

**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LAND SURVEYORS
DIRECTORS' REPORT TO THE CCLS ANNUAL MEETING 2006****MEMBERSHIP:**

305 Practicing members
19 Life members
34 Non – Practicing members
72 Retired members
13 Land Surveyor Associates (Land Surveyors for other jurisdictions)
39 Land Surveyors in Training
92 Survey Students

In March, we continued with our strategic planning process. A three day session was held; 1 day with the Board of Management planning the focus of the session and 2 days of strategic planning with the Board of Management, the Task Force Chairs and the Committee Chairs.

The Board believed this mix was important to best communicate the direction of the association to the members carrying out the tasks. The result of the 3 days was to focus our association to three goals:

- 1: Create better awareness of Geomatics and Land Surveying as a career by raising awareness at all levels of the education system;
- 2: Change the professional entry process to create a more transparent and efficient system for those seeking entry into the profession.
- 3: Restructure of the Governance model to ensure efficient two way communication between the board of management and association membership, committees and task forces.

At recent meetings with the regional groups throughout the province, the career awareness committee put forward a plan to spend approximately \$45,000 per year over the next three years, along with \$80,000 in one time costs over the same period. The funds are to be raised from a proposed levy of \$100 to \$200 per member each year. The members in attendance at the regional meetings were receptive to this plan. The key to this initiative is the provision of a resource person to oversee the implementation. The committee and the board of management will be refining the plan for presentation to the membership at this year's annual meeting.

We have made some changes to our entry standards process:

- now allow writing of professional exams during the article period.
- The oral exam has been restructured to a professional assessment interview and is conducted once the balance of the entry process has been completed.

We have changed the governance model to place all committees and task forces under one of four categories; governance, entry services, member services and external services. There are board members as liaison for each of the categories that will be the two way communication conduit between the board and the committee or task force. As part of the new governance model we are undertaking an overhaul of our policy manual.

The Land Title and Survey Authority is in its third year of operation, for the first time land title and survey have been brought together under one roof. Land surveyors have a strong presence; with two of our members on the board of directors and membership on the stakeholder advisory committee. The deposit of digital plans has begun; all crown land plans may now be filed electronically, with beta testing of digital land title plans to begin in late spring of 2007, with full service anticipated in the fall of 2007.

With the advent of computer map staking of mineral claims in B.C., the need for ground staking has been eliminated. This is causing some concern over the conversion of existing ground staked claims to online map claims, if the ground staked claims are not properly geo referenced prior to conversion, the holders may not cover their ground properly. The second issue that has arisen is that the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is moving in the direction of granting mineral tenure leases based solely on the computer generated position of the online claim. No ground survey of any kind would be required. Our association met with the Minister of State for Mines, expressing our concerns over the proposed direction, and as a result of that meeting have entered it discussions with ministry staff to determine the best method for the delineation of mineral tenure boundaries.

Three years ago, the responsibility of administering and changing the general survey regulations was transferred from government to our association. We have before us a proposed rule change that will require all surveys to be geo referenced. This is not a concern in most of the urban areas, as geo referencing has been in place for many years, the challenge will be the integration of the rural and remote areas. The interesting part about new regulations is that our association will be mandating changes that impact the users of our services; it will not be the government, as in the past.

Our practice advisory department is up and running again, with the new manager, George Fenning, well into his first round of practice and plan reviews.

We are moving our association office from downtown Victoria to Sidney, which is near the ferry terminal and the airport. This is a move that saves traveling board members half an hour at each end of their trip.

The Associations 102 Annual General Meeting will be held in Fort St. John January 31st through February 2, 2007. January 31st will be the continuing professional development day, with seminars and guest speaker Stephen Lewis.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Johnson
CCLS Director for British Columbia