

## Labour Mobility Monitoring Group Report September 2008

### Background

The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) under the Agreement on Internal Trade, Labour Mobility Chapter, signed by the eleven licensing bodies for professional surveyors in Canada is posted in English and French on the CCLS web site.

Under sections 5.1 and 5.3 of the MRA a monitoring group was formed by the associations. Also in the MRA the associations agrees, “to initiate periodic reviews of (the MRA) 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 with a budget sufficient to cover an annual teleconference. Minutes and materials from the annual review meetings are posted on the CCLS web site at <http://www.ccls-ccag.ca/mobility.htm>.

### Recent Activities

The last meeting took place in December 2007. Chuck Salmon was named as Chair of the group. During that meeting was suggested that the profession should not wait any longer for governments to dictate requirements and should be proactive in meeting the trend of labour mobility being prioritized by governments. Several steps were recommended but no progress has been made.

During the spring and summer of 2008 the First Ministers have moved to further labour mobility and are making amendments to strengthen the MRA with implementation deadline of April 1, 2009.

Sarah Cornett will attend a presentation and panel discussion in Ottawa on September 3, 2008 arranged by Labour Market Integration Human Resources and Social Development Canada and report to the National Association Forum later that week. According to the invitation, “The purpose of the meeting is to review amendments to Chapter 7 of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) and discuss potential implications with particular emphasis on how these changes will affect regulated professions following the April 1, 2009 compliance deadline.”

To quote further, “As you are aware, achieving ‘full labour mobility for all Canadians’ is a priority for federal, provincial and territorial governments. While much progress has been made in removing barriers to labour mobility, many challenges remain. To address these unresolved issues, the federal, provincial, and territorial governments have developed a proposal to amend Chapter 7 of the AIT to make it a stronger and more effective tool to achieve full labour mobility.”

On July 28, 2008 and email was sent to all Association working group representatives, Presidents and CCLS Directors to coordinate within their own association and prepare to discuss this issue in Winnipeg at the September meetings.

### Recommendations

As indicated in the harmonization report by CCLS Director and Champion Norm Coté, this issue can be considered the most urgent issue facing the associations at this time. It is recommended that process and resources to review the current MRA, particularly schedule B, in order to address the recent push by the First Ministers for significantly more open reciprocity be considered immediately by the member associations.

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