

CCLS Director's Report for Nova Scotia

The information below is a brief summary of some of the 2008 activities of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors. The order does not relate to any degree of importance.

1. Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act was introduced as a Government Bill in the spring of 2008. Objections were forwarded from virtually every listed profession including the ANSLs. The Government has agreed to participate with the professions in a "working group" to both review and recommend changes to the legislation. The Government, however, is intent on proclaiming such legislation and it appears to be supported by all provincial and territorial governments of Canada .
2. The Governance Committee under the umbrella of the Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of re-writing the Land Surveyors Act, Regulations and By-laws. This activity is not an amendment activity but is a total re-write of our legislation. The first draft of the Act and Regulations will be presented to our membership at the November 2008 AGM in Halifax.
3. The Survey Review Department has consulted with the membership through a survey and at zone meetings and is proposing to place greater emphasis on total practice review and not just plan review. We are also revising our revenue stream that will include a \$5.00 fee per lot on plans containing 6 or more lots as well as a \$25.00 fee for all plans. A review of our plan submissions indicate that only 5% of the submissions will be subject to this lot surcharge but should assist with the rising costs of running the Survey Review Department.
4. The Administration Review Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee contracted a management consultant this past year to conduct a review of the Association's affairs that included office administration, legislation, committee structure, staff performances and finances. A final report was submitted to Council in July of 2008 for consideration.
5. The Land Surveyors Act amendments were approved by the Government in the 2008 spring sitting of the Provincial Legislature. These amendments were minor in nature and were approved by the members over the last several years and were presented to the Government in 2006.
6. The Continuing Education Committee held a seminar in Truro on May 16, 2008 with John Stahl, PLS from Salt Lake City, Utah presenting issues concerning case law, boundary disputes, dispute resolution and line agreements. An 80-page handout was prepared by Mr. Stahl and given to all attendees. This seminar qualified for 15 credit points under the Mandatory Continuing Education program.
7. Amendments to the Land Registration Act were introduced in the spring sitting of the legislature. The Association made a presentation before the Law Amendments Committee with regard to concerns that we had. Our concerns were a bit of a surprise to the committee but the Government assured our Association that the amendments did not adversely affect our members or the public. With

- this assurance by the Government together with an expression of willingness to work with our Association on any of our concerns we agreed to support the legislation
8. Mandatory Continuing Education is now into its 5th year. We have lost some members as a result of resignations and retirement over the past few years by those who did not wish to participate in the program. Most of these individuals, however, were senior members who were retiring from their jobs and from active practice.
 9. APBELS and CBEPS become an issue this past year with an invitation for membership from CBEPS. New Brunswick applied and was accepted which would result in one less member for APBELS. Nova Scotia presented a motion to its membership and received a 99% vote in favour of joining CBEPS. Council has therefore made application to join CBEPS with approval being considered on August 25, 2008. Since 67% of all APBELS students and funding is from Nova Scotia it is expected that APBELS will officially dissolve. It has been assured that all APBELS students will be accepted by CBEPS with all credits and at no cost; resulting in a seamless transition.