

CCLS Director's Report for Nova Scotia

The following is a summary of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors 2008-2009 activities and issues. They are presented for information only and in no particular order.

1. Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) and Labour Mobility - This has been an issue in Nova Scotia since the amendment to the AIT in the summer of 2008. There has been some discussion about the position the Association will take concerning application for exceptions under the AIT. It appears that the Association will be asking the Nova Scotia government for a 3-4 hour exam on local knowledge for applicants from other Canadian jurisdictions.
2. CCLS / PSC Futures Initiative has caused a fair bit of discussion at the council table and at President's forums across the country. There are a wide variety of opinions concerning the direction that CCLS / PSC is heading.
3. Wetland Identification and Delineation has become a major issue in Nova Scotia in part due to the regulated requirement for surveyors to show wetlands on their plans of subdivision. This requirement did not cause any undue hardship to land surveyors until the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act and regulations made thereunder defined a wetland and declared that there would be no net loss of wetland function after 2009. A number of law suits and damage claims have against surveyors have arisen these past few years.
4. Strategic Planning process has be restarted to help keep the Association focussed on its goals and to ensure the promotion of the profession.
5. Governance Committee has nearly completed a re-write of the Land Surveyors Act and associated Regulations. There are two workshop sessions being planned for late May to present the Draft Act and Regulations to the membership. At the 2009 AGM the committee will be seeking approval of the general membership to forward the Draft Act and Regulations to government for their consideration.
6. Mandatory Continuing Education Program is working well. There are plans to have a legislation workshop in late May followed by a seminar in June by Don Wilson, PLS from New England. There will also be a seminar at the 2009 AGM.
7. The Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors became a member of CBEPS this year.
8. New Survey Review Department (SRD) Manager is being hired and the SRD focus is changing to a practice review model rather than a plan review that has been in place for a number of years.

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