

## **Labour Mobility Monitoring Group Report to the CCLS Board of Directors Annual Meeting October 2006**

A Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) under the Agreement on Internal Trade, Labour Mobility Chapter, was signed by ten of the eleven licensing bodies for land surveyors in Canada in June 2001. The Association of Prince Edward Island signed the agreement in June of 2005 at their annual meeting. The MRA now covers all licensed land surveyors in Canada. The MRA is posted in English and French on the CCLS web site.

Under the following two sections of the MRA a monitoring group was formed.

*5.1 Each association agrees to identify a contact person(s) for each association to monitor and assess the implementation of the agreement within their association and to participate in a group made up of all association contact persons to address inquiries, disputes, or questions arising from the implementation or application of the agreement.*

*5.3 Each association agrees that this agreement is a dynamic and evolving instrument that may be amended with the consent of all associations. The association agrees to initiate periodic reviews of this agreement every year after July 1, 2001 and to review the operation of the agreement when such a request is made by one of the associations.*

The CCLS has provided administrative services to the group of representatives formed under the MRA under terms of reference for the CCLS Labour Mobility Task Force adopted by the Board in 2001. The initiative has had a budget of \$250 for 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 to cover the annual teleconference and any other communication or administration required by the monitoring group. Minutes of the three annual review meetings to date are posted on the CCLS web site. No meeting took place in 2005.

To this point there have been no overly contentious issues regarding the agreement. The monitoring group has been used as a forum to discuss and clarify a number of items although the number of surveyors licensed through this agreement remains low. In 2006 a paper was prepared on the ACLS affidavit of experience and the provincial articling process. The paper described the main points covered during the negotiation of the MRA to provide background to those currently dealing with the issue of equivalence. The acceptance of the equivalence of the two methods to establish an individual's level of relevant professional experience prior to licensure is key to the agreement. The intent is to avoid duplication of effort and misunderstanding about the intent of the MRA. The report has been distributed to the associations and is posted on the CCLS web site <http://www.ccls-ccag.ca/mobility.htm>

Sarah J. Cornett, B.Sc., OLS  
Executive Director