



Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

September 28, 2006

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on September 28, 2006. Here is a summary of their discussions.

From the Registrar

Council approved a declaration from **Scott Westlund** that he is not currently engaging in the practice of surveying for anyone except on a part-time basis or on a contract basis by a practitioner authorized to engage in the practice of land surveying in Alberta. The practitioner who is employing him on a part-time/contract basis has arranged adequate professional liability insurance for him.

Congratulations Bob!

Council has conferred honorary life membership on **Bob Fulton**.

Bob will be formally and properly recognized at the annual general meeting in Lake Louise during the awards lunch.

Bob was commissioned as an Alberta Land Surveyor in 1963 and entered the retired list just this year. He articulated to fellow honorary life member George Walker and articulated many students.

He was president of the Association in 1984-1985; received the President's Award in 1992 and the Professional Recognition Award in 1997.

Congratulations Bob!

Safety Committee Website

Council approved publishing an article developed by the Safety Committee on the ALSA website. The article is entitled "Basic Information on Modified Work Duties: Keep Staff Working and WCB Costs Down."

The safety page on the ALSA website will also include new articles on "pre-hiring drug testing" and "recreational drug user successful in Alberta Court."

The ALSA safety page is at <http://www.alsa.ab.ca/safety.htm>.

Career Information

Council gave unanimous approval to a recommendation from the Public Relations Committee to spend \$10,556.25 for the preparation and printing of 25,000 career brochures, 5,000 career posters and 5,000 math contest posters.

As soon as the brochures and posters are printed, they will be mailed to high schools throughout Alberta.

The brochure and posters feature the tagline: "Land Surveying: A Career without Boundaries" and focuses on people instead of equipment. The models in the brochure and poster are former Cadastral Group employees, now with Focus Surveys Limited Partnership.

Director of Surveys Report

The Director of Surveys attended this Council meeting and a number of topics were discussed.

Council clarified its direction to the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee is now asked to develop survey standards for dispositions on public lands using remote sensing technologies. Previously, direction to the Standards Committee was limited to the use LIDAR for oil & gas dispositions.

The Standards Committee has also been asked to review the Dispositions Plan Requirement Chart dated October 2, 2006 and determine the impact on the Manual of Standard Practice.

The changes to the Dispositions Plan Requirement Chart will mean that dispositions such as a DRS, REA and Gas Co-ops are to be surveyed. A DRS will also have to be monumented using statutory iron posts.

The Director of Surveys informed Council that two dispositions were rejected by Public Lands because the Alberta Land Surveyors involved did not properly consider spikes as survey evidence contrary to the "Full Monumentation: Weight Given to Spikes and Bar" report approved by Council in August 2006.

Council and the Director of Surveys discussed how the Director would monitor as-built surveys getting done and submitted. The Director indicated that the government is considering a proposal to cancel the disposition if the as-built is not submitted within one year of the disposition being granted. There would be a substantial penalty to have the disposition reinstated.

Alberta-BC Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA)

Council members Bruce Beairsto and Larry Pals along with Registration Committee Vice-Chair Rob Scott will represent the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association in meetings with the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors to discuss our obligations under the Alberta-BC Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA).

In April 2006, Alberta and British Columbia signed what is described as a ground-breaking agreement to remove barriers to trade, investment and labour mobility between the two provinces. The agreement will create the second-largest economic region in Canada.



By April 2009, businesses registered in one province will be recognized in the other and labour mobility (i.e. workers' certifications and standards) will also be negotiated for a number of professions and occupations in order to be recognized in both provinces.

Alberta Land Surveyors who are also APEGGA members would be aware of an August 29 article in the *Calgary Herald* by the Calgary Chamber of Commerce CEO who implies that professional self-regulators have an interest in keeping professionals out of Alberta.

National Standards on Integrated Surveys

Council was asked for its comments on a national initiative "National Standards for Integrated Surveys" and an associated project to develop a set of integrated tools for land surveyors to effectively process conventional and geo-referenced survey observations.

The Canadian Council of Geomatics (CCOG) passed resolution S05-10 in June 2005 whereby each province and territory agreed to develop and implement a plan to require geo-referencing of new legal surveys (integration of surveys) according to the principles and standards set out in the resolution. This resolution sets the stage for the provinces and territories to develop and implement the necessary steps to migrate to mandatory georeferencing of legal surveys according to the national standards. Another CCOG resolution (S06-01) was passed at the April 2006 meeting that recognizes the benefit of the land surveying community to collaboratively create an integrated set of processing tools that will enable land surveyors to effectively adjust conventional and geo-referenced survey observations.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association was asked to provide feedback on a project proposal to develop an integrated set of tools and indicate whether the ALSA supports the ini-

tiative or not. In response, Council sent the following letter to Rick Hargraves, BCLS of the BC Land Title and Survey Authority:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to a proposal to develop web tools for national standards on integrated surveys.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is not prepared to financially support the proposal at this time.

As you are aware, Alberta Land Surveyors already integrate most of their surveys and the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has committed to reviewing the national standards when we revise that section of our Manual of Standard Practice.

When there is more information available about the long-term goal for national standards for integrated surveys and the benefit for professional land surveyors, the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association will be pleased to be part of that discussion.

ASSMT at ALSA AGM

Council gave second and final reading to a policy motion that the president of the Alberta Society of Surveying & Mapping Technologies (ASSMT) be invited to attend the ALSA AGM with no cost for registration. As it does with other invited AGM guests, the ALSA would not cover the hotel room or travel costs of ASSMT.

Council looked at establishing this policy so that guests are treated fairly and consistently from year to year. Council also wanted to recognize the special relationship it has with ASSMT and the importance that technicians and technologists continue to play in land surveying in Alberta.

Vice-Chair Appointments

Council has appointed the following vice-chairs of ALSA committees:

- Jeff Blatz (Future),
- Les Frederick (Historical & Biographical),
- Alberta Rachynski (Legislation Ad Hoc),
- Blaine Benson (Practice Review Board),
- Courtney Tripp (Professional Development),
- Lesley Ewoniak (Public Relations),
- Rob Scott (Registration),
- Rob Pinkerton (Standards),
- Carrie Desjarlais (Safety).

Thank you for volunteering your time and effort.

Short Cuts

Articled student Mike Prokopetz has been appointed to the Safety Committee. Chielo Pronovost will no longer be serving on the Safety Committee.

President Dirk VandenBrink, Vice-President Bob Wallace, Executive Director Brian Munday and Director of Practice Review Fred Cheng travelled to Lloydminster, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge in early September as part of the annual president's tour. Many thanks to those who attended and provided their comments and ideas on a number of subjects.

Council topped up the Discipline Revolving Fund to \$20,000, with the money coming from the Financial Stabilization Fund. The Discipline Revolving Fund had been set at \$20,000 at the start of the Association year but there had been several large expenditures involving Discipline Committee investigations and hearings.

Important Dates to Remember

Field Notes Seminar (Calgary)

October 25, 2006

Council Meeting

November 2, 2006

ALSA Office Closed in lieu of

Remembrance Day

November 13, 2006