

What does a Canada Lands Surveyor do?

When a [Canada Lands Surveyor](#) is engaged to complete a survey on First Nation Reserve lands they are governed by professional [ethics](#) and the [Canada Lands Surveys Act](#). They do a lot more than field work. Here are some of the things a Canada Lands Surveyor does to provide a Plan of Survey for a land transaction:

Getting the work underway

- helps you to figure out what type of survey you need
- helps you describe problems & identify solutions
- takes directions from you about the scope of work including the intention of the parties creating the boundaries, your schedule, and any special considerations
- figures out the logistical aspects of getting the work done
- lets you know if any of the work will be subcontracted
- discusses opportunities for First Nation members' involvement in the survey work and in the supply of services such as boat rentals, accommodations, and fuel
- prepares an estimate of the costs and a schedule for the project
- signs a contract with you or a contracting authority funding the survey setting out the description of the work and the agreed upon schedule
- initiates a survey project through [MyCLSS](#) and obtains specific survey instructions from the [Surveyor General of Canada](#) and provides you with a copy and project number
- gets formal permission to enter the Reserve from the First Nation

Research

- obtains background information on your First Nation Reserve lands
- reviews existing survey information from the [Canada Lands Survey Records](#)
- researches the appropriate [land registry](#) for existing rights in property
- obtains geodetic survey control information for integrating the survey

Your working relationship with a Canada Lands Surveyor should provide an opportunity for you and other members of your First Nation to learn about surveys and how they can be used as a tool for land management.

Field Work

- meets with Band staff and members on the Reserve to review the work
- uses modern survey technology including total stations and GPS receivers
- takes measurements to determine the location of existing boundaries
- resolves conflicting evidence about boundaries
- locates existing features including buildings, utility lines, fencing, travelled roads
- integrates the measurements to the [Canadian Spatial Reference System \(CSRS\)](#)
- sets survey monuments and markers to show the boundaries to be created
- includes enough extra measurements to provide checks on the quality of work

Office work

- completes quality assurance checks of the field work
- confirms the connection of the work to the Canadian Spatial Reference System (CSRS)
- uses computer aided drafting (CAD) software to draw a Plan of Survey to show the research and field work
- follows the requirements of the Canada Lands Surveys Act and the [National Standards for the Survey of Canada Lands](#)
- discusses the Plan of Survey and the boundaries as marked in the field with you, including any issues or variations from your directions
- works to resolve any issues arising
- obtains written approval from the First Nation for the Plan of Survey
- completes a quality assurance checklist and a copy of the Plan of Survey to the [Association of Canada Lands Surveyors](#) for use in practice review through MyCLSS
- submits the Plan of Survey to the [Surveyor General Branch](#) for approval
- submits the final approved Plan of Survey for recording in the Canada Lands Surveys Records (CLSR) system
- provides you with the final Plan of Survey with a CLSR number in paper and if appropriate in a digital format for use in your geographic information system

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