



**An open letter from the CCLS International Committee Regarding:
The Future of the NAFTA MRA Negotiations for Land Surveyors**

September 1, 2006

The CCLS International Committee has stronger feelings about *why* a NAFTA Agreement should go ahead than it has about *how* it should go ahead. Technical matters can be resolved if there is a will to benefit from reducing professional barriers between the three countries that make up the largest and richest trading block in the world.

The Geomatics industry in Canada earns 40 cents of every dollar from foreign contracts. The US component is only 13 cents, the rest from overseas. While we don't have similar figures for US foreign earnings outside of NAFTA your Office of the US Trade Representative reports that "U.S. exports to Canada and Mexico grew from US\$134.3 billion (US\$46.5 billion to Mexico and US\$87.8 billion to Canada) to US\$250.6 billion (US\$105.4 and US\$145.3 billion respectively)." Foreign trade is a good thing for all of us on the North American Continent! Sentiments overshadow these facts.

Not everyone has time to study the text of the NAFTA and, as a result, conflicting opinions arise. The State of California hired a lawyer for an opinion respecting the force of NAFTA in US law. This report would have been a desirable companion to the white paper sent out by NSPS President Joe Dolan in August.

The Canadian Council of Land Surveyors has compiled the a number of documents on its website (<http://www.ccls-ccag.ca/intltrade.htm>) to collect and display copies of original documents that are enlightening to us Canadians and similarly to members of NSPS, such as the legal opinion and the export earnings mentioned above. Hopefully we can help you understand the importance of Free Trade by perusing these informative articles.

Sincerely,

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Chair, International Trade Committee

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