

**Report to CCLS of the 1<sup>st</sup> Formal Meeting  
Between Canada,  
The United States of America, and  
The United Mexican States  
to develop a Mutual Recognition Document  
within the scope of the  
North American Free Trade Agreement**

Fort Worth Texas November 8, 1998

Sector: Licensed Land Surveyors

Meeting #1 Agenda

1. Opening Remarks by John Abenroth, Chair of the NSPS NAFTA Committee.
2. Introduction of Sector Representatives of the Parties.
  - National Society of Professional Surveyors
  - Canadian Council of Land Surveyors
  - Federacion de Colegios de Ingenieros Topografos de los Estados Mexicanos,  
A.G.
3. Appointment of Chair for Meeting Number 1.
4. Agreement on format of meeting:
  - a) Quorum
  - b) Translators present
    - Spanish
    - French
5. Rules governing the meeting.
6. Objective for meeting.
7. Date and time of next meeting.

This was indeed an historical meeting. John Abenroth, Chairman of the U.S. NAFTA Committee, began with some opening remarks summing up the events leading up to this event. He then opened the formal part of the meeting. It was agreed that the formal part would be tape recorded and typed up for translation into the three languages.

A Spanish translator was present as well as a French translator. The first official motion of the Trilateral Committee was to waive the need for French translation at Meeting #1. It was moved by Canada, seconded by the United States, as follows:

*After asking the representatives of the parties and the observers present if anyone required or desired that discussion during the current meeting be translated into French, and having no person requiring or needing French translation, and that a person qualified to provide such translation is present, it is hereby moved by Canada and seconded by the United States. that the need for French translation during Meeting #1 be waived, and that the translator be excused. It was carried unanimously.*

Draft rules to govern the formal meeting were introduced in English and read by the Spanish translator to the Mexican representatives. All were in agreement with proceeding with the meeting guided by the said rules. These may be formally adopted at a later meeting but they are subject to discussion.

Under the item “Objective for Meeting”, it was thought that a Mission Statement should be prepared. A Mission Statement **moved by Canada and seconded by the Mexico** is as follows:

*The purpose of this group is to develop understanding and comradeship among the surveying profession in the three countries. We will explore the requirements for education; licensure and practice of the profession of surveying in each country with a goal of developing an agreement for cross border practice under the NAFTA. The group of representatives under NAFTA should take care of being respectful of the Sovereignty of each nation, their laws, and how we are responsible for the well being of our respective publics in a reciprocal manner, always in favour of the well being of our profession.*

It was the Chair’s intention to introduce about five pages of questions respecting the existing situation regarding education, licensure and practice of the profession, but time did not permit. Although this document was prepared in English, it was discussed at length at the informal meeting the day before. The three committees agreed to take the document back and respond to the questions in writing prior to the next meeting, which was set for March, 1999, in conjunction with the NSPS meeting in Portland, Oregon. The date of the NAFTA meeting would be Monday, March 15, 1999. A follow-up meeting may be held at the CCLS Annual Meeting in Newfoundland in June of 1999. Mexico has extended its invitation for the NAFTA committee to meet in Mexico in September of 1999, in Tijuana.

The last order of business was a motion of support and agreement to respect the signatories hereon as valid sector representatives. It read as follows:

*Be it resolved that the signatories are the representatives of their respective country, and each one is the legitimate representative of its sector for the practice of land surveying under a valid license to practice granted by an authorized body, by law, to do so.*

It was moved by Canada and seconded by Mexico. After some discussion, there was an amendment introduced to detail the role of NCEES, the National Council for Examiners of Engineers and Surveyors. Canada would not accept the amendment as friendly, and therefore, a motion was made to amend the main motion. In the discussion it was decided that these details were peculiar to the licensing situation in the United States, and that Canada had its own peculiar process, as did Mexico. It was felt that these details should not be in the main motion, and the amendment failed because it lacked a seconder. The original motion was passed unanimously. The President of the National Society for Professional Surveyors, Robert Prescott, the President of the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors, Dick Wright, and the President of the Federacion de Colegios Ingenieros Topógraphos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos A.C., was signed by Presidente Braulio Mercado. This historic document was photographed for posterity.

The formal meeting was adjourned and reconvened from time to time for the purpose of clarification and *off-the-record* discussion. Following the formal meeting it was decided that the three countries would jointly develop a letterhead which would be used for documents and minutes sent from the chair to each member country. The chair requested that a comfort letter be obtained from each member’s government. All of the official materials will be translated into

three languages and the writer was given the unique opportunity to see that the transcribed minutes were typed.