



COUNCIL REPORT

October 29, 2009

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on October 29, 2009. Here is a summary of their discussions.

FROM THE REGISTRAR

Council approved **Jones & Associates Surveys Ltd.** as a surveyor's corporation.

Bruce Jones will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the practice.

Council approved an exemption from the provisions of the mandatory professional liability insurance bylaw for **Arlin Amundrud** and **Jason Deschamps** (subject to receipt of a corrected application).

CROWN LANDS AFFIDAVIT

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association received six letters representing fifty Alberta Land Surveyors who are concerned about the new Alberta Sustainable Resource Development affidavit for crown lands. In particular, these members feel that they are being asked to sign a false affidavit.

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has requested an emergency meeting with the Director of

Surveys to attempt to resolve this issue.

The Council does not condone any Alberta Land Surveyor signing a false affidavit.

Representatives from Council met with the Director of Surveys office on November 5 to discuss member concerns that they are being asked to sign a false affidavit when using the new Alberta Sustainable Resource Development certification for crown lands.

At this time, notes from the meeting are being prepared which will be circulated to the Director of Surveys and all of Council. It is hoped that an understanding can then be reached which will be acceptable to both the ALSA and the Government of Alberta.

CONTINUING COMPETENCY

Council endorsed a framework document for a new continuing competency program.

The new program combines elements of the existing

Systematic Practice Review program and a continuing education reporting program.

The program shall be administered by the Practice Review Board.

Each Alberta Land Surveyor will be subject to a continuing competency review at least once every three years. At this time, approximately 135 Alberta Land Surveyors would be subject to a continuing competency review each year.

The continuing competency review consists of a review of an Alberta Land Surveyor's practice, education & training, professional involvement and other accomplishments.

The Alberta Land Surveyor's score in each of these areas is used only as a guideline in assessing whether the file is closed or whether a further more-detailed review is warranted.

The Director of Practice Review makes a recommendation to the

Practice Review Board about the Alberta Land Surveyor's file and the Practice Review Board makes the final decision.

The draft regulation for a mandatory continuing education reporting program as developed by the Professional Development Committee was referred to the Association's Continuing Competency Working Group.

The continuing education questionnaire as developed by the Professional Development Committee was also referred to the Continuing Competency Working Group to incorporate into the new program. All Alberta Land Surveyors and articling students will be asked to complete a voluntary continuing reporting questionnaire by January 31, 2010.

Council also requested that Professional Development Committee member Marty Robinson join the Continuing Competency Working Group and Mr. Robinson has agreed.

A full presentation will be made to the membership at the 2010 AGM.

CONTINGENCY PLAN UPDATE

Through September and October, post sales continued to be approximately 12% below budget.

Budget cuts already in place and scheduled to be put in place in the second half of the fiscal year are expected to be roughly equivalent to the post sale shortfall.

To the end of September, the Association's nine-month return on its investment account was 6.4%. The Association changed its investment advisor last fall.

GEO-REFERENCING

Several members contacted the Association about the notice from the Director of Surveys about geo-referencing requirements.

Council thanks the members for bringing these questions to its attention. The Director of Surveys has indicated that he will respond to those questions and others that may arise.

Former Council member Bruce Gudim served on the Director of Surveys' committee that was looking into this matter. Mr. Gudim has indicated that geo-referencing requires minor additions to the body and legend of the survey plan,

minor changes in the DIPS submission and provision of a digitally referenced CAD file instead of an ordinary CAD file.

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

The self-governing survey associations in Canada are working toward signing a new labour mobility mutual recognition agreement (MRA) as a result of changes to the Agreement on Internal Trade signed by the premiers and territorial leaders. The updated MRA will reflect the actual practice that a land surveyor in one Canadian jurisdiction is only required to pass a one half-day jurisdiction examination in order to become licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction.

Council was asked for its feedback concerning ongoing discussions to replace the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors with a new organization to be called Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC). PSC proposes to be a member-driven organization (instead of an association-based organization) that would undertake national initiatives such as public relations, professional development and professional liability insurance. A number of organizing meetings are scheduled in November and

December and Vice-President Brian Ross will represent the ALSA at these meetings.

PEOPLE CHANGES

Russ Barnes was reappointed public member on Council by the Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry.

Fred Rogers was appointed to the Buried Facilities Working Group.

Troy Motz was appointed to the ALSA-ASSMT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Implementation Committee.

Council accepted, with regret, Grant Cross' resignation from the Standards Committee and Gord Linnell's resignation

from the Professional Development Committee.

Brian Munday was appointed acting registrar from October 30 to December 8, 2009 to deal with any administrative or jurisdictional questions that may arise while David McWilliam enjoys an extended vacation.

SHORT CUTS

The Association was asked to comment on the Alberta Institute of Professional Planners proposed regulation that would ensure that the AIPP's registration requirements comply with labour mobility obligations. The ALSA had no concerns.

The Association will be conducting an online salary

survey and technical benefits survey for 2009. The last one was conducted in 2006.

The online questionnaire will go live in mid-November with responses due back before Christmas.

Council considered its policy for presenting certificates and pins to 25-year members and 50-year members but decided against changing the policy at this time. A certificate and pin is presented to all active Alberta Land Surveyors on the occasion of their 25th anniversary as an Alberta Land Surveyor. The member must have been active for 25 consecutive years.

MÉTIS SETTLEMENTS LAND REGISTRY AFFIDAVIT

Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee to create a Métis Settlements Land Registry affidavit and put it in the Manual of Standard Practice. The matter will be referred to the membership for a vote at the AGM.

The current affidavit most commonly used for plans registered with the Métis Settlements Land Registry incorrectly states that the plan was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Land Titles Act. In fact, these plans are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Métis Settlements Land Registry Regulation.

The proposed affidavit reads:

***ALS AFFIDAVIT FOR PLANS SUBMITTED TO
MÉTIS SETTLEMENTS LAND REGISTRY***

*I, _____, Alberta Land Surveyor, of _____, Alberta,
make oath and say that:*

