

Field Work Supervision – Best Practices

Direct supervision by a Canada Lands Surveyor (CLS)

Survey operations should be carried out under the Canada Land Surveyor's supervision and direction in such a manner that they are certain of their correct execution. This implies the CLS has personal knowledge to that effect. It follows that a CLS should assume a personal role in the execution of each survey.

At a minimum, the CLS should:

- Review the research upon which the survey was based,
- Communicate directly with their clients
- Acquire authorization from First Nations and/or land administrators prior to conducting the field survey
- Communicate with the field crew throughout the project,
- Review the field records,
- Ideally, attend the site if there are issues that need to be addressed,
- Oversee all office tasks associated with the project.
- Personally inspect the plan of survey, prior to certifying it.

Field practices should provide:

- The detection of gross errors and blunders.
- A methodology utilising checks to meet survey accuracy standards required by the National Standards (see below).
- The creation of a complete record of the field activity.

Field notes for a survey should document only the work completed during the current survey, not any prior work recorded in the Cadastral Land Survey Records (CLSR), unless the survey instructions specifically allow for using prior data. If prior work is used, the plan must clearly indicate which evidence is based on previous surveys. The surveyor should show what evidence was found, restored, or placed as part of the current survey project, distinguishing it from any past work. If prior survey data is incorporated, the survey execution date should reflect the period of both the current and prior work to clarify the timeframe of the survey.

Distinction between “independent checks” and “redundant measurements”:

Independent check: A process by which a measurement or calculated value is confirmed using a different set up, a different procedure, a different origin or different data.

Redundant measurement: An additional measurement used to confirm the results.