



Communique

Association of Canada Lands Surveyors

Vol. 24 No.1

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Message from the President, Jim Christie

[From a speech originally given at the online AGM May 22nd, 2020]

Hello Everybody, Bonjour

I would have preferred addressing the membership in person at our planned meeting in Mount Tremblant, but for now we have to take advantage of modern technology to stay in touch. First of all, a big thank you to the membership for their confidence in me to act as your president for this year. It is both an honour and privilege to serve the membership and to be part of our great Association.

I would like to send my sincere condolences to Land Surveyors across the country that may have lost a loved one during the pandemic. The impact from COVID 19 has affected us all in some way.

There has been a lot of talk over the past few months regarding essential and non-essential workers in Canada. In my opinion Land Surveyors are much more than just essential workers. Our economy and our country is much stronger due to our great tenure systems and the great work that Land Surveyors and their employees do every day.

Surveyors today are as resourceful as they have always been in the past. They are more than capable of meeting our current challenges head-on. Our profession has strong roots in tradition but has always embraced technology. Whether it is using the latest remote sensing tools or holding our annual meeting online. Your Association is also looking at technology to assist in providing education to our members, students and survey professionals from other jurisdictions. We have been working hard over this past year towards the goal of providing a Canadian online degree in surveying and geomatics. With the support and collaboration of all land surveying associations and of the degree granting academic institutions I am very confident that we will be able to achieve this goal soon.

I started my survey career in 1978 in Northern British Columbia. I always enjoyed boating, snowmobiling, and just being outdoors growing up in Fort St John. The oil and gas industry was very busy that year and I soon found a job at McElhanney. During my first winter season of surveying the idea of snowmobiling for fun started to lose its appeal. I learned new fun things like how to pack a car battery, tripod and an AGA 78 into a trapper net and then snowshoe several kilometers. It was not long after being an Assistant that I realized I better get an education. In 1979 I went to BCIT, the same year that Dominion Land Surveyors would now be known as Canada Lands Surveyors.

Leaving home to get a post secondary education at the time meant a lot of expense for me and my parents. That's why I'm very excited about moving towards an online degree program. It will open the doors for many that cannot afford to leave their community or who are raising a family and find it difficult to leave work to attend a bricks and mortar academic institution.

In the coming year we will do some further work on enhancing the governance of the Association. This will entail:

- Reviewing our Mission, Vision and Value statements
- Reviewing our current governance policies and develop additional policies where required
- Review Council terms and recruitment process
- Review our succession plans for the Executive Director and strengthen Emergency succession for the Executive Director and other ACLS staff as required
- Strengthen our Council orientation process; and
- Consider ways for Council to communicate potential strategies to key stakeholders

I am looking forward to this year and meeting many across the country even though it won't necessarily be in person. I look forward to attending provincial meetings and connecting with our members by phone or video conferencing.

Thank you.

Jim Christie, CLS, BCLS



Jim and Anna Christie

The 2020-2021 Council

The following Council was confirmed at the AGM:



Jim Christie, President
Vancouver, British Columbia



Rob Pinkerton, Past President
Calgary, Alberta



Philippe J. Breau, Vice President
Néguaq, New Brunswick



Bob Halliday, 3rd Year Councillor
Massey, Ontario



Max Putnam, 2nd Year Councillor
Corman Park, Saskatchewan



David Rochette, 1st Year Councillor
Quebec City, Quebec



Geoffrey Connolly, Lay Councillor
Cornwall, PEI



Leona Irons, Lay Councillor
Curve Lake, Ontario



Jean Gagnon, Surveyor General
Ottawa, Ontario

New CLSs

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

- Olivia Sabo, Vancouver, British Columbia
- Benjamin Restivo, Peterborough, Ontario
- Curtis Blackwood, Whitehorse, Yukon
- Andrew Hancock, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
- Benoit Fortier, Québec City, Québec
- Geneviève Marquis, Ottawa, Ontario
- Moe Mouallem, Edmonton, Alberta
- Amber Petrushka, Brock, Saskatchewan
- Paul Allan Craig, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

- Jamie Leslie, Ottawa, Ontario
- Mathieu Bourgeois, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Scholarship Winners

Every year, the ACLS Foundation awards scholarships. This year it decided to award 4 of \$2,000 to students enrolled in a postsecondary institution in the field of Geomatics. One of the 4 is reserved for a female student.

2020 Winners of the ACLS Foundation Scholarship in alphabetical order:



Ian Anderson
4th Year
University of New
Brunswick



Hang Hong
4th Year
University of New
Brunswick



Maria Le
4th Year
University of
Calgary



Esha Minchin
2nd Year
British Columbia School
of Technology

Visit our website at <https://www.acis-aatc.ca/students-home/scholarships/> for additional information about the Geomatics Scholarship Program and eligibility requirements.

New ACLS Book

In November 2018, the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors Council decided to go ahead with the production of its first book on the CLS profession to be written by acclaimed author, Charlie Wilkins. The prime focus of this ACLS publication will concern the areas of Canada lands, which are relevant to the Association, such as Canada's oceans, Northern Territories, National Parks and Indigenous Lands. In addition, this publication will delve into the crucial role that women play within the realm of Canadian land surveying.

The overall objective of this publication is to provide a captivating and varied experience for its readers. Through the delivery of a variety of independent inviting elements that are relevant to the interests of the Association, each reader can expect to immerse themselves into a book that provides a sense of curiosity and indulgence from start to finish.

At this point, Charlie finished his interviews and is focusing on writing the text which he worked on, partly, during the winter season on a Greek island. The global pandemic delayed his return to Canada, which only happened at the end of June. This new publication will be available in the spring of 2021.

Financially, we accumulated 66% in contributions to the anticipated cost of the book project. This fall, we will circulate parts of the content of the book and perform another blitz to try to close the financial gap.

GeoEd

The GeoEd on-line learning portal is currently being filled by on-line courses on a variety of topics that are available at a click of the mouse. At this time there are over 200 courses available on GeoEd. These courses include live, interactive webinars but most courses are fully self-study with recorded video and other digital materials. Surveyors are able to sign up for any course and complete it at their leisure.

We are happy to announce that the following organizations are GeoEd Registered Providers:

- Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors
- Alberta Land Surveyors' Association
- Association of Ontario Land Surveyors
- Ordre des Arpenteurs-géomètres du Québec
- Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors
- Association of Prince Edward Land Surveyors
- Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors
- Association of Canada Lands Surveyors
- Professional Surveyors Canada
- Four Point Learning
- URISA Ontario Chapter

Organizations that are Registered Providers can present courses using GeoEd and have a representative on the GeoEd Advisory Committee.

Because of the large quantity of courses available, users of GeoEd will notice improvements on how the GeoEd store is organized to facilitate the search for topics of interest.

In respect to the CPD recording module, we recently welcomed the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors to the group that includes the ACLS, the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors and the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association. This means that those individuals who are BCLSs and CLSs, for example, only have to record their CPD hours once in the GeoEd CPD recording module and both associations have access to the data.

Please visit GeoEd at: www.geoed.ca

Towards an Online Degree in Surveying/Geomatics

In 2018 all land surveying associations and the 6 surveying/geomatics degree granting educational institutions through the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) started a project to examine the future of surveying education. This preliminary work has taken us to this point where we are all in agreement on the direction and a need funding to move forward.

To continue to make the surveying profession more responsive, open and welcoming, it has become clear throughout the work on the Pathways to Credential Recognition of Foreign Trained Land Surveyors project, that the National Syllabus must be updated. Several components are now out of sync with the real world of surveying using the technologies available today.

Updating the national syllabus will then take the surveying profession closer to its avowed goal of setting-up an online degree in surveying/geomatics.

We also need to develop a new and improved accreditation process for current and future learning institution programs leading to a degree in surveying/geomatics that would be more efficient and in line with national and international trends. An online degree in surveying/geomatics is an innovative way to access specialized knowledge that will benefit many groups. For example, mature Canadian students find it nearly impossible to quit work and move to where a degree is being taught at university – they have many obligations and often times they also have a family. It would also assist foreign trained land surveyors interested in immigrating to Canada as they could undertake to fill in the gaps in their knowledge from their country of origin reducing the time required to attain their goal of being licensed land surveyors in Canada.

A request for funding has been submitted to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) in April 2019. ESDC confirmed, in February 2020, that our concept was accepted. A detailed submission was presented to ESDC in June of 2020. In July, an ESDC staff member asked many questions about the project and requested a detailed cash flow provision table over the two and a half years that we anticipate the project will last. We are waiting for a response in September. The project, if approved, will begin in October 2020.

In addition to this initiative, like most universities, the University of New Brunswick will offer all its courses on-line this fall because of COVID-19 and sent a request for expressions of interest from members of the surveying industry to facilitate some practical activities in the upcoming year for its students. Since there is practical training components in a degree in surveying and geomatics, involving the surveying industry would seem to be a good solution to the practical training part of an on-line degree.

National Surveyors Conference 2020

The 2020 edition of the National Surveyors Conference (NSC) was to be held in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec from May 19th to 22nd, 2020. The theme for the conference was: *International and Indigenous Perspectives for Sustainable Land Governance*. Unfortunately, as the COVID-19 virus continues to spread globally, the ACLS decided to cancel the National Surveyors Conference.

The 2020 edition was going to be an international event. In addition to collaborating with Professional Surveyors Canada, the following groups were going to contribute to both the technical program and the number of delegates:

- The Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)
- Canadian Geomatics Engineering Conference (CGEC) and
- Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG)

The overall goals of the WPLA are the promotion and improvement of land administration and land management in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region. Its members are the national land administration authorities and related authorities from UNECE member states.

The Canadian universities that have a geomatics engineering program were planning to hold their second Canadian Geomatics Engineering Conference.

The Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG) is the major federal-provincial-territorial consultative body for geographic information management. CCOG meets twice a year to discuss programs, developments, legislation, and issues relevant to geomatics.

Let's hope the opportunity for another international conference presents itself in the near future.

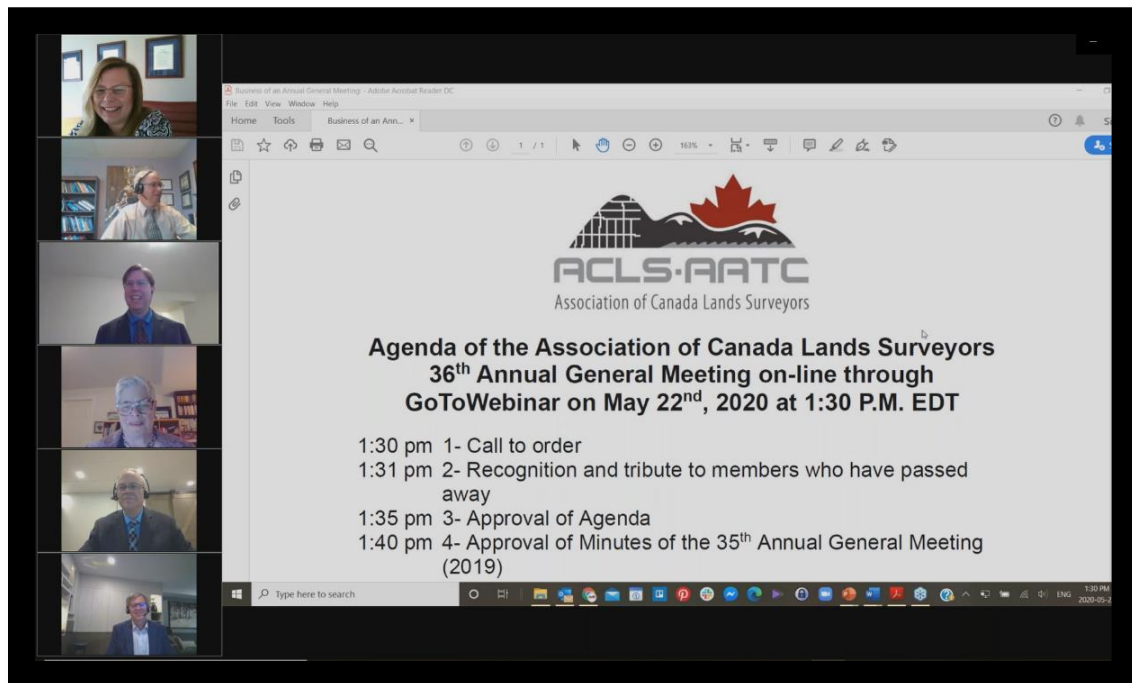
ACLS 2020 Business Meeting Online

A first for the ACLS. Since we are required to hold a business meeting every year before the end of June, the ACLS Council decided to hold an on-line meeting using GoToWebinar (a LogMeIn product).

It was a success. Over 170 members and guests joined the meeting. We've never had so many people at our business meeting. All business normally conducted during an AGM was done including the election of a new first year councillor, President and Vice President.

Thank you to all members who attended.

- Julia Meldrum Smith,
Practice Review Manager
- Jean-Claude Tétreault,
Executive Director
- Rob Pinkerton,
Past President
- Marie Robidoux,
Registrar
- Jean Gagnon,
Surveyor General
- Jim Christie,
President



National Surveyors Conference 2021

We hope that by next year COVID-19 will be behind us and permit us to hold NSC 2021 from April 14th to 18th at the Hyatt Regency, in downtown Calgary, AB. The conference will be presented jointly by the Alberta Land Surveyors Association and Professional Surveyors Canada and the ACLS.

National Surveyors Conference 2022

This conference will be presented jointly by the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors, Professional Surveyors Canada and the ACLS.

It will be held on March 6th to 12th, 2022 at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver, BC.

National Surveyors Conference 2023

The ACLS Council recently decided to hold NSC 2023 in Mont-Tremblant in May of 2023. The same venue that we were going to use for NSC 2020. We are presently working on selecting dates with the Mont-Tremblant Tourism Office.

The ACLS and COVID-19

The ACLS office was closed on March 17th, 2020. All staff members have been working from home since and still are. Both Marina Yong and Jean-Claude Tétreault visit the office once or twice a week each but not at the same time. Last fall we moved all our digital files to Google Drive which allows us easy access from anywhere. It has been a challenge, but operations are very close to being normal.

The CBEPS exam session, which was to be held in March, was cancelled. Since the pandemic situation was improving in the spring, we decided to offer an exam session in June.

The ACLS Council noticing a drop in document and monument revenue (drop of approximately 21% at this time) decided to utilize from the following Federal Government aid programs:

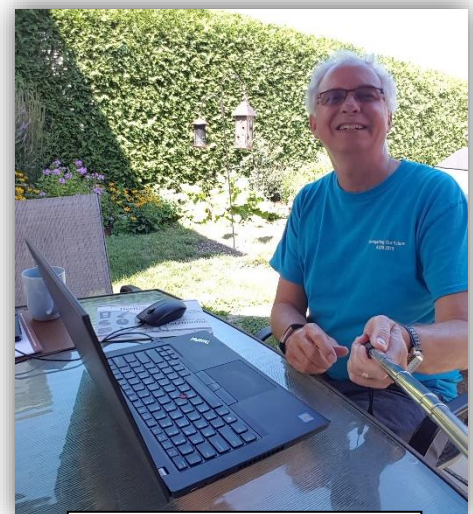
Federal Government Emergency Loan

The ACLS applied for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) and received a \$40,000 loan. The loan is interest free until December 31st, 2022. Up to an amount of \$10,000 from the loan may be forgiven if certain conditions are met.

The conditions to be eligible for the CEBA are the following:

- The organization is an operating business (i.e., not a holding company) in operation on March 1, 2020.
- The organization's payroll expense in the 2019 calendar year was between \$50,000 and \$1 million.
- Funds from this loan must be used to pay for operating costs that cannot be deferred, such as payroll, rent, utilities, debt service, insurance and property tax.

In 2022 Council will make the decision in regard to if the ACLS will keep the \$10,000 amount. This decision will depend on the ACLS financial situation at that time.



Jean-Claude Tétreault
Executive Director

Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers

The subsidy is equal to 10% of the remuneration paid to our staff between March 18, 2020 and June 20, 2020, up to \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer. This subsidy is not tied to any measured decline in gross revenue. The total benefit for the ACLS was \$6,875.00.

David Thompson National Geomatics Award

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors is proud to announce the winner of the twelfth annual David Thompson Awards!

Due to the global health pandemic and the cancellation of NSC 2020 the DTA award will be presented at the National Surveyors Conference in Calgary, Alberta in April 2021.

Celebrating excellence in the field of geomatics in Canada, the David Thompson National Geomatics Award was introduced in the winter of 2006-2007. The program was developed to recognize projects that exemplify the innovation and contribution to society that surveyors make every day to bring successful projects about for the betterment of all Canadians.

Challenging Cadastral Survey Project

Rob Riecken

Multi-Instrument Automated Monitor of Vital Highway Bridge in Vancouver



McElhanney designed, installed, and maintained a four-month automated monitoring program for a BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure Highway 1 bridge in Vancouver. FortisBC planned to construct a natural gas pipeline beside the bridge pier foundations, and a trench was needed to contain the pipeline – but the bridge had not been seismically upgraded, making it vulnerable to failure should the nearby ground be disturbed.

McElhanney installed a series of instrumentation, which included two continuously operating total stations, tilt meters, accelerometers, inclinometers, vibrating wire piezometers, and vibrating wire strain gauges. The unique combination of position difference data with tilt, inclination, and vibration data was critical to the geotechnical assessment of the site. All stakeholders could access the real-time data 24/7 via web-based dashboards, and the data was highly functional for MOTI and FortisBC's engineering teams.

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 March 1st, 2021.

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



Governance Enhancement Project

The ACLS Council is concerned about provincial governments questioning the governance practices of licensing bodies in British Columbia and Québec so last November it hired an expert in non-for-profit organisation governance to review all of ACLS practices and policies to be ready for any challenges in the future.

The work plan for the next year and half is the following:

1. Review/enhance Mission and Vision statements and develop Values statement (completed at 90%)
2. Review current governance policies and develop additional policies if needed, including Executive Limitations (completed at 50%)
3. Review Council terms of office and enhance Council recruitment process (0%)
4. Review Executive Director succession planning policy and plans, specifically emergency succession (done)
5. Strengthen Council orientation process (completed at 50%)
6. Add Council Education as standing agenda item at Council meetings; develop annual Council calendar to ensure regular review of Mission, Vision, Values, policy and plans (10%)
7. Consider/discuss ways for the Council to formally link/communicate with key stakeholder (0%)

The Council has been working to bring the Vision and Mission statements of the ACLS up to date in order to focus the Council deliberations and to inspire the members with respect to our self-governing profession. We are happy to present the new ACLS vision and mission statements:

VISION: Instilling public confidence in the regulation of Canada Lands Surveyors

MISSION: Remaining true to our mandate, we build trust and mutual respect through strong governance, effective self-regulation and individual proficiency

Council has also narrowed down various Values meant to underpin the Vision and Mission. We will be seeking member input with respect to the association values through a Survey Monkey poll in the coming weeks. We hope to gain valuable feedback from a broad cross section of the membership in this exercise.

ACLS Bylaw Amendments 2020

Voting on the ACLS Bylaw amendments 2020 was conducted online through the ACLS website. The voting results were opened and the count of total votes, votes in favour and votes to disagree were verified by scrutineers Rob Pinkerton and Jim Simpson in the presence of Marie C. Robidoux, ACLS Registrar at 2:00 pm EST July 15th, 2020. The results are as follow:

By-law amendment resolution 2020-1

The By-Laws and Legislation Committee suggests regrouping certain sections from Parts 5 and 13 because the subject matter of those sections was more appropriate in Part 2. By regrouping those sections in Part 2 dealing with general matters of the Association, the Committee recommends amending the title of Part 2 to be « PART 2- THE ASSOCIATION ».

Additionally, to ensure that all Members use the same prescribed seals adopted by the Council, it is also proposed to illustrate the Association and Licence Holder`s Seals by creating Schedules A and B in the By-laws.

76 votes in total – all in favour

By-law amendment resolution 2020-2

The ACLS By-laws and Legislation Committee has completed its lengthy review of Part 3 of the By-laws and is proposing amendments to certain sections to correct various conflicts and inconsistencies.

- Creation of 5 new sections dealing with the Term of Office and vacancies for certain officers.
- Definition of “Past President”.
- Remove section on bonding which was never used.

76 votes in total – all in favour

By-law amendment resolution 2020-3

This Resolution concerns Part 5 amending portions of the bylaws dealing with financial matters. Upon review of Part 5, grammatical changes were found to be necessary. Also, the use of the Association seal as described in this section 5.9 is not used in practice by the Association.

The following changes be made to Part 5 of the By-laws as follows:

- Sections 5.1 and 5.7 be revised to reflect surpluses rather than profits.
- Subsection 5.9 (1) be deleted as the procedure in regards to the seal documented in this Part does not reflect the practice.
- Section 5.9 renamed “Signatures” as reference to the seal is removed.

76 votes in total: 75 votes in favour, 1 vote to disagree

By-law amendment resolution 2020-4

The By-Laws and Legislation Committee noticed that existing Section 13.4 defines a process under which members can propose changes to the Regulations. Since Council is responsible for the making of Regulations, the steps in the process are out of order with what actually has to occur. This amendment corrects the process.

76 votes in total: 74 votes in favour, 2 votes to disagree

By-law amendment resolution 2020-5

In recent years, ACLS has had increased operating costs due to essential succession planning and cost-of-living increases for staff. In preparation for the upcoming retirement of Jean-Claude Tétreault, we have amended the role of registrar as a separate part-time position. Since membership and other fees have been at the same level since January 2018, these increased expenses are not sustainable at current fee levels. To generate additional revenues, ACLS Council has approved the recommendations of the ACLS Finance Committee, which proposed amendment to the fees associated with Membership, License and Permits. In light of the current economic situation in Canada due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has determined that this proposed change in fees will come into effect in 2022 rather than 2021 as originally intended.

79 votes in total: 75 votes in favour, 4 votes to disagree

Paragraph (3) of Section 13.5 of the ACLS General By-laws stipulates the following:

Approval of an amendment to these By-laws requires a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Members voting.

In conclusion, all five amendment resolutions have been approved by the ACLS membership.