

THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF LAND SURVEYORS
FOURTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE LABOUR MOBILITY AGREEMENT
FOR CANADIAN LAND SURVEYORS

June 12, 2006
By Teleconference
12:00 p.m. Eastern Time

MINUTES

Presiding: Dave Gurnsey, SLS

Recorder: Sarah Cornett, CCLS Executive Director

Signatory Representatives:

Jean-Claude Tétreault	Association of Canada Lands Surveyors
Alan Hicks	Association of New Brunswick Surveyors
Bill Buck	Association of Ontario Land Surveyors
Steve Bossenmaier	Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors
Dave Gurnsey	Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association
Brian Munday	Alberta Land Surveyors' Association
Chuck Salmon	Association British Columbia of Land Surveyors
Dave Morris	Association of Prince Edward Island Land Surveyors

Absent:

Alvin Hayes	Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors
Peter Rado	L'Ordre des Arpenteurs-Géomètres du Québec
Fred Hutchinson	Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dave Gurnsey called the meeting to order at 12:05 Eastern daylight saving time. He noted that the meeting is being held to comply with the labour mobility agreement signed by all Canadian surveyors associations.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dave Gurnsey welcomed all participants and began round table introductions.

3. APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR

MOTION LM-06-01 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dave Gurnsey be appointed as chair until the next annual meeting of the group.

MOVED: Jean-Claude Tétreault SECONDED: Steve Bossenmaier CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (NOVEMBER 8, 2004)

MOTION LM-06-02 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

MOVED: Allan Hicks

SECONDED: Brian Munday

CARRIED

MOTION LM-06-03 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2004 be approved as amended.

MOVED: Chuck Salmon

SECONDED: Steve Bossenmaier

CARRIED

It was noted that the recording of SLSA comments on page 2 of the minutes should note that the recommendation is to require a certification of completion and not a university degree.

5. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION AND APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT TO DATE

The meeting was called in order to fulfill the obligations described in sections 5.1 and 5.3 of the Mutual Recognition Agreement on Labour Mobility for Land Surveyors in Canada.

The participants were be asked to outline any changes since the last review meeting (November 8, 2004) regarding the following information as it pertains to their association.

- i** *Name and contact information for representative of the association on the monitoring group.*
- ii** *An update on any outstanding changes in your Act, Regulations, By-laws or Policies that were required in order that your association could comply with the terms of the agreement.*
- iii** *An indication of how many people have applied to your association under the agreement and the status of their applications (i.e. under consideration, on hold pending administrative changes, completed.)*
- iv** *An indication of how individuals who have applied to your association under the agreement have found the process (i.e. did they perceive that it was more equitable, more flexible or more timely than the previous process or not.)*
- v** *An indication of any comments or observations, other topics for discussion, or questions about the agreement, its implementation, or application.*

A document containing compiled responses to questionnaires, well as minutes of the first two annual reviews are posted on the CCLS web site <http://www.ccls-ccag.ca/mobility.htm> .

Compiled responses received prior to the meeting were circulated.

ABCLS – Chuck Salmon noted that he had sent a note to the current surveyors who are in the process of applying for licensure with the ABCLS under the agreement. The two responses noted that they thought the process was fair and that they were working their way through it. Some questioned the need to do a field project when they had done a field project in their home jurisdiction. ABCLS is looking into that and may suggest changes.

ALSA – Brian Munday referred to his submission noting that the association asks all new members for feedback and that there had been no responses that have stood out to date. Brian was questioned about the two individuals who had dropped out and replied that it had been due to individual circumstances and not the process.

SLSA – Dave Guernsey noted that a by-law was passed to require all new candidates (non MRA) to have certificate of completion from WCBELS now CBEPS. This fulfills commitment made during the negotiations of the MRA. SLSA is investigating the practicality of a process in which member firms are requested to find a project that may be suitable for an applicant. The association will attempt to link the individual to that firm. This is in response to a concern that some applicants can not find a suitable project.

AMLS – Steve Bossenmaier referred to the written report noting that one applicant had gone through the process that spring. The applicant noted that the process was successful, members had offered services as mentors, he had completed three projects and found it to be a rewarding experience.

AOLS – Bill Buck noted that he had nothing new to report. AOLS has one applicant who was previously articulated. The agreement provided an opportunity to write exams without going through the articling process. The individual had recently written professional examinations.

OAGQ – It was noted that the OAGQ had no applicants to date and that most applicants come from francophone nations outside of Canada.

ANBLS – The report noted that ANBLS had one applicant who had New Brunswick experience. ANBLS now has a second applicant and the process seems to be working well.

APEILS – It was noted that APEILS had signed the agreement since the last meeting. All acts and by-laws have been changed to accommodate the agreement and one applicant has submitted a project and written exams. It was not known if the candidate had since received a license.

ANLS – It was noted that the ANLS had an applicant from Maine but not from a Canadian jurisdiction. Other association representatives noted similar experiences and it was reported that western associations and ACLS would refer the individual to CBEPS. Most associations have either citizenship or permanent residence status requirements.

ACLS – Jean-Claude Tétrault note that the agreement didn't change much in process except to set guidelines for affidavit of experience. Most candidates would now be tagged as MRA applicants and it has always been the case that most ACLS applicants have a provincial license.

ANSLS – A written submission is included in the compiled responses and it was noted that there may be an error in referring to ACLS applicants. Fred Hutchinson will be contacted for clarification.

Jean-Claude Tétrault noted that everything in the MRA referring to WCBELS should be changed to CBEPS. ACLS Board of Examiners now does professional examinations only and CBEPS takes care of syllabus items.

6. DISCUSSION OF BACKGROUNDER ON EQUIVALENCY OF ARTICLING AND AFFIDAVIT OF EXPERIENCE

A background document describing the equivalency of the provincial articling system and the ACLS affidavit of experience and professional qualifications in response to last meeting. The document is posted on the CCLS web site for review prior to the meeting.

The information piece was based on discussions that took place during the negotiations of the agreement. A clarification on page 2, third bullet noted that the 225 days etc. requirements do not apply to individual who has a provincial licence. In that case 2 years in the last 5 surveying experience is applied as applicants under MRA. Jean-Claude is to clarify the document and it will be posted on the CCLS web site under Labour Mobility tab.

7. NEW BUSINESS

i Alberta-BC Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA)

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200604/19794E234DC75-C4C3-827B-FF15954C243BCDE8.html>

Brian Munday requested this agenda item as he wanted to make sure everyone was aware of the issue. TILMA is an agreement signed recently by the provincial governments which only consulted with the professions at the last minute. The agreement comes into effect next April 30 and there are two years after that in which professions can work out specific agreements. The Alberta government is promoting this as a special labour mobility agreement and the minister has been publicly commenting that licensure will be automatic. The engineering associations were also taken by surprise.

Chuck Salmon reported having spoken with his provincial representatives and there seems to be some recognition that surveying has special requirements. The government didn't seem to be pushing the two year timeline for full compliance.

Brian Munday noted that there seems to be a push at the political level and a lack of understanding of profession specific requirements at the bureaucratic level involved in implementation.

Dave Gurnsey noted that he had heard of the news release and his first question was how it would that work. It is important that ALSA and ABCLS work through the issue and that other associations and CCLS lend any support required as this could have implications for all.

Bill Buck noted that the Ontario government had recently passed the "fair access to regulated professions act" trying to ensure fair practices and fair and transparent processes. It is setting up an auditing process, primarily directed at larger associations i.e. engineering and health and is focused on foreign applicants. Others noted that their governments have similar initiatives.

It was generally agreed that there is a need to keep aware of the issues as smaller professions may be caught up in the movement as the very large professions set policy on these issues. Again the issue of act requirements for citizenship was noted and recognition that at some point there may be a requirement to remove them.

ii ALSA AGM New Business Motion

Brian Munday outlined the following motion of the ALSA Council.

*That Council consider the appropriate committee review the possibility of inviting affiliate members to attend the annual interviews held by the Registration Committee.
Motion Carried*

It was noted that in Alberta, labour mobility candidates are known as affiliate members. Since they are not under articles, they are not required to attend an annual interview as articulated pupils are required to do under the regulation. It was suggested in new business at the ALSA AGM that affiliate members should be invited (but not required) to attend an annual interview in order for them to meet the Registration Committee members, feel more comfortable with the process and guide them to make sure they can get through the process quicker.

The idea is to make sure that the principle surveyor is passing on required experience and information and that articles are proceeding at reasonable pace. The invitation was extended to MRA applicants and provides a contact point and potentially beneficial information. There were no concerns raised by other representatives and it was noted that this may be positive initiative.

iii Five-Year Window

Brian Munday reported that in Alberta, articulated students have five years to complete the articling process. An extension may be granted at the discretion of the Registration Committee. There is nothing in the labour mobility agreement about how long a candidate has to get registered in the host association because the presumption had always been that they want to get their commission quickly.

Alberta has two affiliate members whose five-year window will expire this fall. One has one exam to complete while the other has completed all of the exams. Both of them have yet to submit any project reports. They will be asked to re-start their affiliate membership from the beginning or request an extension. The concern raised is to make sure all parts of the process are reasonably current. Individuals can apply for reinstatement or extension due to extenuating circumstances.

Brian asked if any representative at the meeting saw this as in contravention of the agreement.

It was noted that ABCLS has a similar requirement once the first exam is written and it is applied to articulated surveyors and MRA applicants. ANBLS and SLSA have similar requirements which apply to all candidates.

AOLS representative Bill Buck suggested putting something into agreement. It was further suggested that the group collect specific requirements of each jurisdiction and circulate a compilation. The next step may be to discuss additional clause for the agreement.

It was suggested that the group also collect current requirements for citizenship.

8. SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS/NEXT STEPS

Fred Hutchinson to clarify ANSLs submission.

Those who have not yet done so to submitted input to the questionnaire.

Jean-Claude Tétreault to clarify one paragraph of backgrounder on the affidavit of experience.

Sarah Cornett to post compilation of results and backgrounder on the CCLS web page.

Collect information as per item 7.

9. NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

It was decided that the next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

It was noted that there is a need to have annual reviews and that there may be interim reviews.

The Chair thanked all for their input and participation and the participants thanked the Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm Eastern.