

# How can we get the best from a Canada Lands Surveyor?

## Building a relationship with a Canada Lands Surveyor

First Nations and individuals who need a survey for a land transaction to be registered in a land registry need to find a [Canada Lands Surveyor](#) to complete the work. The process for obtaining and approving a survey varies depending on a number of things – whether or not you have built a working relationship with a Canada Lands Surveyor, how complicated the project is, who is going to pay for the work, and whether or not you need assistance in preparing the information to request a survey.

Even before you have finalized the details of a land transaction, a Canada Lands Surveyor can help you figure out the type of survey you need, assist you in preparing a sketch showing the intended dimensions with reference to existing features, and prepare a [land status report](#). A Canada Lands Surveyor will need this information in order to prepare an estimate of the cost of the survey and to obtain specific survey instructions from the [Surveyor General](#).

It may be a good idea to ask several Canada Lands Surveyors to quote on the work you require by providing them with the background information together with a time when the work needs to be completed. Some good advice on how to evaluate a proposal can be found in "[Guide to the Evaluation of Proposals for Resource Centre Survey Contracts](#)" June 24, 2015.

Building a working relationship with a Canada Lands Surveyor has the potential to provide your First Nation members with learning opportunities through working with the Canada Lands Surveyor from planning the project to helping with aspects of the field and office work and may provide mentoring for those who are interested in becoming a Canada Lands Surveyor.

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**How do you find a Canada Lands Surveyor?**

**What is the ACLS?**

**You have the final word!**

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**You have the final word**

A Plan of Survey prepared by a Canada Lands Surveyor on First Nation lands requires approval from the First Nation authorizing the creation of the new parcel(s) as shown on the plan, and approving that the plan is suitable for the intended transaction and that the plan meets with any planning or land use requirements of the First Nation. (Section 9.1 of the [Interdepartmental Letter of Agreement related to the Cooperation in the Area of Surveys and the Specifications for Descriptions of Land for Transactions on Reserve Lands Dec 2014](#))

**What is the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors?**

The [Association of Canada Lands Surveyors](#) (ACLS) administers legislation to assure the public that a Canada Lands Surveyor meets entry education and experience qualifications and undergoes continuing education. They are subject to practice review by the ACLS and are required to carry professional liability insurance. If necessary, the ACLS can investigate complaints and has a discipline process.

**How do you find a Canada Lands Surveyor?**

The first step in building a working relationship with a Canada Lands Surveyor is to find one! The ACLS keeps a [listing](#) of all the Canada Lands Surveyors currently licensed to do surveys on First Nation Reserve lands. Close proximity to your First Nation is a factor to consider, however a Canada Lands Surveyor from any province can work on any First Nation Reserve in Canada. Provincial professional land surveyors can become Canada Lands Surveyors by application to the ACLS. Asking other First Nations or experienced land managers for a recommendation of a Canada Lands Surveyor may help you choose one.