



CCLS Bulletin - October 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 2003

The 2003 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors will take place on April 27 and 28, 2003 in Calgary Alberta. The meeting is immediately following the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association Annual General Meeting and, as customary, there will be a full CCLS delegation taking part in the Alberta proceedings.

Because the CCLS is an association of associations, and does not have individual members, the annual meeting is a two day meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee rather than a large gathering of individual members with exhibits, seminars and social activities. Several official observers are invited to participate in the proceedings including the presidents of the member associations and representatives from other organizations such as the Canadian Institute of Geomatics, and the American and Mexican national surveyors organizations. The annual meeting is generally the only face-to-face meeting of the CCLS Board and provides an opportunity to discuss, in some depth, the policies, directions and priorities for the coming year. The meeting is scheduled in conjunction with a member association annual meeting in order to provide the opportunity for the participants to meet with individual land surveyors, committees, visiting presidents etc. over a number of days. In this way the individuals at the association meeting increase their awareness and understanding of the CCLS and the CCLS representatives gain insight into the priority issues of the membership.

If you are planning to be at the ALSA annual meeting next spring, please take the opportunity to speak with a CCLS representative and express your views, volunteer your time and energy, or ask any questions about your national association.

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.

Geomatics Human Resources Sector Council

The 2001 Geomatics Sector Human Resources Study (the Study) drew conclusions and made recommendations regarding human resources challenges facing the sector in the areas of awareness and public image, recruitment and retention, education and training, and professional development and certification. Strategy and consultation sessions following the Study suggested that a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to addressing these issues for the Canadian geomatics sector could be provided through a Geomatics Human Resources Sector Council. Sector Councils are federally supported entities developed in partnership with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and designed to address human resources issues on a national, sector wide basis. To quote the HRDC literature "Sector Councils provide the permanent infrastructure for the private sector to strategically address complex human

resource issues over a long period of time. A Sector Council is a body, led by a partnership representative of all stakeholders in a defined area of economic activity (sector or occupation), whose mandate includes identifying and addressing human resources issues.”

The development of a Sector Council is a multi-stage process which can be roughly broken down into pre-development, development, and operational phases. In the pre-development phase, sector wide agreement to pursue the development of a Sector Council must be reached. There is currently consensus from the leadership of the CCLS, the Canadian Institute of Geomatics, and the Geomatics Industry Association of Canada, the three primary sector sponsors of the Study, to pursue the development of a Sector Council. A concept proposal for funding of the development phase has been submitted to HRDC and is currently under review. Feedback on the concept proposal is expected in September and a detailed funding application will be prepared for submission this fall.

The funding from HRDC will support the developmental phase, which includes investigation and development of a 5-year strategic business plan, as well as a board and secretariat structure for the Sector Council. This process will be guided by a steering committee representing all major stakeholders in the geomatics sector. If a model is found that can fulfill the primary objectives of a Human Resources Sector Council, and elicit the support of the Canadian geomatics community, the resulting body will be created and enter the operational phase with continued federal support through HRDC.

The Executive and Board of the CCLS views this as an opportunity to take a thorough, analytical look at the development of a body which would support and strengthen the Canadian geomatics community. The Sector Council model has proven successful in other economic sectors and is strongly supported by HRDC, both through staff and consultant expertise, and through significant funding. The activities of the developmental phase can be approached as a project of CCLS, in partnership with CIG and GIAC, without detracting from ongoing CCLS work and other priority issues. Regardless of the eventual outcome, the process of tackling a national issue with a sector wide partnership approach can only lead to a higher degree of recognition of the land surveyor as an integral part of the geomatics community and a better understanding of the sector as a whole.

Labour Mobility for Canadian Land Surveyors

The CCLS hosted, by teleconference, the first annual review of the mutual recognition document (MRD) for land surveying under the Agreement on Internal Trade – Labour Mobility Chapter. Two specific action items resulted.

- Associations are encouraged to revisit the issue of increasing the frequency of examinations available to applicants under the agreement, consider and analyse the feasibility of various options for their specific situations, and share the results of their discussion with other associations. This should not be limited to only those associations who currently provide a single examination per year, as increased availability would benefit applicants in any jurisdiction and the sharing of ideas generated during discussions within all associations would increase consistency.
- The ACLS needs to consider the consistent application of the principle that the affidavit of experience is considered equivalent to the articling process for both the provincial candidate to the ACLS and the ACLS candidate to the provincial associations. Amendments to the current ACLS regulations and to the agreement itself may be necessary to clarify this issue.

The representative for the Association of Prince Edward Island Land Surveyors reported that association’s continuing difficulty with the concepts of the agreement and indicated that there were no plans to reconsider their participation. There have been several applications for licensure under the agreement and the signatory 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. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the CCLS web site.

National Board of Examiners

For some years, the existing Boards of Examiners, the Associations and CCLS have worked together to attempt to standardize the non-jurisdictional academic admission standards and the specific course curricula. The ten associations (not including the APEILS) that are signatories to the Labour Mobility Agreement for Land Surveying agreed in that document to continue to work towards the harmonization of academic qualifications. Nine associations (not including the OAGQ) participate currently in the system of a common core syllabus and common examinations through an MOU between the Atlantic, Ontario, Western and Canada Lands Boards.

At a meeting of these four Boards in the Fall of 2000, a vision statement was adopted which called for the replacement of the regional Boards with a National Board. The National Board would provide services related to the common syllabus and the assessment, examination and certification of candidates on a national basis and, in addition, take over from the CCLS Board of Examiners Co-ordinating Committee the responsibility for accreditation of educational institutions that offer geomatics courses.

The vision statement was presented to CCLS by way of a report from the Boards. There was considerable support from the associations for investigation into the concepts and possible models for a National Board and at the Annual Meeting of (CCLS) in January of 2001, the matter was discussed and an ad hoc committee was formed (“the Committee”). Since that time, the Committee has expanded to include its current members (Chair Jim Dobbin, Denis Blais, Sarah Cornett, Norman Lalanne, Sue Nichols, Larry Pals, Doug Simmonds, Jim Simpson, Brent Taylor).

A discussion paper, a draft agreement and a draft funding model for a National Board has been developed by the Committee to set out for discussion the Committee’s ideas on the players, the goals, role and structure of a National Board, and the process and action items that should be addressed to bring the concept to fruition. Both the discussion paper and the draft agreement and funding model have progressed through a number of iterations and the Committee is hoping to make formal presentations to Association Boards and Councils throughout the fall and early winter. The discussion paper is available through the CCLS and those who want to comment are asked to e-mail Jim Dobbin at jdobbin@cogs.ns.ca.

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 (PLIC) will hold its regular Fall committee meeting in Ottawa on October 5-6, 2002. Renewal season is complete and the Committee Members are very pleased with the policy itself and the terms of renewal for the program. This meeting will focus on claims handling issues and ensuring that the individual insureds continue to be well served by the program.

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The new Practice Guide, dealing with issues such as communication, practice exposure, claims handling, risk management and contracts, is in its final phase of development and will be issued latter this fall through the CCLS web site and available in limited quantities in hard copy format.

Please continue to respond to the feedback questionnaire in the event that you have a claim. The committee monitors the responses closely and uses your input to improve the service to the program participants. Look for the continuing series of ENCON Loss Control Bulletins and expect a PLIC member at your association's annual meeting for a brief update on committee and program activities.

Strategic Planning Task Force

The Strategic Planning Task Force, which was formed in order to continue the work begun at the strategic planning workshop in Victoria BC last March, has met four times during the spring and summer and is making good progress in the preparation of a comprehensive strategic plan and specific action plans for the CCLS. Several sub-groups have been formed to look at the key priorities identified in Victoria. As with any long term planning process, there is much work to be done and consistency, perseverance, and member support are key.

An updated vision statement and missions have been drafted and are shown below. Let your Director know if you believe these statements capture your vision of the CCLS.

VISION: *CCLS, on behalf of its member Associations, will provide responsible leadership in national and international geomatics issues and will be the recognized representative of its member Associations in all national and international forums.*

MISSIONS:

1. *CCLS provides proactive leadership in national and international geomatics issues.*
 - 1.1. *Receives, identifies and analyzes member issues to determine their relevance at the national and international level.*
 - 1.2. *Provides expertise and a cost-effective action plan to deal with the issues.*
2. *CCLS provides international representation for its members.*
3. *CCLS provides national representation for its members.*
4. *CCLS provides a forum for national communication.*
5. *CCLS fosters cooperation amongst member Associations and the broader geomatics community.*

Five specific priority areas are identified, each with specific strategic directions and long and short term objects.

One of the first outcomes of the strategic planning process falls under the Communications priority and involves improving the two way communication, level of knowledge, and participation of individuals and groups both inside and outside of the CCLS community about the structure, ongoing work, and opportunities for involvement within the CCLS. Look for a presentation and discussion forum about the CCLS at an annual or regional meeting in the coming year.

In Summary

Long established programs, new initiatives and partnerships, future directions and strategic planning are all featured on the current action sheet at the CCLS. There will be specific opportunities for your input and participation in the coming year as well as our electronic version of an open door policy here at the CCLS office. We look forward to hearing your view points.

Sarah J. Cornett, B.Sc., OLS
CCLS Executive Director