, Carl Friesen decision to write a letter to PSC asking what it will do to replace Friesen
- Review of proposed Act and Regulation amendments dealing with various issues such as retaining candidate exams, professional liability insurance, definitions, etc.
- Review of Executive Director's salary and benefits, and adoption of a new vacation policy.
- Decision that the ACLS Practice Review Manager assume the position of ACLS Registrar any time the official Registrar is away on vacation or on leave in the year 2015.
- Review and approval of the preliminary program for the year 2017 National Surveyors Conference.
- Motion to thank Zakary Hargrove for his participation as a Council member appointed by the NRCan Minister and member of the ACLS Complaints Committee since August 1st, 2006.

Executive Director's Notes

New CLSs

Congratulations to the following people who were awarded a CLS Commission since the last issue of Communique:

- Dale Madsen, Calgary, Alberta and
- Chad Johnson, Sherwood Park, Alberta and
- Tyrell Sayd Willier-d'Aoust, Calgary, Alberta

Welcome to CLS family.

Results of the Bylaw and Regulations Amendment Vote

ACLS received a total of 89 votes through the electronic voting system. A 2/3 approval vote is needed from ballots received to approve an amendment. Here are the results:

- **Bylaws Resolution 1** to clarify how the By-laws will be made and maintained: 86 approved the amendment, 3 did not approve for a total of 89 votes.
- **Bylaws Resolution 2** to ensure that all sections of the By-laws be consistent and contain a provisions for the use of electronic mail: 78 approved the amendment, 0 did not approve for a total of 78 votes.

- **Bylaws Resolution 3** to change the ACLS Permit Fee to \$300, the Monument Placed Fee to \$12, and the Survey Document Fee to \$80: 62 approved the amendment, 15 did not approve for a total of 77 votes.
- **Regulations Resolution 1** to make acquiring the needed hours of CPD be a pre-requisite to renew a license: 70 approved the amendment, 7 did not approve for a total of 77 votes.

All resolutions were approved by the ACLS membership. Bylaw amendments from Resolutions 1 and 2 came into force on August 1st, 2015. Bylaw amendments from Resolution 3 will come into force on January 1st, 2016. Regulation amendments will be sent to the NRCan Minister for his consideration.

We would like to thank all members who voted.

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

NSC 2015

The eleventh National Surveyor's Conference was held from May 13 to 15, 2015 in Winnipeg, Manitoba in collaboration with Professional Surveyors Canada!

The successful Conference included an informative keynote speech by Jamie B. Wilson, treaty commissioner for Manitoba (pictured right), and great seminars on the CLS at the service of Aboriginal Communities, and datums elevations and height!

The following members were elected to the ACLS Council positions by acclamation: Anne Cole, President, Tania Bigstone, Vice President, and Dominique Fecteau, first year Councillor.

During the Business Meeting, members put the following motion on the floor: that Council consider developing a policy regarding the Surplus Funds and identify a minimum target level for the funds.



Thank you to members of the NSC 2015 Organizing Committee composed of:

- Nancy Kearnan, Chair
- Robert Lafreniere
- Tricia Christie
- Wilson Phillips
- Dewey Hoplock
- Gord Stark
- Lori Klos of the AMLS and
- Guy Craig of PSC

James D. Gunn, Champlain Award Winner 2015

In honour of the first Canadian surveyor, Samuel de Champlain, the Champlain Award was established in 1986 to recognize the achievements of those who have performed outstanding contributions in promoting or advancing the land surveying profession at a national level.

We are pleased to announce that James D. Gunn, NSLS, CLS, CIP is this year's recipient of this coveted award.

Throughout his career Jim has demonstrated significant accomplishments, dedication and leadership in the field of surveying, making especially noteworthy contributions in the implementation and running of the Professional Liability Insurance program which is available to most surveyors in Canada, and the establishment of the ACLS Practice Review System. Jim has also served as the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors Practice Review Manager for many years. He started the department in 1989 and stayed there for eight years.



From left to right: Gord Stark, Past President of ACLS, Jean-Claude Tétreault, Executive Director/Registrar, ACLS and Registrar CBEPS, James D. Gunn, Recipient of Champlain Award, Carl Friesen, Director-Canada Lands, Professional Surveyors Canada

He currently advises other Associations who are looking into implementing their own quality management systems. Jim's many years of volunteering on a multitude of committees and councils have had a major impact on the surveying profession throughout the country.

Congratulations Jim Gunn for this well-deserved recognition!

NSC 2016



Edmonton Glow photographed by Jeff Wallace

business meeting from their home or office through video streaming using GoToWebinar. There were a few glitches. The viewer experience will be improved for NSC 2016.

We had a great turnout at NSC 2015. We are hoping for our greatest conference ever in 2016. We will keep you posted.

Next year's National Surveyors' Conference will be held in Edmonton, Alberta at the Sutton Place Hotel from May 4 to 6, 2016.

The theme of this one is "Cadastre 2020: a Critical Infrastructure for Canada's Future". It's not definite yet but seminar topics we are working on are the following:

- Coordinate cadastre and the role of the surveyor
- The CLS at the service of Aboriginal Communities part 2 (part 1 happened in Winnipeg last May)
- The ACLS and the offshore

For the first time, members could attend the

NSC 2017

We are excited to announce that the National Surveyors' Conference in 2017 in Ottawa will not only be a joint event with the AOLS, but also with the OAGQ!

The Ordre des arpenteurs-géomètres du Québec has officially accepted an invitation sent by ACLS and AOLS presidents to participate in the celebration of Canada's 150th!

This Conference will take place March 1-3, 2017 at the Shaw Conference center.

Ottawa Convention Centre
photographed by Andrew
Moor



GeoEd



As part of the process of continuing to upkeep and improve GeoEd, we are continuing to add course, and some have been given a nominal fee. Do you have new staff in your office? Remember that they can use online training learn [How to Search the IRLS](#) and using the new [CLSS map browser 2.0](#). Interested in growing your business? Maybe check out [How to Do Business With the Federal Government](#).

New courses that have become available are:

[First Nations Land Issues](#) presented by Thomas Isaac talks about aboriginal law from a national perspective with a particular focus on the crown's duty to consult aboriginal peoples and how it may affect your surveying practice! Mr. Isaac also discusses the Tsil'cotin case and other recent cases of note and trends, and the First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act (FNCIDA).

[Introduction to the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management](#) presented by Tania Bigstone and Meko Nicholas briefly covers the following topics:

- Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management (Framework Agreement)
- First Nations Land Management Act (FNLMA)
- Role of the Lands Advisory Board and the Resource Centre
- Member Communities
- Differences between the Framework Agreement and the Indian Act
- Benefits of the Framework Agreement
- Thanks to AOLS, we now have some fantastic free courses, including [Dealing with Off duty Misbehaviour](#) and [Unmanned Aerial Systems](#)!

Tribute to our volunteers

Our volunteers do the bulk of the work for the ACLS and do not get the recognition they deserve.

In this issue, we want to highlight the contribution of the Discipline Committee!

Discipline Committee

The Discipline Committee is responsible for fulfilling the legislative discipline function. It hears and determines allegations of professional misconduct or incompetence in complaints filed with the Association. In this capacity, when the Committee is directed by Council to deal with a complaint, it selects 5 of its members, including its member who has been appointed to Council by the NRCan Minister, to form a Panel to act as judges in a hearing. Following the hearing, the committee will come to a decision of guilt or not and a penalty if found guilty.

The Discipline Committee is composed of the following members:

- Geoffrey Connolly, Liaison
- Robert Allen
- Nancy Kearnan
- David Attwood
- Terry Hauff
- Tim Koepke
- Robert Webster

We are fortunate that this committee has not been busy since there are no current complaint files at this time but it has been active in the last couple of years helping the By-laws and Legislation Committee in the revamping of the legislation in respect to the Complaints and Discipline process.

Thank you to all our hard working volunteers!

Scholarship Winners

Every year ACLS Foundation awards scholarships of \$1,500 to students enrolled in a postsecondary institution in the field of Geomatics. This year, the committee chose the following recipients from many promising applications. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all applicants!

Winners of this year's ACLS scholarship:



David Chaisson
Survey Technician
Centre of Geographic Sciences



Devin Gale
Geodesy and Geomatics
Engineering
University of New Brunswick



Ben Woodland
Geomatics
British Columbia Institute of
Technology

Visit our website at <http://www.acls-aatc.ca/en/node/66> for additional information about the Geomatics Scholarship Program and eligibility requirements.

Acts and Regulation courses for CLS candidates

In 2013, we removed the old Act and Regs videos from the market because they were out of date. They showed a seminar which was presented in the early 1990s.

This fall we will present a series of 20 one hour modules through distance learning on GeoEd. Titles of the modules will be the following:

1. Roles and Responsibilities- SGB (based on Chapter 1, Getting a Survey Done).
2. National Standards – Surveys
3. National Standards – Survey Plans 1
4. National Standards – Survey Plans 2
5. National Standards – Field Notes and Survey Reports
6. National Standards – Water and Other Natural Boundaries
7. National Standards – Deferred Monumentation
8. National Standards – Building Unit, Condominium Surveys and Air Space Surveys
9. National Standards – Oil and Gas Surveys on First Nation Reserves
10. National Standards – Oil and Gas Surveys NT, NU, YT and the Offshore
11. National Standards – Mineral Claims Surveys NT and NU
12. National Standards – Mineral Claim Surveys (Quartz and Placer) YT
13. National Standards – Digital Spatial File Specifications
14. Surveying on First Nation Reserves
15. Surveying on National Parks
16. Surveying in the Northwest Territories

17. Surveying in Nunavut
18. Surveying in Yukon
19. Surveying in Offshore Lands
20. *Canada Lands Surveyors Act, Canada Lands Surveyors Regulations, Canada Lands Surveyors bylaws, ACLS Practice Manual*

At this time, we have confirmation of presenters for half of the modules. The ACLS has hired a consultant who will prepare the material for the presenters. If you are interested in being a presenter, please contact Jean-Claude Tétreault at: jctetreault@acsls-aatc.ca or 613-723-9200. The biggest challenge is to find people who can present in French.

We are also working on presenting courses on the subject of Aboriginal Policy Issues. This will most likely happen early in 2016.

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