

BOUNDARIES

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER 2008

Land Surveyors Hold Historic Meeting

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association and the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors held an historic combined board of directors meeting in Sidney, British Columbia on November 27, 2008.



The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association (ALSA), established in 1910, is a self-governing professional association legislated under the *Land Surveyors Act*.

The joint meeting was inspired by the joint cabinet meetings held by the governments of Alberta and British Columbia and the recent labour mobility agreement signed by the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors and the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association.

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

In this first meeting of the two associations, the purpose was to meet with colleagues in similar roles, learn about each others' activities, and determine if the ABCLS and the ALSA could collaborate in specific areas.

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

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association and the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors are self-governing professional regulatory regulations established by provincial legislation. The associations regulate the practice of land surveying for the protection of the public and the administration of the profession.



Pictured left to right: Russ Barnes, ALSA Public Member; Joe Johnson, BCLS; Peter Mueller, BCLS; Connie Petersen, ALS; Don George, ALS; Mike Thomson, BCLS; Janice Henshaw, ABCLS Executive Director; David McWilliam, ALS; Bob Wallace, ALS; Neil Bennett, BCLS; Jim Maidment, ALS; Mike Taylor, BCLS; John Haggerty, ALS; Richard Wey, BCLS; Rob Radovanovic, ALS; Brian Munday, ALSA Executive Director; Bruce Gudim, ALS; Chuck Salmon, BCLS; John Armstrong, BCLS; Ron Hall, ALS.

Boundary Uncertainties

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is now formally taking on the responsibility of dealing with boundary uncertainties.

The Hon. Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, signed a ministerial order establishing a funding arrangement to investigate boundary uncertainties.

A boundary uncertainty occurs when the opinions of two or more Alberta Land Surveyors are in conflict as to the position or a corner or boundary of a property.



Landowners, municipalities and others may refer a boundary uncertainty to the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association. The first step in the process will be to make sure the involved Alberta Land Surveyors have communicated with one another to try to resolve the situation.

The Association's Boundary Panel will listen to the details of the case and encourage a resolution that best ensures the matter is resolved.

Alberta's Promise

PROUD PARTNER OF
ALBERTA'S PROMISE
www.albertaspromise.org



The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is proud to have renewed its commitment to Alberta's Promise.

Alberta's Promise helps communities, businesses, service clubs, foundations and agencies to work together to benefit our young people.

Continuing Competency

Continuing competency programs are an important part of any self-governing professional regulatory organization. Professionals obtain their commission demonstrating that they have a combination of education and on-the-job skill to work as a professional. But how do you know that the professionals have maintained that level of knowledge and skill throughout their careers?



Continuing competency programs ensure that professionals are doing what is needed to maintain and improve their level of professionalism in order to properly serve the public.

In the land surveying profession, Alberta Land Surveyors have been subject to a systematic practice review program since 1994. During the course of an individual review, a practitioner's internal office procedures are examined. A representative sample of a land surveyor's work is also looked at in detail. The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association sends systematic practice review staff into the field to check survey plans and field notes against what is actually in the field.

The purpose of systematic practice review is education as the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association tries to ensure that all practitioners have the proficiency and information to improve.

As the systematic practice review program begins to wind down its third set of reviews of

each Alberta Land Surveyor, the Association is beginning to look at new ways of ensuring the continuing competency of its members. The first step was to ask the members about the systematic practice review program and tell us what they liked and what they thought could be improved. The next step was a think-tank session with a small selected group of Alberta Land Surveyors to put together a broad outline of a new program. The next step will be the development of a more refined framework for a new continuing competency program.

A recommendation will be presented to Council in early 2009.

Who Is Required to Sign a Right-of-Way Plan?

A landowner recently contacted the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association to ask who is required to sign a right-of-way plan in an urban private subdivision. The right of way is required to service lots with natural gas, and perhaps other utilities.

The Association told the landowner that Alberta Land Titles requires the "requesting" party and the individual's name is to be drafted on the plan, in addition to the Alberta Land Surveyor.

Free Brochures

"The Real Property Report," "Understanding Easements and Rights of Way," "Alberta's Subdivision Process," and "I destroyed survey evidence—a practical guide to survey markers for the homeowner, handyman and contractor" are free brochures available from the ALSA and can be ordered by visiting our website, www.alsa.ab.ca

The landowner remained confused. Each municipality may approach the issue differently. In Calgary, the city has agreements with other utility servicing companies to share the utility right-of-way. In other words, you may find gas from ATCO, electric from Enmax and TV from Shaw, all in the same utility right-of-way that was requested from the City of Calgary. The City of Calgary would sign the plan.

If it is a stand-alone utility right-of-way required for TV service only and the city has no interest in using it, then Shaw would request it and sign the plan.

The landowner was satisfied.

In the News around the World

[Ohio 'green' cemetery graveyard of future?](#)
Pittsburgh Post Gazette, PA

[Lawyers may kill deals not in client's best interest](#)
Move Smartly, Canada

[Samantha's saviour](#)
Jamaica Gleaner, Jamaica

[Agents should never brush off the need for a survey](#)
Toronto Star, Toronto

For More Information

This newsletter is published by the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association as a public service. If you would like to receive a copy of *Boundaries*, please contact us at info@alsa.ab.ca or 1-800-665-ALSA.

Boundaries is also online at www.alsa.ab.ca/GeneralInfo/Boundaries.htm

Readers may reprint an ALSA original article as long as credit is given to the *Boundaries* newsletter and the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association.