

BOUNDARIES

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Career Advice: How Do I Become a Land Surveyor?

Alberta Land Surveyors are geomatics professionals. They apply their educational skills to a wide variety of surveying disciplines. Land surveyors are involved in oilfield work, land use planning and development and in other related activities involving determination of



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

The Association regulates the practice of land surveying for the protection of the public and administration of the profession.

University of Calgary or the University of New Brunswick.

In first year university, students are enrolled in common engineering courses within the Faculty of Engineering. Later on, students choose geomatics engineering as their program.

Students may also enter the geomatics program at NAIT, SAIT or Lethbridge Community College. However, in order to become an Alberta Land Surveyor, you will be required to

property boundaries or assembly and analysis of land related information.

In this career, computer literacy is essential. Strong math skills, an interest in sciences are important assets. Land surveyors also usually have an interest in the law, history and business.

To become an Alberta Land Surveyor, students normally enroll in the geomatics program at the

pass additional exams through the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (see below).

Before being able to article, you must first obtain a [Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors \(CBEPS\)](#) certificate of completion. The certificate of completion tells the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association that the candidate meets the basic educational requirements to become a land surveyor.

Candidates who wish to article must find an Alberta Land Surveyor to whom to article. When an Alberta Land Surveyor has agreed to article you, complete the application to article form and pay the prescribed fees and send them, along with your Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors Certificate of Completion, to the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association office.

Candidates are required to article for a minimum of two years which must consist of at least 18 months of field experience and six months of office experience. The pupil must complete the articling requirements within five years unless otherwise approved by the Registration Committee.

During the articling process, the pupil must complete three written professional exams, three project reports and a final qualifying examination.

During the articling process, pupils are required to meet with the Registration Committee annually to discuss with you and your principal your progress.

Once the candidate has completed the three written professional exams and the three project

reports, the candidate may apply to take the final qualifying exam.



The qualifying exam will consist of general questioning on the surveying profession and practice. For the most part, the questions will address technical and professional matters as

they pertain to the practice of cadastral surveying in Alberta.

Upon the successful completion of the qualifying examination, the candidate must pay the prescribed fees, provide proof of professional liability insurance and take and subscribe an oath before a judge of the Court of Appeal or Court of Queen’s Bench.

"I chose Geomatics because I enjoy working with computers. In this area, I will be working with the most current technologies and theories. I want something that is always looking to the future." — University of Calgary student

Where Is Our Property Line?

Question: We are wondering how to find exactly where our property line is in order to put up a fence. Is that done through a land survey or would there be something on file already? We have lived in the house since 1976 and haven't had one since then. The town came out with the metal detector and can find the survey pins.

Answer: Retaining the services of an Alberta Land Surveyor is the best way to find out where your property line is. The Alberta Land Surveyor has the training, education and expertise to properly re-establish your boundaries.

If there is ever a question as to the location of your fence in the future, the Alberta Land Surveyor will stand behind the work he has done.

In putting up a fence, ask the Alberta Land Surveyor for a fence-line survey. In this type of project, the Alberta Land Surveyor can mark the boundary on the ground so you know where to locate your fence.



The town in this case does not employ Alberta Land Surveyors and while they may be able to find some survey pins, it does not mean they are able to accurately re-establish your property line.

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.

High Court Rules in Favour of Surveyors' Copyright



Copyright Agency Limited (CAL)'s case for surveyors to have their copyright claims acknowledged has proved successful, with the High Court today overturning the Full Federal Court's decision that State governments had an implied licence to use survey plans for free.

Surveyors have been concerned at the extensive use of their works for commercial purposes by State governments since 1997, and asked CAL to negotiate with State governments on their behalf.

CAL is an Australian copyright management company whose role is to provide a bridge between creators and users of copyright material. CAL represents copyright owners, including surveyors, as their non-exclusive agent to license the copying of their works to the general community, including government.

CAL began negotiations with State governments with respect to the use of surveyors' plans in 1997. A Copyright Tribunal application to determine payment was lodged in 2003, with the High Court application commencing in 2007.

Prior to the High Court application the Full Federal Court rejected a claim by the NSW Government that it owned the copyright in

plans surveyors created and registered – but found that there was an implied licence allowing the NSW government to use the plans, without payment to surveyors.

CAL appealed the Full Federal Court's decision, on the grounds that the State's use of surveyors' registered plans are subject to section 183 of the Copyright Act (Crown Copying Provisions), and therefore should be paid for.

Pat McNamara from the Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW, said that the ruling is good news for surveyors, and importantly, that it will not impede the management of the land title system in Australia.

"The land title system in Australia is one which all surveyors hold dear to their hearts, and our intention has never been to compromise this process," said Mr McNamara.

"However the decision does mean that the extensive unremunerated use of surveyors' work by government will cease, and surveyors will be recognised as creators, and rewarded for the use of their work."

CAL Chief Executive Jim Alexander said that the decision is a significant step for all copyright owners.

"The High Court ruling acknowledges the importance of individual skill and input into survey maps and plans," said Mr Alexander.

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“On a larger scale the decision also acknowledges the importance in valuing creative works. It puts paid to the concept of an implied licence giving away the right to use works without remunerating the creator.”

CAL is an Australian copyright management company whose role is to provide a bridge between creators and users of copyright material. CAL represents authors, journalists, visual artists, surveyors, photographers and newspaper, magazine and book publishers as their non-exclusive agent to license the copying

of their works to the general community. CAL’s Board is authorised under its Constitution to allocate up to 1% of all copyright licence fees collected to support cultural development.

For more information:

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/HCA/2008/35.html>

In the News around the World

[Elderly spinster 'broke neighbour's arm with spade' in row over](#)

Telegraph.co.uk, United Kingdom - 17 Sep 2008

[Boundary dispute; Central Street couple ‘devastated’ ...](#)

Western Star, Canada – 16 Sep 2008

[Homeowner takes back land and privacy](#)

Labradorian, Canada - 15 Sep 2008

[Holmlund Research Chair in Land Tenure and Cadastral Studies](#)

University of Calgary – 15 Sep 2008

[Alamance-Orange line stays the same](#)

Burlington Times News, NC - 13 Sep 2008

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.

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