

NATIONAL FORUM Harmonization of Standards and Processes for Entry to the Surveying Profession

Sponsored by the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors.

Objectives

The Canadian Council of Land Surveyors is proposing a national meeting to:

1. Review pre-professional educational and training requirements across the country
2. Identify key issues facing entry level professionals
3. Develop strategies that will address key concerns

Background

Although the CCLS member Associations have rejected the latest proposal to form a National Board of Examiners, a number of member Associations have expressed concerns that, as a result of not having a National Board, entry level issues facing the profession will not be addressed. CCLS is proposing that a meeting of member Associations be held to share information, identify key issues and develop strategies that address the issues.

CCLS supports this meeting because:

1. There are disparate entry standards across the country and these standards have a direct impact on our existing Labour Mobility Agreement.
2. Member Associations have reviewed and revised, or are in the process of reviewing and revising, their entry standards and these new standards have not been well communicated amongst Associations.
3. The process for entry into the profession is not clear, consistent or transparent and this is a limiting factor in attracting new entrants.
4. As a result of international discussions regarding mutual recognition of professionals between countries, either through WTO or NAFTA, coherent and cohesive entry standards and unobstructed access to those standards have been identified as key principles upon which to base these agreements.

Proposed topics for discussion

Comparative study of academic requirements
Comparative study of pre-professional training requirements
Comparative study of process for acquisition and recognition of requirements
Identification of key harmonization issues facing the industry
Identification of obstacles to harmonization

Proposed outcome

- Proposed Motions identifying key industry concerns.
- Proposed Motions identifying future areas of mutual co-operation.

Proposed Participants

We are looking for one representative from each member Association who has:

- Knowledge of professional land surveying entry requirements/processes
- A willingness to adopt a national perspective
- A clear mandate from their Council to participate in the discussions

Level of Commitment

In advance of the meeting, each participant will be requested to submit an outline of their Association's entry standards and processes including, but not limited to:

- Structure and governance
- Curriculum
- Accreditation process for educational institutions

NOTE: To facilitate this submission, a background document will be distributed to the participants in advance of the meeting. It will contain information compiled during the national board of examiners discussions and you will be asked to review it and provide any updates, additions or corrections. It will also include some questions for consideration prior to the meeting.

Each participant will be requested to make a brief presentation at the meeting outlining their Association's entry standards and processes.

Each participant will be requested to bring to the table any issues their Board of Examiners or Association Council faces regarding entry standards and processes.

The proposed meeting will be 2 days in length and will require some travel.

Each participant will be requested to fully communicate the outcomes of the meeting to their Council for due consideration. A meeting report will be provided by CCLS.

Proposed Forum Details

It is proposed that the meeting not be in conjunction with an Association annual meeting. This way the participants can be selected for, and focus on, the issues and objectives of this forum. A single focus meeting will not place unreasonable expectations on participants to fulfill multiple duties or extend their travel time. The location should be central both in distance and time zone, and relatively easily accessible from a travel perspective.

The meeting will therefore take place Sunday March 7 and Monday March 8, 2004 in Winnipeg, MB.

Denis Blais, CCLS Strategic Planning Chair, has volunteered to facilitate the forum. Denis has training and experience in facilitation and strategy development through his work with both the AOLS and the CCLS and is known to many throughout the Associations due to his travels as Vice President and President of the AOLS.

Costs

Estimated:

11 Association Participants @ \$1,100	\$ 12,100	
2 CCLS Participants @ \$1,100	\$ 2,200	
Volunteer Facilitator	\$ 0	
Facilitator travel and disbursements	<u>\$ 1,300</u>	
Total Costs		\$ 15,600
CCLS Contribution		\$ 15,600
Member Associations' Contribution		\$ 0
Other Funding		\$ 0

How to get involved:

We are requesting that a motion or resolution be passed by the Council of each Association confirming their willingness to participate in this meeting as follows:

Be it resolved that the _____ (Name of Association) agrees to the scope of the proposed National Forum on Harmonization of Standards and Processes for Entry to the Surveying Profession, and (agrees to provide a participant to that meeting) or (nominates _____) to participate at this meeting.)

If your Council agrees in principle but cannot participate, the following motion would be appreciated:

Be it resolved that the _____ (Name of Association) agrees in principle to the proposed National Forum on Harmonization of Standards and Processes for Entry to the Surveying Profession but is unable to participate at this time.