



National Surveyors' Conference 2015



The next National Surveyors' Conference will be held May 13-15, 2015 at the Fairmont Winnipeg in bustling Winnipeg, Manitoba.

To reserve your room, please contact the Fairmont Winnipeg at 1-800-441-1414 and remember to mention you are attending the National Surveyors' Conference! Room prices are \$195/night. This special rate ends April 9, 2015.

James Wilson, Commissioner of Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, will be providing the keynote speech including themes on

- Economic development
- First Nations Economic Development Zones (urban reserves)
- Treaty Land Entitlement

Look forward to these exciting seminars!

- **The CLS at the Service of Aboriginal Communities!**

- **Jean-Pierre Morin** of AANDC, "History of Aboriginal Land Claims"
- **Aimée Craft**, Lawyer and Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba, Williams Lake and Grassy Narrows Supreme Court Decisions
- **Gordon Bluesky**, Lands & Resources Manager for the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, "Parcel Fabric Renewal and Land Use Planning at the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation"
- **Leona Irons**, Executive Director at the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA), "The Management of Survey Contracts at NALMA"
- **Izaak de Rijcke**, Lawyer, OLS, Four Point Learning, "The Addition-to-Reserve Process and Transitioning between Property Law Regimes: Implications for the Cadastral Surveyor"
- **Tania Bigstone**, CLS, PEILS, First Nations Land Management Resource Centre, "The Management and Impacts of Survey Contracts Issued by the Resource Centre"
- **Robert Fligg**, CLS, OLS and Steven Rogers, CLS, "Integrated Model on Land Use and Parcel Fabric in Aboriginal Communities"
- **Geoff Cole**, Director of the Lands Directorate at AANDC, "Improving AANDC Survey Activities"

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- **Datums Elevations and Heights – Ensuring water flows downhill**
 - **Marc Véronneau**, Canadian Geodetic Survey, NRCan, “Canadian Geodetic Vertical Datum of 2013 (CGVD2013)”
 - **Paula McLeod**, Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, NRCAN, “Flood Mapping Initiatives and the role of surveying and geospatial standards “
 - **Chad Kazina** from Cansel, “CAN-NET RTK Services and the vertical”
 - **Dr. Brian Ballantyne**, SGB, NRCan, “Flooding across the international boundary: Dikes, culverts, drains & perched rivers”
 - **Calvin Bourassa**, CLS, SLS, Altus Group, Makwa Lake Survey – Methodologies, Datum, LIDAR, etc. (Northern LTOS, Parcel Fabric Renewal)

To register for this Conference, please go to our website [here!](#)

David Thompson National Geomatics Awards



Celebrating excellence in the field of geomatics in Canada, the David Thompson National Geomatics Awards was introduced in the winter of 2006-2007. The program was developed in cooperation with Professional Surveyors Canada (then Canadian Council of Land Surveyors).

The next awards will be presented to winners during the upcoming National Surveyors Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba on May 15, 2015 for the following categories:

- Innovation in Geomatics
- Contribution to Society
- Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying

Deadline for submissions: **March 31, 2015.**

For more information about the David Thompson Awards, and the application process, please see the new David Thompson Awards website [here!](#)

Summary of Council Meetings

September 26, 2014: Go to Meeting

- Decided to hire Julia Meldrum Smith as new Practice Review Manager.
- Discussed how to support PSC.

October 21, 2014: Go to Meeting

- Discussed with PSC how best to support them.
- Council received an update and agreed on the joint maintenance of the new National Survey Standards.

November 14, 2014: Face to face

- Debriefed after a strategic planning workshop.
- Discussed potential certification programs.
- Council discussed Act and Regulation Amendments for changes to the complaints and discipline process.

December 9, 2014: Go to Meeting

- Discussed Act and Regulation Amendments for changes to the complaints and discipline process.
- Reviewed strategic planning report.
- Identified focus groups that will need to be formed and an action plan.

January 13, 2015: Go to Meeting

- Moved to offer a CLS Commission to
 - Shelly Leighton, Conception Bay South, NL
 - Dale C. Madsen, Calgary, AB
 - Bradley Middlemiss, Edmonton, AB
- Formed actions plans in line with the new strategic plan.
- Approved support for CBEPS to look into implementing a competency based assessment process.

February 2, 2015: Go to Meeting

- Discussed proposed action plans.
- Discussed the formation of the new association GeoAlliance Canada.

Executive Director's Notes

New CLSs

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

- Steve Ruttan, Toronto, Ontario
- Bradley Middlemiss, Edmonton, Alberta and
- Shelly Leighton, Conception Bay South, Newfoundland

Welcome to CLS family.

MyCLSS Version 2.0

After more than a year of hard work, we are happy to announce that we will be releasing a new version of MyCLSS later this spring. This new version will have the following improvements:

- More intuitive graphical user interface
- Seamless process flow - completing checklist, levy form and final submission
- Digital final submission
 - Upload tool
 - e-signature leads to efficient e-recording and archiving (at a later date)
- New feature: Project organized by Surveyor's Project Number
- New feature: Search tool for My Projects
- WCAG compliant web design and new news menu
- Digital land administrator approval – e-approval module enables more efficient collaboration
- More automated notification/messaging leads to more efficient processing.

The land administrator approval module will eventually eliminate the need to send hardcopies around, so streamline the process even more and cut costs.

The recording of digital plans of survey will come at a later date. Legislation changes are required to allow digital signatures.

At this time, we are testing the new version. A demo will be available at the NSC 2015 exhibit on May 13th and 14th, 2015. Webinars will be offered before the go-live date. If all goes well, the new version will be in place later this spring. We will keep you posted.

Practice Review Manager

Our new Practice Review Manager, Julia Meldrum-Smith from Long Sault, Ontario has taken over from Jim Gunn on January 1st, 2015. We welcome Julia and we are sure that all our members will support her in continuing the excellent job that Jim has been doing since 2004. You can reach Julia at: (613) 932-8280, practicereview@acis-aatc.ca

ACLS Report for 2013-2014

It's a requirement in the CLS Act to submit a report to the NRCan Minister every year.

The ACLS report for 2013-2014 came out in December 2014 and is available on the ACLS Web site at: <https://acis-aatc.ca/files/english/publications/Report%20to%20Minister%202013-2014.pdf>

Generally Accepted Land Surveying Principles

The Canadian Council on Geomatics (Cadastral) which is a national organization regrouping Directors of Surveys and Surveyor Generals from all jurisdictions drafted a document entitled "The Canadian Generally Accepted Land Surveying Principles".

By way of background, the idea to create a set of principles originated in the first annual joint CCOG Cadastral - professional association meeting held in Niagara Falls on June 20th, 2013, where it was suggested that: "National Generally Accepted Land Surveying Principles - are required to help bring cohesion to, and communicate the value of the profession;"

The principles were to form the foundation for a national communication strategy aimed to raise awareness of the role of the professional land surveyor in government and to Canadian society.

Over winter 2013-14 a great deal of effort was made from members of CCOG Cadastral to compile a first set of principles. This draft was presented at the St. Andrews, New Brunswick joint meeting in May 2014.

You can find the document on the ACLS website [here](#).

Geo-Alliance Canada

In last issue of Communique, I mentioned that both Camron Twa and myself attended a meeting organized by The Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table (CGCRT) which is a collaborative initiative between governments (federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and First Nations), industry, educators and students, and not-for-profit organizations.

This initiative is making progress and has just made available a document entitled: "A proposed new leadership and governance model for the Canadian Geospatial Community". A working group of CGCRT deliberated at length on a name for the new organization. The name chose is "GeoAlliance Canada, The Canadian geomatics, geography and geospatial leadership network".

The document can be found at bottom of this page: <http://cgcrt.ca/en/geoalliance-canada/>

A day workshop is scheduled for April 20th, 2015 in Ottawa. I will be in attendance and report in next issue.

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

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The Future of GeoEd

[GeoEd](#) is our ever growing distance learning portal! GeoEd is home to many courses that are applicable to all surveyors, such as a recent series of webinars on the changes to the National Survey Standards. As we celebrate its third anniversary we can look towards the future of making GeoEd the place to go for your CPD.

Upcoming courses include:

- **Tom Izaak: First Nations Land Issues** General overview on 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 members. Will also discuss latest cases of note and trends.
- **Meko Nicholas and Tania Bigstone:** Introduction to the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management
- **Brent Taylor: Tenure and Governance in British Columbia** Understand the differences between crown grants, permits, licenses, leases, and rights of way over crown land.

We are always working hard to improve the GeoEd experience and the next big update will be to add a Learning Management System to the site! A LMS will enable GeoEd to track participant's progress over larger courses, give quizzes to test what they've learned and start a certification program. We're very excited about this update as it will always allow for a more immersive learning experience for participants, including in-course communication with other participants and instructors.

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 Complaints committee!

Complaints Committee

The Complaints Committee is a statutory committee which has the responsibility to consider all complaints that are received by ACLS regarding the conduct or actions of any member or permit holder. Where the Committee has reasonable grounds to believe that a member, a CLS or a permit holder has committed an act of professional misconduct or is incompetent, the Committee will investigate and submit a recommendation to Council to either dismiss a complaint or forward the complaint to the Discipline Committee.

The Complaints Committee is composed of the following members:

- Bill Edgerton, Chair
- Joe Iles, Council Liaison
- Rick Beaumont
- Carl Friesen
- Zakary Hargrove
- Ian Lloyd
- Dave McArthur
- Alain Sansoucy
- Mike Tulloch

We are fortunate that this committee has not been busy investigating complaints 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!

Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD)

We have just closed the second cycle of the ACLS Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) program which ran from January 1st, 2012 to December 31st, 2014.

At the time of writing this article, the ACLS on-line tracking system shows that 20 licensed members did not record the minimum required number of hours for renewal of their licence to practice in 2014.

Sub-section 11.4 (5) of the ACLS General Bylaws stipulates:

...If a licensed member does not meet the minimum MCPD requirements, the Registrar will contact the member to determine if there are extenuating circumstances which may give rise to an exemption. Should there be none and the member does not take reasonable steps to meet the minimum requirements, the member's Licence to practice will not be renewed.

Members in default have been notified by e-mail in January and those who did not respond will soon receive a hard copy letter of notice stipulating that they have until April 24th to respond if they want their licence to be renewed.

We have more and more course offerings on GeoEd. See article on GeoEd in this issue of Communique.

In the course of our monitoring, we are still seeing members selecting the wrong categories. Many members who attend AGMs or Regional Group meetings entered those activities under the "Participation" category which gives only half of claimed credit hours. These activities should be entered in the "Courses and Seminars" category. Some members enter time for reading articles in magazines and for reading new National Standards. We do not have a category for reading, so it is not acceptable at this time. The CPD Committee is presently looking into making changes to our CPD categories.

Please do not hesitate to contact [Martha Reeve](#) or [myself](#) if you have problems with the tracking system or a need for clarification on the CPD categories.

Monitoring of MyCLSS

Under an agreement with the Surveyor General Branch, the ACLS Practice Review Department has been reviewing one plan per year per license holder since MyCLSS began in 2011.

The monitoring ended in December of 2014. Jim Gunn presented a series of three reports (one per year) and presented his last one last January dealing with the period of January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

During this period 955 plans in total were submitted to MyCLSS in 2014. (Down 129 from 2013). Comprised of:

- 717 original submissions (down 125 from 2013)
- 226 submission flagged as having 1 critical issue (same as 2013)
- 11 submission flagged as having 2 critical issues (down 3 from 2013)
- 1 submission flagged as having 3 critical issues (down 1 from 2013)

This means that

- 32% of original submissions in 2014 contained one or more critical issues (Compared to 27% in 2013)
- Of those, 16 or 7% went had 2 or more critical issues. (This is comparable with 2013)

Practice Review Audits by ACLS (post-recording in CLSR)

- 156 CLSR plans were reviewed by ACLS during 2014. (up from 142 in 2013)
- 5 plans or 3% appeared to have potential critical issues that required further investigation. (down from 15 plans or 10.5% from 2013)
- Of these, 3 plans or 2% were referred back to the surveyor for possible amendments.

We are concerned about the fact that the number of submission having one more critical issue has increased since 2013. We were hoping that that number would be on the decline. We are presently looking at the causes of the critical issues and most likely present training webinars same as we did for digital files last year. We will keep you posted.

ACLS Strategic Plan

The ACLS Council held a facilitated strategic Planning retreat last November in Winnipeg. We are glad to announce our Vision and Mission which are the following:

Vision: The ACLS will be a leader and valued partner in advancing the survey profession in Canada.

Mission: We will achieve our vision by upholding our commitment to society and our role in supporting Canadian social and economic sustainability. We will carry out the objects of the Association as set out in the Canada Lands Surveyors Act. Acting with integrity in all things we will:

- Regulate members and ensure expertise by maintaining up to date national standards , qualifications and association governance;
- Advance our profession by promoting the contributions of our members in building and maintaining the lands and offshore property fabric that is the foundation of Canada; and
- Foster cooperative relationships with other organizations and governments.

Council then came up with the following strategic initiatives:

- Capitalize on changing landscape in the north /arctic/aboriginal governments
- Promote the value of the profession to society
- Improve inter-association / government cooperation in order to provide better services
- Address recruitment challenges & the impact of aging demographics
- Adopt strong financial processes to mitigate the impact of declining & volatile revenue stream(s)
- Advance the implementation of a marine cadastre / develop & implement hydrography certification
- Establish an ACLS Human Resources plan that includes focus on the impact of the current ACLS workload and
- Invest in member professional development.

This was a very arduous exercise which was well guided by a real pro, Grant Suderman of Verge Strategy Group. We want to thank him.

At this point, the action details to support the initiatives are almost complete. The ACLS committees that will be responsible for the action plan are being consulted to finalize the details.

A quote from Grant's report:

"Of note, this was the best group I have facilitated with, by far, in the last 10 years. The group is passionate, knowledgeable, committed to the profession and, as evidenced by the output, very hard working. It was a pleasure to be part of this group."

This is a well-deserved tribute to your Council. This association is lucky to have such devoted volunteers.