



## **CCLS Bulletin - May 2002**

*The CCLS Bulletin is published four to six times per year and distributed to individual land surveyors through the member associations of the CCLS. The Bulletin contains a summary of the ongoing work of the Council. Any input is welcomed by the Editor and can be communicated to the CCLS office by, e-mail, fax, mail, or telephone.*

### ***Annual Meeting 2002***

The 2002 Annual Meeting was held in Victoria, British Columbia, March 16 – 18, immediately following the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors annual meeting. The hospitality and assistance of the ACLS Council, members and staff was generous and much appreciated by the CCLS delegates who attended up to six full days of meetings. Participants included the ten CCLS Directors, four Executive Committee members, two Committee Chairs, one Observer from the Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG) and the three from the National Society of Professional Land Surveyors, two delegates from the national Mexican surveyors association, two delegates from the L'Ordre des arpenteurs-géomètres du Québec, and a number of Canadian Association Presidents.

The formal CCLS meeting began with an awards luncheon attended by many friends and participants of the CCLS. The prestigious Champlain Award was presented to Gordon McKay Thomson, BCLS. The contributions of Gerald S. Hawryluk, MLS, past Secretary-Treasurer (1994 – 2002) and Director for Manitoba (1994 – 1998), were gratefully acknowledged with the presentation of a plaque.

The meeting included a one and a half day facilitated strategic planning session. It was an intensive but rewarding session and we all emerged with a curious combination of exhaustion and renewed energy. Four broad priority areas were identified as Governance, Communication, National and International Issues, and Operations/Administration. A Strategic Planning Task Force has been struck to lead the organization through the next steps in the process and to build on what was accomplished in Victoria.

Several projects were identified as both appropriate and necessary to keep on track and moving forward in tandem with the strategic planning. These include the distance learning, international trade and national board of examiners initiatives. Other projects were put on temporary hold while we take the time to reassess in more detail our vision and mandate, set both short and long term objectives and develop action plans. The most notable project in this category was the specific public relations initiative that was in its beginning stages. While communication, and its subset public relations, were identified as high priority, the specific goals and means to achieve them will be discussed in more detail before proceeding.

Much work was done and many issues were discussed and debated. Those directly involved deserve the thanks and support of the Member Associations and the individual Land Surveyors in Canada. When your CCLS representative calls to ask for your opinion or your involvement, please give them due consideration.

### ***CCLS Board and Executive Committee***

Your current Board of Directors is composed of Scott Murphy, NLS, Serge Bernard, PEILS, Gerald Pottier, NSLS, H. Murdock MacAllister, NBLs, Denis Blais, OLS, Gord Lund, MLS, Roy Pominville, SLS, Monroe Kinloch, ALS, Dave Bazett, BCLS, and Carl Friesen, ACLS. The Executive Committee members for this year are President Greg Browne, BCLS, Vice President James Dobbin, NBLs, Past President Philip Milo, NSLS, and Secretary-Treasurer Gord Lund, MLS.

### ***CCLS Web Site***

The CCLS web site can be found at [www.ccls-ccag.ca](http://www.ccls-ccag.ca). It contains key information about the people and work of the CCLS. Please have a look and send any comments or content to the CCLS office.

### ***Geomatics Human Resources Sector Council***

In early December 2001, CCLS, CIG and the Geomatics Industry Association of Canada (GIAC), the sponsors of the Geomatics Sector Human Resources Study, completed a cross-Canada series of consultation sessions. The goals of these sessions were:

- to increase awareness in all regions of Canada of the dynamic changes that are taking place in the geomatics marketplace and in the industry, and the impact these are having on human resources;
- to receive an appreciation of the level of support for follow-up actions to address the key human resources issues highlighted in the Study report and in particular, for the establishment of a Sector Council;
- to obtain an indication of the respective priorities in addressing these challenges;
- to create a report to be tabled with the Steering Committee and HRDC, including the recommendations for further action.

Approximately 230 representatives of public and private sector geomatics organizations provided feedback at these meetings. A report on the sessions, available from the CCLS office or web site, provides a brief background to the consultation sessions, summarizes the feedback provided by the participants and presents a series of conclusions for consideration.

Together with the distribution of the Study report in February 2002, the consultation sessions served to inform a significant number of individuals of the HR issues facing the sector now and in the near future. A high level of support for follow-up actions and significant support for further investigation of the Sector Council as a means to pursue those follow-up activities was received. Valuable input for the setting of priorities and identification of specific projects was received and will be studied in greater detail when the mechanism for follow-up is determined. Equally valuable input regarding concerns over the structure and impact of a potential Council was received and the outline of an alternate mechanism has been identified. The CCLS, in consultation with the governing bodies of CIG and GIAC, will be considering the results of the consultation process and making decisions on next steps in the coming months.

### ***International Trade Committee***

The formal Fall meeting of the trilateral NAFTA Committee in Mexico was disappointing to the Canadian delegation due to the lack of progress from the American and Mexican committees in moving forward with the Mutual Recognition Document (MRD). Delegates from the USA and Mexico met informally with the CCLS International Trade Committee during the March annual meeting of the CCLS in Victoria and tied up several loose ends with respect to wording in the MRD. The CCLS Board of Directors approved the draft document for signature by President Greg Browne and its submission to our federal government representatives. The American and Mexican delegations will take that news back to their respective organizations and will hopefully progress with their own internal consultation processes. Once the MRD is submitted to the federal governments of the three countries it will be considered at that level with a view to its annexation to the NAFTA. At that point each governing body (i.e. the eleven Canadian Associations and their American and Mexican counterparts) will make their decision to formally sign the final MRD. The current and past members of this committee have reached a significant milestone in their important work to create and maintain a level playing field for Canadian Surveyors in the North American market place.

Committee Chair Wayne Brubacher, made a presentation to the annual meeting regarding new issues and challenges for Canadian Surveyors and the broader geomatics community resulting from evolving licence definitions and restrictions in American States. The increasing inclusion of non-cadastral areas of surveying and geomatics within the Land Surveyor's licence in many States has serious ramifications for any practitioner of those disciplines who either practices in Canada or who participates in the American market. The Board has directed the Committee to meet with representatives of CIG and GIAC to discuss the issues surrounding the American licensing changes from the perspective of Canadian geomatics practitioners.

The International Trade Committee is also monitoring the work of the Canadian government representatives on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) through the World Trade

Organization (WTO) and is submitting surveyor specific information to Industry Canada in that regard. All of the issues and discussions that are relevant within NAFTA are reflected on the world stage within GATS and need careful monitoring and the education of ourselves and our members.

### ***Labour Mobility for Canadian Land Surveyors***

We are fast approaching the first year anniversary of the signing of a mutual recognition document (MRD) for land surveying under the Agreement on Internal Trade – Labour Mobility Chapter. The MRD contains provisions for annual review of the agreement. The CCLS will be serving as the administrator for these annual reviews and as a resource for facilitating discussion about any issues that may arise surrounding the implementation of the agreement. There have been several applications for licensure under the agreement. Associations are working towards implementing the necessary changes to their policies, by-laws and regulations in order to fully comply with the agreement and process these applications.

### ***Opportunities for Involvement***

One of the issues which challenges the CCLS is the need to increase and broaden our pool of committee and project team members. We need to locate and enrol the participation of those many individuals in the Canadian Land Surveying community who have an interest in dealing with the issues of our profession on a national and international level. Each of our Board and Committee members is tasked with balancing the representation of their particular jurisdiction with serving the common interests of the national community. Those who are or have been involved in CCLS work find that the interaction with counterparts from across the country and beyond has broadened their perspective and left them with valuable insights to apply to their own lives and businesses. However, we cannot continue to rely solely on these same individuals for all of CCLS's projects.

The four broad priority areas of Governance, Communication, National and International Issues, and Operations/Administration identified in Victoria, as well as ongoing projects which are outlined in these *Bulletins* and on the CCLS web site under Committees and Projects, all need individuals to make them successful. The time commitment is not large. The commitment to provide opinion, thoughtful analysis and input into action plans and decision making is required. Please contact the CCLS office, or any member of the Board or a current committee, for information about getting involved.

### ***Professional Liability Insurance Committee***

The Professional Liability Insurance Committee held its regular Spring Committee meeting in Ottawa on March 3-4, 2002. Renewal negotiations in preparation for the expiration of the current policy period in June have been completed and renewal letters have been mailed. The Committee Members are very pleased with the policy itself and the terms of renewal for the program.

The PLIC has decided to temporarily discontinue the series of loss prevention seminars. Instead, a general practice guide is being developed and will be distributed to all insureds. The PLIC continues to investigate new and better ways of delivering loss prevention and education to its members. This new practice guide will deal with many important issues such as communication, practice exposure, claims handling, risk management and contracts. CCLS and ENCON will continue to collaborate on Loss Control Bulletins dealing with current issues facing land surveyors. As well, the Committee will offer to present a report at each Association AGM.

Very positive responses have been received through the recently implemented feedback questionnaire which is sent to every insured at the settling of a claim. The Committee is in constant communication with the program broker and managers and continues to be available to any individual surveyor who has comments or questions about the Committee, its work, or the program.

### ***In Summary***

We have an interesting year and more ahead. Stay tuned and get involved!

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CCLS Executive Director