

Communique

Association of Canada Lands Surveyors

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Message from the President, Philippe Breau

Bonjour tout le monde,

After recognising the past presidents, I am honored to follow in the footsteps of this impressive group of people. I would like to thank the membership for their trust in allowing me to serve as your president for the coming year.

It has been a challenging year to say the least with the ongoing global pandemic. The Atlantic Provinces have been very fortunate with minimal case numbers, which is quite different than most of the rest of our country. In general, our profession seems to be faring well when compared to other sectors of our economy. As some of you may know, I am a second generation "Acadian" land surveyor from northeastern New Brunswick (son of Jules J. Breau, New Brunswick Land Surveyor). I have been associated with surveying most of life. My father, who is still practicing at a young age of seventy-eight, operated his business in the

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basement of our house. One of my first jobs as a young teenager was making copies on an early blueprint machine...I can still smell it...

Once I decided to become a surveyor, I enrolled at UNB. I worked as an assistant with my father every summer while attending university. Upon graduation in 1997, I moved to Alberta and joined All West Surveys / Altus Group where I worked as a Party Chief, and then the Grande Prairie Branch Manager until I moved back home to New Brunswick in 2009. I was fortunate to article in Alberta under Herb Kiel, ALS, CLS and worked on various Nunavut Land Claims with Daniel Lachance, ALS, CLS.

In New Brunswick, I work alongside my father, and I take great pride in our profession.

Council has been very busy working on tidying up our governance procedures over the last while and has made a lot of headway on that front. The TOLD (towards and on line degree) project is in its early stages. I think this project, once completed, will serve our profession very well.

Serving as council liaison on two committees for the last three years has made me realise the time and dedication our members put into our association. I would like to thank all of our committee volunteers who are crucial to the functioning of our association. I also would like to invite all of our members (especially newcomers) to join a committee, you will find it very rewarding.

In closing, I am a bit sad that we are not meeting in person, but look forward to the day when we can do so.

Merci!

Philippe J. Breau, ACLS President

The 2021-2022 Council



Philippe J. Breau President



Jim Christie Past President



Bob Halliday Vice President



Max Putnam 3rd Year Councillor



David Rochette 2nd Year Councillor



Reid Egger 1st Year Councillor



Gordon MacInnis Lay Councillor



Leona Irons Lay Councillor



Jean Gagnon Surveyor General

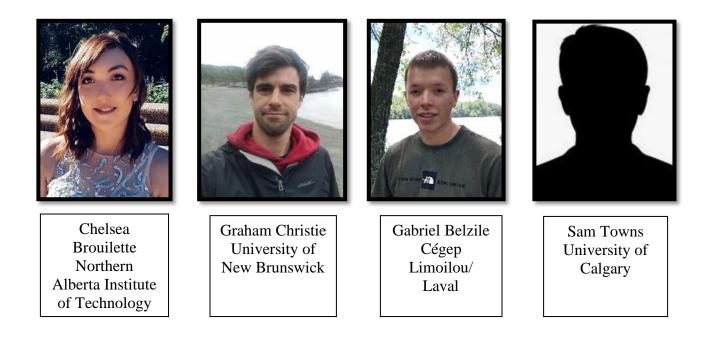
New CLSs

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

- Steven Cook, New Brunswick
- Colin Butler, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Michael Haines, New Brunswick
- Noelle Machon, Alberta
- Christopher Beaugrand, British Columbia
- Keith Norek, Manitoba

ACLS Foundation Inc. Scholarship

The 2021 ACLS Foundation Scholarship recipients are:



New ACLS Book

We are happy to announce that the project is progressing well after a long delay because of the pandemic.

In fact, it is picking up speed. We feel confident that copies will be available before the end of the year.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors for their contribution and patience since the book was supposed to come out last Spring. Of course we want to thank all CLSs who contributed to the content of the book.

However, we still need financial help. We will soon send out a promotional leaflet, which will contain sample sections from the book and a request for more funds. To date we accumulated a total amount of \$137,000. The project is expected to cost \$202,000.

The ACLS Book is bei generous support of our The names of all supporting fit	DRSHIP UNITIES ing prepared with the professional community		
There are several ways to participate: Members Package - \$500 Includes 3 copies Includes 10 copies			
Fir	ms		
	Gold Package -\$7,000 Includes 35 copies		
Platinum Package - \$10,000 Includes 50 copies			

GeoEd

The ACLS Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and the Indigenous Relations Steering (IRS) Committee were extremely active in the past year producing courses to the membership.



The IRS Committee has worked on a series of CPD sessions that were presented to the membership. This series was to be launched at the NSC 2021 but since the pandemic and cancellation of all gatherings the committee decided to present these sessions throughout the year virtually on GoToTraining live and also make them available on GeoEd for future viewing.

- 1. Interests, Tenure & Property Rights on Indigenous Lands
- 2. Improving the Connection between Legal Surveys with Existing or future interests on Indigenous Lands
- 3. Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management
- 4. Surveys on First Nation Lands under a Land Code

The CPD Committee was active in presenting courses to the membership that were relevant to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, theses courses were presented live on GoToTraining with active Q & A and then posted to GeoEd for viewing.

- 1. Cybersecurity and Data Protection Pandemic Edition
- 2. Cybersecurity and Data Protection Session #2: Prevent, Detect, Respond
- 3. Historical Surveys Finding the Past to Go into the Future
- 4. Professional Liability Insurance

The ACLS also hosted webinars for the SGB with session on;

- 1. Modernization of the North American Reference System
- 2. NAD83(CSRS): From Static to Dynamic in both official languages.

Towards an Online Degree in Surveying/Geomatics

Introduction

The Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) is engaged with its members -10 of 11 Canadian self-regulating land surveying associations, excepting Québec - in moving its examinations towards an online degree in surveying/geomatics.

This project is funded by the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program and the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors is providing CBEPS with administrative support during the project.

The project intends to prepare future generations of surveying and geomatics professionals where they live, building upon technologies to assist Canadian society strengthening and developing our future workforce. At the same time, the current accreditation of academic institutions and course exemptions must also be modernized to reflect the new National Syllabus.

Project Description

The project is divided in 3 phases:

- 1. Modernize the CBEPS National Syllabus to meet changing societal needs and priorities, and adapting to a future driven by technological change;
- 2. Update CBEPS Accreditation and Exemptions Process;
- 3. Develop a clear path to an online Canadian surveying/geomatics engineering degree.

1. Modernize the CBEPS National Syllabus to meet changing societal needs and priorities, and adapting to a future driven by technological change

CBEPS created a National Syllabus complete with study guides and learning outcomes to assist candidates in preparing for the examinations, which occur, twice yearly in a number of locations in Canada. The National Syllabus main components are anywhere from 10 to 20 years old.

Therefore, the CBEPS National Syllabus is being modernized to account for new approaches and technologies. This will go hand in hand with a Canadian online surveying/geomatics degree.

The National Syllabus Team is composed of representatives from educational institutions, both universities and colleges, from all land surveyors' associations, and a representative from an industry association.

More than ever, the intersection between subjects is causing duplication of learning outcomes between not necessarily similar subjects. The modernizing effort will also examine the redundancy in subjects caused by their intersection.

The current syllabus does not address either the expanded role of the profession in areas such as land management, project management, new technologies and new uses of new and old technologies. Currently the National Syllabus is composed of 12 compulsory core subjects and 5 elective subjects as follows:

Core Requirements:

- C1 Mathematics
- C2 Least Squares Estimation & Data Analysis
- C3 Advanced Surveying

- C4 Coordinate Systems & Map Projections
- C5 Geospatial Information Systems
- C6 Geodetic Positioning
- C7 Remote Sensing & Photogrammetry
- C8 Cadastral Studies
- C9 Survey Law
- C10 Land Use Planning & Economics of Land Development
- C11 Business Practices & the Profession
- C12 Hydrography

Elective Requirements:

- E1 Spatial Databases & Land Information Systems
- E2 Advanced Hydrography
- E3 Environmental Management
- E4 Advanced Remote Sensing
- E5 Advanced Photogrammetry

The core and elective requirements are supported by detailed learning outcomes and study guides¹.

All institutions that are accredited cover all the CBEPS subjects' learning outcomes through one or more courses. A candidate graduating from an accredited program, upon presentation of his/her transcripts, automatically qualify for the certificate of completion.

For institutions that do not have full accreditation but have course exemptions, a candidate must submit a transcript identifying the subject they wish to be exempted from to be granted the exemption.

Educational institutions in Canada have been moving towards "attributes" and "competencies" for some years as they follow educational requirements in their province as well as for engineering program certification.

Proposed Syllabus

The new proposed syllabus will have a different format that will emphasize and group items under a larger umbrella.

For example, one of the syllabus subjects called "Modelling & Analysis" may include items such as modeling and prediction; estimation and approximation; filtering; and statistical data analysis. This would be a departure from having this subject focusing only on least squares estimation and data analysis without being attached to how and where it can be used.

In doing this thorough review of its National Syllabus, CBEPS wants to move from a prescriptive content to a more flexible competency and learning outcomes type of syllabus to keep pace with the Canadian academic institutions and other accreditation entities.

The syllabus work was tackled by a group of 25 people with a mix of academics and land surveyors. A small task force was formed to bring to the group a list of proposed components for a new syllabus. This was

¹ https://cbeps-cceag.ca/resources/learning-outcomes-and-study-guides/

discussed, debated and modified until the group was satisfied and could approve in principle a list of 8 proposed components for the new CBEPS syllabus. This list was also approved in principle by a majority of the land surveying associations. Following approval in principle of the proposed syllabus components, clusters composed of a combination of academics and land surveyors were formed to work on each component in more details.

A collaborative and consensus-building approach was taken to engage representative from academia and industry to:

- Determine relevant content for current and future land surveyors
- Develop draft competency-based learning outcomes

The final list of proposed components is:

- C1 Mathematics and Sciences
- C2 Modeling and Analysis
- C3 Geodesy
- C4 Surveying
- C5 Remote Sensing
- C6 Geospatial Information Systems
- C7 Law, Tenure, Boundaries, Cadastres and Planning
- C8 Professional Practice

The clusters' work was carried out between May 10 and June 11, 2021. The following Competency Summary Map Template was used for each component and an experienced facilitator worked with each cluster.

COMPONENT 1: Specific Cluster to be discussed LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• High-level learning objectives for the cluster

Key Principles	Motivation	Knowledge (must know)	Critical Thinking (must be able to think through)	Competency/Learning Outcomes
Торіс	Reasoning for why the topic is of relevance to surveyors (what's in it for them)	"Must know" content to be covered to achieve competency- based learning outcome	Critical thinking required to ensure knowledge results in learners being able to apply knowledge in a working environment rather than learn to pass an exam	Measurable, action- based learning outcomes that result in a learner being successful in the workplace

The final draft proposed components for the new CBEPS syllabus are now with the surveying associations for review and comment. CBEPS is hopeful that the new National Syllabus may be available to all interested academic institutions across the country in 2022 so they can examine its content.

2. Update CBEPS Accreditation and Exemptions Process

The current process is out of date and academic institutions have been requesting a modernization of the process that can provide institutions with more flexibility than what is currently available.

In 2019, the exemption process received an update in that institutions requesting accreditation of a syllabus subject where, besides the course(s) contents, the institution is also required to list the graduate attributes that are addressed in the courses that cover the syllabus item. Then describe where and how they are covered in each course.

The attributes are:

- Investigation and critical thinking
- Problem solving, creative thinking and design
- Communication (ability to communicate complex land surveying and survey engineering concepts)
- Individual and teamwork skills
- Project management
- Professionalism, ethics and equity
- Awareness of the impact of surveying and associated development on society and on the environment
- Commitment to lifelong learning

Proposed Process

The new process will require providing flexibility to educational institutions while not compromising the new syllabus currently in development.

The current process is heavily tilted towards meeting the learning outcomes in each syllabus subjects i.e., content oriented, whereas the proposed process will rely more on competencies, expectations and learning outcomes.

The expectation is that the new process will enable educational institutions to provide all the essential learning required by the syllabus as identified by competencies, attributes or other mechanism and to then focus their program on their specific expertise or the "nice to have" areas where they shine. Each institution in Canada generally has a different focus for their "nice to have" or specialized areas.

Such an environment would also allow the institutions to put their funding to work in a better balanced way instead of just trying to match course contents to a syllabus.

3. Develop a clear path to an online Canadian surveying/geomatics engineering degree

The last phase is concerned with developing a clear path to a Canadian online degree in surveying/geomatics engineering.

The end result is not to end up with an online degree ready to roll out but to pave the way for such a degree. Working with educational institutions, land surveying associations and industry, we hope to achieve this in the not so distant future. Once the groundwork of a modern syllabus and a flexible accreditation and course exemption processes are finalized and have received approval from the stakeholders, the work will turn its attention to the question "how can we make this online degree happen?"

There are already numerous ideas to bring us there including each institution providing different modules which could be based on their specific expertise. Other ideas consider each institution providing their own degree as long as a candidate has not taken more than a certain percentage of courses at another or other universities, which is the current process.

The main difficulty with this phase of the project is centered around what the institution will find palatable and how provincial governments will react.

This is also, why the ultimate goal of this project is not to end up with an online degree but with a reasonable and achievable map of the process.

Conclusion

CBEPS anticipates that the whole processes renewals and a detailed, clear map towards an online degree in surveying/geomatics engineering will be a game changer for Canada. It will open the profession to foreigntrained professionals like never before and at the same time make it possible for numerous Canadians to enter the industry while learning from their home location.

The hope is that many more candidates will join the ranks of the many Canadian surveying firms and assure the industry's future.

> Funded by the Government of Funded by the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program



Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

At the 2020 AGM, some members expressed concern about the ACLS applying for the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA). The ACLS received a \$40,000 loan from the Federal Government with no interested and the possibility to be forgiven for an amount of \$10,000. Arguments: Why benefit from this program if the ACLS is in good financial situation?

Later on in the year, the government program allowed for applications for an extra \$20,000, which the ACLS would qualify. However, Council realized that according to section 5.8 (1) of the By-laws, borrowing more than \$10,000 requires an Extraordinary Resolution presented and discussed at a Special General Meeting then followed by a membership vote.

Council called for a Special General Meeting which was held via GoToWebinar on March 4th 2021 at 12:00 Noon EST. The following resolutions were presented for discussion:

Resolution A: That the membership of the ACLS authorize the CEBA initial loan of \$40,000 to the ACLS. on the basis that any loan balance is re-paid under the terms of the loan agreement prior to December 31, 2022. Decision related to retaining the forgivable portion (25 percent of loan) will be made by ACLS Council based on a review of the Covid-19 pandemic impact on ACLS finances and the financial situation at the time. If defeated, the loan would be returned. Resolution B would not be required.

<u>Resolution B</u>: That the membership of the ACLS authorize the CEBA expansion financing of an additional \$20,000 to the ACLS, on the basis that any loan balance is re-paid under the terms of the loan agreement prior to December 31, 2022. Decision related to retaining the forgivable portion (33 percent of the aggregate loan) will be made by ACLS Council based on a review of the Covid-19 pandemic impact on ACLS finances and the financial situation at the time.

If defeated, the ACLS would not apply for additional \$20,000.

Both resolutions require 2/3 vote of those who voted to pass. The results were:

Resolution A:

- Agree: 104 votes, so 76.5% of members who voted
- Disagree: 29 votes, so 21.3%
- Abstain: 3 votes, representing 2.2%

Resolution B:

- Agree: 86 votes, so 62% of members who voted
- Disagree: 48 votes, so 35%
- Abstain: 5 votes, representing 4%

In conclusion, Resolution A passed but not resolution B.

At the April 14th business meeting, the results of the membership vote were presented. Many members voiced their concerns about keeping the initial \$40,000 loan. Immediately after the AGM, Council held a meeting and decided to return the initial \$40,000 loan.

The Scotiabank was very slow in processing our request and \$30,000 of the initial loan was finally returned on July 26, 2021. The rest will be returned in December 2021. According to bank officials, the last quarter has to be returned only at the end of the year.

ACLS 2021 Business Meeting Online

The ACLS second, and we hope our last, on-line business meeting was held on April 14th, 2021. Again, the GoToWebinar system (a LogMeIn product) was used.

It was a success. Over 200 members and guests joined the meeting. We have 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.

National Surveyors Conference 2022

The NSC 2022 will be held in Ottawa May $10^{th} - 13^{th}$. The venue for the event is the Brookstreet Hotel, located just west of the city in Kanata, ON.



The NSC Committee has started the bulk planning for this conference. The ACLS is looking for local volunteers to be part of the Ottawa planning committee to work on social events for our membership and accompanying partners.

The theme for NSC 2022 is "<u>A Sense Of Where You Are</u>" based on the ACLS Book title "*A Sense of Where You Are: The Epic Work and Times of the Canada Lands Surveyor*" by acclaimed author Charlie Wilkins which will be launched at the conference.

National Surveyors Conference 2023

A save the date reminder that NSC 2023 will be held in Mont-Tremblant, Québec on May 9 to 12, 2023. The same venue that we were going to use for NSC 2020.

National Surveyors Conference 2024

In February this year, we conducted a survey to decide on a location for NSC 2024. The first question gave a choice between Iqaluit NU, PEI or none of the above. 61.86% selected PEI but 33.90% did select Iqaluit. So the ACLS secured the Rodd Brudenell River resort for NSC 2024, the site of our first NSC. The event will be held on May 8th to 10th, 2024.

National Surveyors Conference 2025

Since the results of the survey, mentioned previously, did show interest for Nunavut and the fact that a few other hotels are presently being built, the National Conference

Committee is currently considering hosting the NSC 2025 in Iqaluit.

David Thompson National Geomatics Award

Named after David Thompson, an explorer and surveyor who almost single-handedly mapped Canada's vast, unknown interior 200 years ago, these awards represent the pinnacle of work. The next awards will be presented to the winners during the upcoming National Surveyors Conference.

All commissioned surveyors in Canada can nominate a surveyor whose work they feel was outstanding.

There are two categories in which you can submit applications:

- 1. Challenging Cadastral Survey Project
- 2. Challenging Non Cadastral Survey Project



Deadline for submissions: March 1st, 2022.

Submit your project today!

Governance Enhancement Project

The ACLS Council is continuing on its path to developing policies and procedure documents to formalise Association processes to meet the new challenges facing regulatory bodies and prepare for the Executive Director's replacement. So far, Council accomplished the following:

- 1. New Mission, Vision, Mandate and Values statements
- 2. A new compilation of governance policies including Executive Limitations
- 3. Executive Director succession plan
- 4. Council Education Calendar
- 5. New Councillor orientation course
- 6. Policy and guidelines to enhance Council recruitment process
- 7. Risk Management Register
- 8. Financial monitoring process.

The following tasks will be done in this current year:

- 1. Develop ways for the Council to formally link/communicate with key stakeholder
- 2. Executive Director and Registrar performance review process.

International Canadian Hydrographer Certification Program

The ACLS is in its 5th year of operation of its certification program for hydrographers and offshore surveyors, which, has been officially recognized by the IHO/FIG/ICA International Board of Standards and Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) in April of 2016.

We have recently realized that some potential candidates have been under the impression that the program is strictly Canadian, not international. The Program has been recognized by the IBSC as meeting the International Standards (S-5) and is open to anyone. It is managed by a Canadian organization but its still international in scope and is recognized around the world. In fact, one of our certified hydrographers resides in the United Arab Emirates

Currently, five individuals have obtained and maintained their Level 1 certificate and something new, we opened up a new category for executive hydrographers. One such certificate has recently been awarded.

The new CHExecutive (CHE) category is open to experienced managers and office based hydrographic and offshore surveying personnel. Candidates for this category must have some of the following attributes:

- Has a senior role in a company or organization.
- Has had, at some time in the past, the same qualification and experience as a Level 1 certified individual, but no longer is actively involved in executing a hydrographic or offshore survey project (including mobilization, particularly working on boats or in planes, or flying drones).
- Is responsible for developing the careers of the Level 1 and Level 2 personnel.

- Is responsible for working with the Level 1 in the planning of the hydrographic or offshore survey for the purposes of bidding on projects.
- Has demonstrated a high level of corporate maturity and fully understands the purpose of the hydrographic or offshore survey and how each fit into the corporation's strategy.
- Has demonstrated being a strategic leader.

The Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) has recently decided that it will award points to contractors who submit proposals that show that they have certified hydrographers on staff.

The IBSC recognition will expire in April of 2022. A task force is hard at work drafting a proposal to renew our recognition. It is a challenge since the standards have changed. We now have to follow the new International Hydrography Organisation (IHO) S-5A and S-5B standards

Modernization of the Canada Lands Surveyors Legislation

Work on proposed amendments to the Canada Lands Surveyors Act and the Regulations were initiated in 2012.

The main topics addressed in the proposed amendments were:

- a) Improving the complaints and discipline processes through greater transparency;
- b) Transferring administrative responsibilities from Regulations to By-laws;
- c) Aligning with Labour mobility provisions with the Canadian Free Trade Agreement;
- d) Amend incompatibilities between the English and French versions of the Act.

All through the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, the ACLS By-laws and Legislations Committee and some members of the NRCan Surveyor General Branch staff worked on preparing a working document explaining the modifications that the Committee feels are necessary to address the topics listed above.

Last Fall, the Justice Department Legal Drafters began working on wording of sections to be amended. We are hoping for developments this year.

In the meantime, the By-laws and Legislation Committee began work on the modernization of the CLS Regulations and General By-laws. In fact, many sections of the Regulations will be moved to the By-laws for easier management by the ACLS since the Ministers approval would not be required.

Executive Director's note

Security on MyCLSS

Since the implementation of MyCLSS in 2011, the Government of Canada has implemented a Policy on Government Security to manage government security in support of the trusted delivery of government programs, services and the protection of information. This includes the required security practices and controls for the MyCLSS website in collaboration with the ACLS. As part of NRCan Departmental Security Program, SGB implemented an IT security plan to comply with the Security and Assessment and Authorization program to mitigate IT vulnerabilities and risks. These requirements are practices and controls focusing on the security of IT business data and applications and extends to the ACLS, as partners, in MyCLSS development and ongoing maintenance, in particular the authentication of Canada Lands Surveyors users of MyCLSS.

How does this affect ACLS Licence holders? The only change is logging in to MyCLSS. At time of implementation last April, all licence holders' user names and passwords were the same. At this time, those who have not changed their password since April will be required to change their password since passwords will have to be changed every 90 days. When users renew their passwords, the

new password will have to have the following complexity:

- At least one Lower Case
- At least one Upper Case
- At least one number
- At Least one special character
- At Least Eight characters long



The process to change the password has not changed (Reset Password). After the 90 days, users will see a note that "The login id and password supplied are invalid". Users then click on "Forgot Your Password" and follow the steps (see user guide under "Help" on MyCLSS).

Succession Plan

On the subject of the Executive Director's replacement, Council has approved a clear transition plan. I will leave as a full time staff member some time in May 2023. I will be available for the following 6 months to help in the new ED orientation process. In the meantime, I am working on drafting an administrative manual to help in the orientation process.

Obituary

Since the December issue of Communique, the following CLSs have left us:

- Sean Hinds CLS # 1366 passed away on February 4th, 2021
- Robert (Bob) William Allen DLS # 807 passed away on May 19, 2021
- David Whitfield Lambden CLS # 1179 passed away on June 4, 2021

Complaints and Discipline

Update from the Registrar:

1. The ACLS has received 2 complaints to date in 2021 and both are with the Complaints Committee at this time.

Once the complaints have been dealt with, the Complaints Committee will resume its work on updating the Complaints Procedures Manual.

- 2. The Discipline Committee is also updating its own procedures manual.
- 3. The Board of Examiners continue its work with the online exams and recommending commissions. It is also busy with CLS candidates' projects and training proposals and reports.

The Board is also reviewing the new proposed CBEPS syllabus upon the request of Council who has been asked to approve it and/or make comments.

New Honorary Member Geoffrey Connolly

Geoff was appointed to the ACLS Council by the Natural Resources Canada Minister on November 20th, 2011. An appointed term of office is three years, so Geoff was reappointed three times and then extended until May 20th, 2021 at the ACLS Council's request.

Geoff has made a considerable contribution to the ACLS during his service on Council. We wish to express our gratitude for his dedication to the public and our Association in his role as appointed member.



The ACLS Council decided on June 29th, 2021 to award Geoff Honorary Membership with the ACLS for his extraordinary service to the profession and to the public. Here are some of his notable accolades:

- Fellow, Engineers Canada, 2020
- Queen's Counsel, 2014
- Best Lawyers Real Estate Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Charlottetown for the years 2013, 2016 and 2018.