



# COUNCIL REPORT

November 28, 2008

*The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on November 28, 2008. Here is a summary of their discussions.*

## **FROM THE REGISTRAR**

The Association is pleased to welcome **William Akehurst** as an associate member. Mr. Akehurst is an Ontario Land Surveyor and a graduate of the University of Calgary.

Council approved a request from **Philip O'Connor** to be exempt from the provisions of the mandatory professional liability insurance bylaw as he is not currently practicing land surveying in Alberta.

## **JOINT MEETING**

The ALSA Council held a joint meeting with its counterparts from the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors. The purpose of the joint meeting was to learn what initiatives each association was working on and determine if there were any areas where the ALSA and ABCLS might work together on a specific task.

Agenda items included:

- labour mobility;
- relationships with technicians and technologists;
- the current state of practice review;

- relationships with the Surveyor-General/Director of Surveys offices;
- career awareness initiatives;
- professional development initiatives;
- registration processes and procedures; and
- the future of the profession.

The associations agreed to two resolutions. The associations agreed to discuss the potential benefits of a joint practice review, or continuing competency, program. They also agreed to come together to hold a joint continuing professional development meeting in the future.

More specifically, the ALSA will investigate creating online professional exams similar to what the ABCLS has developed under the TILMA agreement.

The ABCLS is interested in working with the ALSA in using the services of a professional educational consultant to develop a seminar program and specific seminars.

It is expected that more joint meetings between the two associations will be held in the future.

## **TOTAL COORDINATES RECOMMENDATION TO THE AGM**

Council approved forwarding a recommendation from the Standards Committee to the AGM to amend Part D, Section 5.6.3 of the Manual of Standard Practice by adding:

### *Plan Requirements*

*A wellsite survey plan in unsurveyed territory shall clearly identify the survey evidence used as the datum and show co-ordinates of said point relative to the north east corner of Section 33 on the closest baseline in the range in which the well location lies.*

The Standards Committee was assigned the task of determining whether total co-ordinates are required on wellsite plans in unsurveyed territory. There is no existing requirement that co-ordinates relative to the NE 33 be shown on a well plan in unsurveyed territory. It would appear that this "may" date back to the "unsurveyed

territory survey regulations” which have been rescinded. The recommendation does clearly generate a requirement that the co-ordinate be shown, at least for the datum.

### **NAD83(CSRS) RECOMMENDATION TO THE AGM**

Council approved forwarding a recommendation from the Standards Committee to the AGM to amend Part D, Section 1 and Part D Section 2 of the Manual of Standard Practice to incorporate NAD83(CSRS) as an acceptable datum and add a reference to the Geodetic Fact Sheets from the Director of Surveys website <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/lands/directorsurveys/publications/forms.aspx> in Part D, Section 1 to help the membership in understanding the difference between NAD83(Adopted) and NAD83(CSRS).

The overall intent of the recommendation is to allow Alberta Land Surveyors to use either NAD83(Original) or NAD83(CSRS) as the geodetic spatial referencing system in Alberta.

NAD83(CSRS) defines the national standard for referencing spatial data and as users move to this spatial reference system,

NAD83(Original) coordinates will no longer be rigorously computed for new ASCMs. Currently, there is a small subset of control markers referenced to NAD83(CSRS) available in an excel spreadsheet. Ultimately, all ASCMs (or at least a robust subset) will be published with respect to NAD83(CSRS).

### **THE PLAIN LANGUAGE MANUAL OF STANDARD PRACTICE**

Council agreed to forward the “plain language” draft of the Manual of Standard Practice to the membership as soon as it is available from the Standards Committee.

The intent of putting the Manual of Standard Practice into plain language is to make it clear, concise and easy to read. The Standards Committee made a conscious effort to not change the meaning of any section of the MSP.

The document will be discussed at the upcoming regional meetings before being put to a vote at the annual general meeting.

As a result of reviewing the Manual of Standard Practice, the Standards Committee has asked Council, and Council has approved, adding the

following matters to its terms of reference for 2009-2010:

- Review Part D, Section 5.3.4 of the current Manual of Standard Practice in regards to the inconsistency of referencing 180 days versus two years.
- Investigate the creation of a Métis Settlements Land Registry affidavit.
- Review the wellsite certification to correct grammatical inconsistencies.
- Review the definition(s) of reference monument.
- Review the definition of parcel.

### **PEER REVIEW THINK-TANK**

Representatives from Council, the Practice Review Board and the membership at large held a think-tank session at the end of October to discuss the future of systematic practice review and how to create a sustainable peer review program.

As the ALSA had been unable to hire a Director of Practice Review for an extended period of time but has an obligation to have some form of continuing competency program in order to protect the public, the think-tank was charged with developing a new sustainable program given the human and

financial resources that will likely be available.

The think-tank developed ten recommendations for Council's consideration.

The recommendations included:

- A two-level system - one for new practitioners and another for experienced practitioners;
- Greater use of continuing education;
- Experienced practitioners would complete some form of online review every three to five years.
- Council has asked Russ Barnes, Don George, Connie Petersen, Rob Radovanovic, Paul Stoliker and Brian Munday to take the recommendations developed by the think-tank and create a more developed framework for a new continuing competency program.

#### **GOVERNMENT LIAISON**

Russ Barnes was reappointed public member on Council.

The Association has requested clarification from Minister Ray Danyluk concerning Bill 41 – the *Municipal Government Amendment Act*.

The Association has requested a meeting with

Service Alberta Minister Heather Klimchuk.

The Government of Alberta passed Bill 36 – the *Land Titles Amendment Act*. The amendment was initiated in part by the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association with the intent of allowing for errors on plans of survey to be corrected in situations where the surveyor who signed the plan is no longer available.

It is proposed that the Alberta Legislature grounds be revitalized. The Association has indicated that it would consider refurbishing or upgrading the 1967 centennial monument and has requested further information.

The Association will make a presentation to the Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal and the Métis Settlements Land Registry early in 2009. The purpose of the presentation will be to highlight the role of Alberta Land Surveyors in boundary matters.

#### **DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS REPORT**

Director of Surveys Mike Michaud confirmed that the Ministerial Order regarding the sale of iron posts and marker posts has been signed.

The Director of Surveys reported on the status of four Section 9 of the *Surveys Act* investigations.

There has been no further action on the Association's proposal to amend the *Surveys Act* concerning the governing status of Part 2 and Part 3 monuments.

The government continues to meet with its lawyers concerning a response to the Association's solicitor's opinion regarding the dual registration of plans at Land Titles and Public Lands.

A draft proposal concerning geo-referencing of CAD files for digital plan submissions is nearing completion and will be forwarded to the Digital Submissions Review Committee whose membership includes ALSA Council member Bruce Gudim.

The Director of Surveys has requested Council's support for the development of standards requiring all plans of survey to be integrated to the provincial spatial referencing system. This matter will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Council sent a letter to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development requesting a meeting with



him to discuss the ALSA's concerns regarding the future of land surveying within Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and potential solutions and hopes to meet with the Assistant Deputy Minister soon.

**COMMITTEE  
MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

Andrew Roop has resigned from the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee. David Marquardt, the vice-chairman, has agreed to take over.

Scott Partridge has resigned from the Registration Committee.

Council appointed articulated student Evgeny Petushkov to the Professional Development Committee.

**SHORT CUTS**

Council unanimously approved an additional \$2,500 for the Standards Committee for the balance of the fiscal year.

Council unanimously approved \$1,500 for the CCLS Committee budget for the balance of the fiscal year.

Council has asked the Safety Committee to prepare a proposal for an exemption on the hours of service regulation under federal transportation safety legislation for possible submission to the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO  
REMEMBER**

ALSA Christmas Reception  
December 10, 2008  
ALSA Office  
4:30pm to 7:30pm

ALSA Office Closed  
for Holidays  
December 24, 2008 (noon) to  
January 5, 2009

Affidavits of Service  
Submission Deadline  
January 15, 2009

Corporate Renewal Form  
Submission Deadline  
January 31, 2009

Regional Meetings

Edmonton  
January 29, 2009

Calgary  
February 3, 2009

Medicine Hat  
February 4, 2009

Grande Prairie  
February 10, 2009