



# Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

January 27, 2004

*The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on January 27, 2004. Here is a summary of their discussions.*

## 2004-2005 Budget Approved

Council approved the Association budget for 2004-2005.

The budget includes an increase in active member dues from \$550 to \$600. All other membership dues remain the same. The increase in active member dues is the first in almost ten years. However, by the time member levies are taken into account, the total membership fee is the same as it was in 1999-2000.

In accordance with Council policy, Council budgeted iron post and marker post sales to be the average of post sales over the last four years. Council expects the Association's investment income to be weak as the outlook for bonds is uncertain as a result of fluctuations in the Canadian dollar and interest rates.

Council did budget for a move to new office space. The Association's current lease expires in 2005 and the current landlord did not put a proposal forward for a new lease. The Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the Association's office space requirements over the last several months, inspected potential office space, and reviewed proposals from three landlords. Council authorized the Executive Director to enter into a new lease for office space in downtown Edmonton based on the proposal submitted if final details can be negotiated. Further details will be announced when arrangements have been finalized.

Council also approved a proposal for the reorganization of ALSA staffing. The staffing reorganization takes into consideration the increase in ad-

hoc committees in recent years and the support provided to them. The overall effect should be an additional staff person to provide better service to the membership with a minimal effect on the overall budget.

Council held the line on other expense items; adjusting line items slightly up or down based on recent trends and experience.

Not all committees received the budget amounts they requested. However, no committee's budget was cut significantly. Council did approve a budget item of \$3,000 for a new committee to look at the future of the Association. While the terms of reference have not yet been approved, it is expected that the committee would investigate the future registration process for new Alberta Land Surveyors.

## Proposals to Update the Western Canadian Board of Examiners

Representatives from the British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba land surveying associations met in December to review the operation of the Western Canadian Board of Examiners (WCBE). Arising out of this meeting were six proposals for the ALSA Council to consider.

### PROPOSAL #1

Provide a mechanism such that a student currently enrolled in a survey diploma program could write the WCBE examinations

**Background:** This proposal would allow current students to be able to write the examinations while they have the substantial advantage of being in an academic environment. Students would have the resources of the institutions at their disposal and the ability to network with other students.

**Result:** Following the committee meeting, the meeting of the Western Canadian Board of Examiners was reconvened and a motion was passed to amend the Board By-laws to allow students from a recognized 2 year technical program in geomatics to write Board exams while attending college. Board certification will only be provided upon proof of graduation.

### PROPOSAL #2

Delete the requirement of Graduation from a recognized two year Technical School Program in Surveying and Mapping.

**Result:** With the adoption of Proposal #1, this proposal did not require discussion.

### PROPOSAL #3

Develop web-based resources for WCBE students.

**Background:** The development and accessibility of web based resources for students will improve the number of students completing the Western Board syllabus.

**Result:** The Council of the ALSA supports Proposal #3 in principle.

### PROPOSAL #4

Compile a more concise syllabus for each WCBE subject.

**Background:** The current syllabus is a generalization, which needs to be updated and defined in more concise terms. This would enable students to have a better understanding of exactly what is being expected of them. It should also be noted that the list of references requires additional updating as part of this process in order to reflect currently available texts.



**Result:** The Council of the ALSA supports Proposal #4 in principle.

#### **PROPOSAL #5**

That full exemption not be granted to a technical institute through the exemption process; that a technical institute may receive exemptions in no more than one less than the total number of exams set by the Western Board; that in order to obtain full accreditation the institute will be required to make application for accreditation to CCLS; and that the WCBE be given the authority to recover the costs of the exemption process from the institutes that request exemptions.

**Background:** It had been suggested that the number of exemptions that a technical school can be accredited for should not be limited. Exemptions should be granted based on a merit level and not cut off after some arbitrary number. If the WCBE is not granting exemptions due to time or resource constraints, then additional resources should be allocated. It was also stated that there is seldom a one-to-one relationship between the Western Board curriculum and technical institute courses. In order to obtain an exemption, course material from a combination of courses is reviewed.

The WCBE representatives discussed this proposal at great length. Concerns were expressed regarding lowering the bar by creating a two-tier system, the expertise to review applications and the amount of time required of committee members and volunteers to review applications.

**Result:** The ALSA Council has asked our WCBE representatives, in conjunction with our CCLS director, to obtain more information on this proposal with reference to the exemption and accreditation process in time for the next Council meeting. In particular, Council wants to have more details on the exemption and accreditation process and standards in order to make a well-informed decision.

#### **PROPOSAL #6**

That the By-laws of the Western Board be amended to allow a graduate from a university or college that is fully accredited by CCLS to receive a Western Board certificate of completion, by providing proof of graduation.

**Background:** This proposal came out of the committee's discussion. Graduates from the two universities currently accredited by CCLS, the University of Calgary and the University of New Brunswick, are sought after worldwide because of the quality of the programs. Any additional exam that the Western Board may currently require a graduate to write in order to obtain a Western Board certificate of completion is an elective course at the university. If the diploma is accepted worldwide why then would the Western Board go behind the diploma to see what courses were taken?

**Result:** Council has ratified Proposal #6 that graduates from a university or college that is fully accredited by CCLS receive a Western Canadian Board of Examiners Certificate of Completion providing proof of graduation. Note that this proposal must be ratified by the other WCBE members before it could take effect.

#### **Harmonization of Standards and Processes for Entry to the Surveying Profession**

The Canadian Council of Land Surveyors is proposing a national meeting to:

1. Review pre-professional educational and training requirements across the country
2. Identify key issues facing entry level professionals
3. Develop strategies that will address key concerns

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has agreed to the scope of the proposed National Forum on Harmonization of Standards and Processes for Entry to the Surveying Profession, and Larry Pals has agreed to participate at this meeting.

Although other CCLS member associations have rejected the latest proposal to form a National Board of Examiners, a number of member associations have expressed concerns that, as a result of not having a national board, entry level issues facing the profession will not be addressed. CCLS is proposing that a meeting of member associations be held to share information, identify key issues and develop strategies that address the issues.

CCLS supports this meeting because:

1. There are disparate entry standards across the country and these standards have a direct impact on our existing Labour Mobility Agreement.
2. Member associations have reviewed and revised, or are in the process of reviewing and revising, their entry standards and these new standards have not been well communicated amongst associations.
3. The process for entry into the profession is not clear, consistent or transparent and this is a limiting factor in attracting new entrants.
4. As a result of international discussions regarding mutual recognition of professionals between countries, either through WTO or NAFTA, coherent and cohesive entry standards and unobstructed access to those standards have been identified as key principles upon which to base these agreements.

#### **Honorary Life Membership Awarded**

Dick Bassil has been awarded honorary life membership in recognition of his signal service to the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association. Mr. Bassil will be presented with his honorary life membership at the Awards Lunch on Thursday April 22, 2004 during the annual general meeting.

#### **ALSA to follow PIPA**

The Personal Information Privacy Act (PIPA) received royal assent and, together with its supporting regulation, came into force on January 1, 2004.



The Federal Information & Privacy Commissioner finds this legislation to be substantially equivalent to the federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA).

PIPA allows for "professional regulatory organizations," such as the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association to either follow the legislation or develop their own personal information code. The ALSA has informed the Government of Alberta that we will not be proceeding with a profession-specific code. Instead, the ALSA will follow PIPA and use our own internal privacy policy to assist us with applying the Act.

### **Amendments to Plan Corrections Section in the LTOPM**

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has been advised of an additional amendment that the Land Titles Office, Surveys Section, will be making to SUR-8, Plan Corrections of the Land Titles Office Procedures Manual.

The changes that have been made are in response to a request from the ALSA. The ALSA indicated that it would be beneficial if amendments could be made to SUR-8 to indicate that there may be other options to consider which may be able to be used to rectify title boundary problems in place of the legislated judge's order or order pursuant to section 9 of the Surveys Act. Council has reviewed the amendments to SUR-8 and has acknowledged them.

### **Monumenting Corner Cut-offs**

The Standards Committee was made aware that right-of-ways were being prepared without showing dimensions of where there was a cut-off. In response, the Standards Committee developed different scenarios and agreed which ones would be acceptable or not.

The Standards Committee developed an article for *ALS News* and Council asked the Practice Review

Board (PRB) to take a look at it. The PRB advised Council which options they felt were feasible and did not recommend any changes to the article.

The article on monumenting cut-offs on the unmarked side of a right-of-way will be published in the next issue of *ALS News*.

### **From the Registrar**

Council approved David Roberts' request to move from active member to retired member.

Council approved the request from Precision Geomatics Inc. to establish a branch office in Calgary under the supervision, direction and control of Jason Paziuk, ALS.

At their request, Council terminated the registration of The Focus Corporation as a surveyor's corporation and then approved Focus Surveys Inc. as a new surveyor's corporation. The permit number, however, remains unchanged.

### **Administrative Law Seminar**

Discipline Committee Chairman and Past President, David McWilliam, brought forward a notice of motion that on an ongoing basis each committee member:

1. shall attend at least one discipline related seminar, as developed by the Association in order to receive orientation and instruction in carrying out the functions and fulfilling the obligations of the Committee, and
2. shall attend the above seminar within the first two years of committee service, and
3. shall attend the above seminar in order to continue membership on the committee for their full term.

### **Short Cuts**

Council unanimously approved the purchase of a new SPR truck, to a maximum of \$30,000, from the 2003-2004 capital budget.

Council approved the appointment of Ron Robinson to the Standards Committee and Public Lands Dispositions Subcommittee and Dr. Mike Barry and Terry Ingraham to the Editorial Board. Council also accepted,

with regret, the resignation of Dave Williams from the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee and Al Nielsen from the Public Lands Dispositions Subcommittee.

Council authorized a presentation to the sales & marketing committee of the Canadian Home Builders Association during their annual conference in Banff next month. The presentation will focus on real property reports and title insurance. Council also authorized a meeting with the Canadian Bar Association, Alberta Branch, Real Property Section, South Alberta to discuss their recommended rules of practice respecting real property reports which was endorsed by their group last April.

The Standards Committee raised the issue of the Metis Settlements Land Registry developing a digital system for plan mapping and registration. Council referred the matter to the Association's annual liaison meeting with the Director of Surveys, the Land Titles Office and the Metis Settlements Land Registry for further discussion.

The Public Relations Committee requested funds to print a poster designed to promote the preservation of survey monuments, Council turned down the request at this time and asked for the Committee to revisit the poster's message and prepare a rationale document that would address distribution methods and costs.

## **Dates to Remember**

**March 25, 2003**  
Edmonton Regional Meeting

**March 30, 2004**  
Calgary Regional meeting

**April 5th and 6th, 2004**  
Professional Examinations

**April 22nd to 24th, 2004**  
ALSA AGM and Convention