



# Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

June 24, 2004

*The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on June 24, 2004. Here is a summary of their discussions.*

## Member Cancellations

Council directed the Registrar to cancel **Canadian Engineering & Surveys Inc.** as a surveyor's corporation for non-payment of fees in accordance with Section 31 of the Land Surveyors Act. **D. Rae Sutherland, ALS** will practice as a sole practitioner. Canadian Engineering & Surveys Inc. is not authorized to engage in the practice of land surveying in Alberta.

Council directed the Registrar to cancel the registration of **Walter Malainey** for non-payment of fees in accordance with Section 31 of the Land Surveyors Act. Mr. Malainey is not authorized to engage in the practice of land surveying in Alberta.

## From the Registrar

Council approved **Global Surveys Group** as a surveyor's corporation. **Bob Wallace, ALS** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the corporation. The permit number will be the same as Global Surveys Corp., P169.

Council approved **Alberta Geomatics Inc.** as a surveyor's corporation. **Piotr Strozyk, ALS** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the corporation.

Council approved a branch office in Grande Prairie for **Crape Geomatics Corporation**. **A. James Hume, ALS** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the branch office.

Council directed the Registrar to cancel the registration of those practitioners who have not provided proof of professional liability insurance after the expiration of 30 days following the service on those practitioners of a written notice.

## Ground Disturbance and Buried Facilities—Read This!

Council appointed Past-president Jim Halliday to represent the ALSA on an interim basis on the Multi-Stakeholder Damage Prevention Legislation Task Force and have asked the Executive Committee to develop terms of reference for a committee to make recommendations on buried facilities and ground disturbance.

In 2002, the Association made a presentation to the Government of Alberta's Standing Policy Committee on Agriculture and Municipal Affairs concerning buried facilities. The Association's position was that there needed to be a Buried Facilities Act that would require the accurate recording of the as-built location of all buried facilities and that their location must be of public record in a central database.

A year earlier, the Multi-Stakeholder Damage Prevention Legislation Task Force made a presentation on buried facilities. This task force was led by Alberta One Call; there was no representative from the ALSA on this task force at that time. In response to both presentations, the Government of Alberta established its own Buried Infrastructure Task Force and Ken Allred was the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association's representative.

Last month, the Government of Alberta concluded that there is no need for a new statute at this time. In its analysis, the Government felt that "since worker safety legislation already has stiff penalties for actions

that result in injury to workers, the potential economic impact of having to compensate a facilities owner for damages already provides significant motivation to ensure all facilities are located prior to digging."

Council is concerned that occupational health and safety and ground disturbance legislation could paralyze land surveying and economic development around the province.

Council wanted the entire membership to be aware and cognizant of relevant safety legislation, particularly as it relates to ground disturbance.

Section 441 of the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code states that "before excavating activities actually begin, the location of buried facilities that may be encountered during digging must first be located." It goes on to say, "there are many activities that disturb the ground and have the potential to contact a buried facility. These include...driving posts, bars, pins."

Members are strongly encouraged to ensure they are familiar with safety and ground disturbance legislation including Bill C-45 and govern themselves accordingly. The Association will be pursuing this matter further.

## Digital Submission for Public Land Dispositions

Council has approved the re-establishment of the Public Lands Dispositions Subcommittee as a Subcommittee of the Standards Committee with the following terms of reference:

1. Investigate a digital plan submission process for Public Lands Dispositions.
2. Investigate georeferencing disposition plans.

The Director of Surveys has indicated that he would like to have a



subcommittee look at digital submission standards. He suggested that it could be possible to utilize the system currently in place at Land Titles Office (LTO) with only a few additions relative to dispositions. The Director of Surveys commented that he would also like the subcommittee discuss georeferencing.

### **Electronic Submission of RPRs Pilot Project**

Council has asked that City of Calgary's electronic submission of Real Property Reports pilot project be on the agenda for the next City of Calgary meeting with surveyors and that a report on that issue from that meeting be made to Council.

The City of Calgary started an online submission process for Real Property Reports over a year ago as a pilot project and the pilot project ended February 2004.

Alberta Land Surveyors and the City of Calgary meet semi-regularly to discuss issues of mutual concern.

### **Grid Bearings**

Council reviewed a letter from the Director of Surveys concerning registered plans that referenced astronomic bearings instead of the intended standards of grid bearings. The issue of ground coordinates for Section 47 plans was also raised.

Council directed the Standards Committee to "investigate deficiencies related to grid bearings and make recommendations to Council" and "investigate improper use of ground coordinates for Section 47 plans and make recommendations to Council" as per the information provided by the Director of Surveys.

### **Mileage Rates and Balanced Budgets**

Council gave second and final reading to increase the Association's mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.39 per kilometre from \$0.35 per kilometre. The increase takes effect June 24, 2004.

Council also gave second and final reading to change the policy that,

"commencing May 1, 1996 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association shall approve a balanced budget" to "the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association should not approve a deficit budget."

### **Student Memberships**

Council has asked the Public Relations Committee to investigate creating a student membership category for geomatics students.

Council Liaison Vince Ziegler indicated that the University of Calgary Geomatics Engineering Liaison Committee (a committee on which all of the western survey associations are represented) discussed how to get geomatics students involved and aware of cadastral surveying and the surveying profession. It was agreed at the Geomatics Engineering Liaison Committee meeting that each association should consider the concept.

The Public Relations Committee will investigate a student member category for any geomatics student and not just the University of Calgary.

### **Scouts Jamboree**

The Public Relations Committee will be circulating a request for donations to the membership and advertisers in *ALS News* for hand-held GPS receivers and other items that may be required for a Scout jamboree in 2004.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association, and in particular Public Relations Committee Chairman Scott Partridge, has been working with Scouts Alberta on a geocaching exercise that exposes kids to GPS and basic land surveying concepts. See the September 2003 issue of *ALS News*, page 32 ([www.alsa.ab.ca/alsnews/pr0309.htm](http://www.alsa.ab.ca/alsnews/pr0309.htm)). The hope is that this type of exercise will encourage kids to consider a career in land surveying.

### **The Surveyor's Corner**

The Public Relations Committee has been asked to consider writing a "Surveyor's Corner" article for the *AREA Update* newsletter. *AREA Update* is the official newsletter of the Alberta Real Estate Association and is pub-

lished four times per year. Their membership includes over 8,100 realtors and their eleven real estate boards in all regions of the province.

### **FIG Working Week in Athens**

Ken Allred came to the Council meeting to report to Council on the FIG Working Week conference in Athens, Greece that he attended last May. Mr. Allred reported on the Canadian delegation and his election as one of the four vice-presidents of FIG. Mr. Allred made a presentation entitled, "Practice Review: The Professional Coach" which was co-authored by Lyall Pratt.

FIG is interested in holding its 2010 quadrennial congress in Canada. Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton are each possible venues. The congress would be held in April, May or June of 2010.

The FIG Executive Director, Markku Vilikka, will be visiting Western Canada in late July/early August to tour the facilities in Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton. In conjunction with CIG and the chosen convention site, a proposal will be made next year in Cairo. The FIG office will look after most of the arrangements but a local committee will liaise on the local arrangements.

Council unanimously approved funds from the Communications and Public Relations Fund to hold a small reception for the FIG executive director.

### **Adverse Possession**

Ken Allred reported that he has commenced his research and writing of a brief on adverse possession. He said that he has not yet researched the early cases when it was affirmed in the Land Titles Act in the early 1920s. William Pearce, ALS, the first president of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association fought to have it removed but his arguments came too late to be of any value.

Council awaits the written position paper from Mr. Allred.



### Christmas Open House

Council unanimously approved funding for a Christmas reception to be held on December 9, 2004 at a cost not to exceed \$3,500; funding to be provided by the Financial Stabilization Fund. The Christmas Reception will be an opportunity for members to see the Association's new office space.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is moving to Suite 1000, 10020 101A Avenue, effective July 10, 2004.

### Short Cuts

The Association has submitted its financial statements to the accountant to prepare his annual review engagement report. The report is expected to be presented to Council in September.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has been invited to have a representative on the Geomatics Technical Committee of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

(CAPP). Vice-president Stephen Green will represent the ALSA on this Committee. Jim MacLeod, ALS represented the ALSA at a CAPP Geomatics study to determine the pros, cons and associated costs of converting to NAD83 or staying with NAD27 as a reference datum.

### Committee Action Plans and Volunteers

Council approved the following additional appointments to committees:

**Ron Hall**—Future of the Association Committee

**Andrew Roop**—Legislation Ad Hoc Committee

**Greg Hebb**—Professional Development Committee

**Patrick Moloney**—Standards Committee

Council accepted Mr. Woychuk's resignation from the Historical & Biographical Committee with regret.

## Dates to Remember

**September 30, 2004**

Edmonton Regional Meeting

**October 5, 2004**

Calgary Regional Meeting

**October 4 and 5, 2004**

Professional Examinations

## We are moving.....

Effective July 10, 2004 the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is moving to:

Suite 1000, Phipps McKinnon Building  
10020 - 101A Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3G2

Phone, fax and e-mail address remain the same.