

BACKGROUNDER:**DATED JANUARY 27, 2009****FOR: CCLS DIRECTORS' INTERIM MEETING JANUARY 31, FEBRUARY 1, 2009****HARMONIZATION**<http://www.ccls-ccag.ca/harmonization-syllabus.htm>**Recommendation:**

That CCLS create a new harmonization task force to further support association work in this area. (See also BECC Backgrounder)

Background:

A National Forum on Harmonization of Standards and Processes for Entry to the Surveying Profession was sponsored by CCLS in March 2004. One impetus for the forum was the surveyors mutual recognition agreement on labour mobility and the other was as a follow-on to the national board of examiners initiative which was not adopted by the associations.

The three key findings of the forum included issues surrounding the first point of contact with potential new surveyors, academic requirements for surveyors, and the articling process. While the primary theme was harmonization of entry requirements, it was agreed that an end result of harmonization would be a clearer, more transparent system of qualification for the development of new surveyors.

The end product of the forum was six resolutions that were taken back to the associations for consideration. They were presented to the associations and were adopted at the council level.

As association resolutions, the responsibility for implementation lies at the association level. CCLS has undertaken specific initiatives in support of the resolutions adopted by the member associations.

Summary of Progress and Next Steps:

Of the six resolutions from the national forum, CCLS work on three are complete, two are very close and need only the final edit and circulation of the output documentation, and one has been divided into two phases with one complete and the second underway.

Resolution No. 1 - National Exemption Study – output is a series of process documents and recommendation to the boards of examiners. These were circulated at the end of 2007 although not implemented as far as is known.

Resolution No. 2 - Not Looking Beyond the Degree – this was a recommendation for a policy review to take place at the association level which was done.

Resolution No. 3 – Harmonization of Certificates of Completion– this was a recommendation for a policy review to take place at the association level which was done.

Resolution No. 4 - Major Review of Curricula - A major review of the existing syllabus has been completed. Recommendations have been provided to the boards of examiners. Reduction of variations in board requirements have been recommended and are in the hands of the Boards themselves. A second phase of the initiative is underway to look at the academic requirements from first principles make recommendations for syllabus changes, both content and structure. This resulted in the Core & Option Syllabus being recommended to the associations. Implementation of the new syllabus should begin in 2009 but is a very large undertaking will require significant resources.

Resolution No. 5 - Streamlining the Equivalency Process (Licensing by way of the ACLS exams) – Output was a common candidates handbook for use of the boards of examiners and associations. It was posted on the CCLS website for access from all association and board sites at the end of 2007. It is not known if this resource has been well utilized and it will need updating with respect to CBEPS.

Resolution No. 6 - Articling Standards - This was a recommendation for action to take place at the association level. CCLS provided benchmark data by surveying association web sites for articling information availability and clarity. A follow-up survey was planned. There are many other ways in which the articling process could be reviewed and harmonized.