

**Annual Report to the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors  
from the  
Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors  
2010 CCLS AGM**

**Demographics**

Overall membership has increased slightly from last year, from 138 to 143. Full voting members remain steady at 81 (66% in the private sector). There was an increase of Associate membership from 6 to 10. The number of companies remains steady at 37. There were two new land surveyors receiving their licenses in January 2010 and there are 10 SITs presently in the system.

We took advantage of Premier Shawn Graham's attendance at our 2010 AGM in January by officially recognizing the 27 members in public service.

**Finances**

Despite having a modest operating budget, our association still manages to get a lot of work done, thanks to our dedicated staff and the many volunteers who collectively devote hundreds of hours dealing with association business. Our main sources of funding come from membership dues and the sale of plan validation seals. Upon receipt of several recommendations from our 5-year Task Force, it was noted that future funding requirements cannot be sustained on revenues from our members alone. Council discussed alternate sources of income, such as an expanded membership and the sale of survey posts/caps, etc.

**Loss Control/Risk Management Seminar**

CCLS sponsored and presented a long overdue loss control seminar to the members of the ANBLS at our recent AGM. PLIC Chair Lester Berrigan facilitated the seminar with several subject matter experts as speakers. The seminar well attended and received by our members.

Speakers presented examples of title claims and construction claims. They outlined the importance of the contract agreement, the main document for negotiating and managing the risk surveyors undertake in the performance of their duties. Other items covered included the specific content of a properly prepared contractual agreement, implications of statements of "standard of care", ethical rules versus contractual rules, quotes versus estimates, and limitations of actions. Wetlands delineation liability was on the minds of many members and was discussed at length during the presentation.

**Quality Assurance**

Council recently restructured the Quality Assurance program. We will now have a Quality Assurance Manager overseeing the activities of several Quality Assurance Auditors. This significantly reduces the workload imposed upon the Manager, and provide for a more effective and timely delivery of associated reports. Overall, this

program has had significant success, and should be made more transparent to those outside of our organization.

**Environment/Wetlands Issues**

The Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors developed a training session and reference handbook to assist land surveyors in ensuring proper environmental practices in watercourses and wetlands. Funding for this initiative came in part from New Brunswick's \$4M Environmental Sustainable Development program. The ANBLS has submitted a request for funding again this year, but has not yet received word on whether our proposal will be funded.

Our members continue to struggle with liability issues respecting wetlands and their delineation. Many clients apparently refuse to pay for land surveyor's services when they are made aware of wetlands existing on the property they wish to develop. Many wetlands and watercourses are currently not adequately mapped nor delineated and are usually discovered after significant expenditures have already been made by the developer. Land surveyors do not have the training required for delineating wetlands. We are investigating the possibility of wetlands delineators being integrated with our profession by becoming associate members of the ANBLS.

**Strategic Planning**

We are in the process of renewing our strategic plan for the next three years. A professionally facilitated planning session assisted in identifying internal and external influences affecting our profession and with formulating strategies and tactics to implement over the next few years. Investing in this type of professional assistance has proven to be very effective in that as much work was accomplished in one day as the committee could accomplish in six months on its own.

**Labour Mobility**

We have one candidate who will be writing the labour mobility exam in March and one candidate who will be writing in April. We have had an enquiry from a land surveyor in Alberta who is hoping to move home to New Brunswick soon.

**Future of the Profession**

Members attending our 2010 AGM in January voted unanimously in favour of supporting the further development of Professional Surveyors Canada. At a recent Council meeting, there was a unanimous vote adopting the PSC's resolutions for becoming a corporate member and for promoting individual membership in this new national body.

*Norm Côté*

CCLS Director for ANBLS