

Current Affairs of The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

The Value of National Participation

The Canadian Council of Land Surveyors (CCLS) has asked each association to pass a motion on the value of national participation. The motion codifies that the Association's commitment to implementing basic strategies, many of which have already been in place for some time, which allow greater communication and involvement in national issues.

The motion reads:

WHEREAS the CCLS has requested all member firms to articulate a policy statement to acknowledge the value of national participation and to commit to implementing basic strategies to ensure that value is realized, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the ALSA recognizes the intrinsic value to itself and to its members in active and ongoing participation in a national forum with its sister associations. As such, the ALSA will engage in developing and implementing strategies to address common issues through participation in and support of the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors – Conseil Canadien des Arpenteurs-Géomètres. This participation and support will include specific actions such as those listed below, and others as determined from time to time, within the mandate and resources of the ALSA and on the assumption of similar support from the other ten member associations. The ALSA will participate actively in and support the national forum of CCLS-CCAG by:

- 1. Ensuring that Council, Executive and Senior Administrators understand the association's policy and strategies for active and ongoing participation in a national forum with its sister associations.*
- 2. Providing a committed individual as a Director for CCLS-CCAG who understands the requirements and expectations of the position including CCLS-CCAG Board Member, Director and Champion.*
- 3. Instituting a minimum 3-year term for the CCLS-CCAG Director with options for renewal*
- 4. Providing support to the CCLS-CCAG Director to enable him or her to succeed including:*
 - a) Using succession planning and transition strategies to provide background and context to each new Director,*
 - b) Providing regular access to council agendas, not only for reporting of information, but for discussion and planning around association involvement in the national forum, and*
 - c) Consideration of a standing committee (models exist in OAGQ, ABCLS, ACLS) with a mandate to consider association initiatives in a national context and national initiatives in an association context.*
- 5. Identifying and allocating resources for participation in the national forum and for developing and implementing the resulting strategies as part of the associations regular resource allocation process by:*
 - a) Including contribution to the national forum and agenda as part of the key employee job descriptions,*
 - b) Including contribution to the national forum and agenda as part of key committee terms of reference,*
 - c) Including identification of volunteers for activities stemming from national involvement in the regular volunteer recruitment / nomination activities of the association,*
 - d) Providing a budget for the CCLS-CCAG Director commencing in 2008 and/or*
 - e) Consider allocating portions of association committee or initiative budgets based on the national agenda on an annual basis, such commitments to be taken into account in cost sharing with other members.*

TILMA

The TILMA Working Group, consisting of representatives from the ALSA and ABCLS recently met in Victoria to discuss the profession's obligations under the terms of the governments' Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement.

The Working Group is proposing that candidates who wish to obtain their commission in the other jurisdiction be required to write one jurisprudence exam which will be a combination of the material from the existing three written professional examinations. The one written exam will test the candidates' knowledge of matters specific to the province and it will eventually be web-based.

The plan is for the ALSA and ABCLS to sign a mutual recognition document in April 2008 with the agreement to take effect later that fall or early spring.

Alberta Society of Surveying and Mapping Technologies

The ALSA Council welcomed the ASSMT Council to for a joint Council meeting.

The councils discussed items such as the ALSA's associate membership, committee liaisons, the ASSMT certification process and relationship expectations. It was agreed that there needs to be more discussions like these in the future.

ALSA members are encouraged to learn more about what ASSMT offers for technicians, technologists and the profession as a whole. Visit their website at www.assmt.ab.ca

Cadastral Research

Council welcomed Dr. Mike Barry of the University of Calgary's Department of Geomatics Engineering to the meeting. Dr. Barry provided Council with an update on the status of the multimedia land record systems research that he and his grad student are doing.

Dr. Barry indicated that he will be submitting further articles arising from the research for upcoming issues of ALS News.

Council unanimously approved the release of the second and final installment of \$30,000 for this research project.

A Threat to Professions?

The Government of Alberta has asked for the public's input into Bill 41 – The Health Professions Amendment Act 2007. “The most controversial aspects of Bill 41 are the provisions relating to possible government intervention in the governance of the professions. Bill 41 permits self-governance to be effectively overridden for specified professions by Ministerial Order.”

The Association responded by stating that if a professional regulatory organization is not acting in the public interest, then that organization's professional status should be removed but the rights of professions in general should not be eroded; there are other avenues and approaches that could be taken.