

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on May 11th and 27th, 2020. Here is a summary of Council's discussions.

From the Registrar

Council approved the use of Fischer Surveys as a trade name by sole practitioner Dean Fischer, ALS.

Council approved the applications to cancel the registration of:

Surveyor's Corporation

- Chinook Surveys Inc.

Alberta Land Surveyors

- Aaron Clapperton
- Stephen Howard
- Jim Lysons

Retired Members

- Stan Hutchinson
- Derrick Lipinski
- Ron Robinson
- Gerald Whaley

Associate Members

- Corey Levasseur

Council approved placing:

- Jay Abbey
- William Akehurst
- Bruce Beirsto
- Craig Hughes
- David Marquardt
- Andrew Miles

- Jeffrey Stockdale
 - Dwight Wiberg
- on the register of retired members.

Council approved Continental Geomatics Land Surveying Inc. as a surveyor's corporation. Gord Linnell, ALS is responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the practice.

Council approved a name change from WSP Surveys (AB) GP Ltd. to GeoVerra (AB) GP Ltd.

Council approved a name change from WSP Surveys (AB) Limited Partnership to GeoVerra (AB) Limited Partnership.

Committee Membership & Terms of Reference

Council approved the volunteers for Association committees. The terms of reference were previously approved by Council on May 11.

The complete list of terms of reference and committee

members is available online at [About the ALSA -> Committee Terms of Reference and Policies](#)

Thank you to everyone who volunteered.

Dormant Plans

As part of the solution to complete dormant plans, the Practice Review Board is directed to investigate how to register plans that predate an ALS's commission and make recommendations to Council.

In August 2019, Council directed the Practice Review Board to create a plan to deal with dormant plans and make recommendations to Council in light of the recent statutory declaration established by Land Titles. In response to this, the Practice Review Board is specifically monitoring the status of dormant plans at seven firms that hold approximately 3800 dormant plans. A status report is due from each firm in March 2021.

All seven firms contacted have indicated that they are committed to working to complete their dormant plans.

However, several firms wrote and/or have contacted the Director of Practice Review to ask for advice on how to deal with plans that pre-date a surveyor's commission and have identified this issue (along with costs to resurvey hundreds of dormant plans) as an impediment to completing their dormant plans.

To date, the Practice Review Board has referred practitioners to the "Commission Dates and Plan Signing" document prepared by the Standards Committee and approved by Council of the ALSA in March 2019. This document contains reference to current legislation on the matter and interpretation/ advice of the Standards Committee and Council on the practical application of the matter.

Late Penalties

Council reviewed the late penalty fee bylaw.

According to the bylaw:

The annual membership fees and annual levies must be paid on or before April 30 each year.

*The following fees, dues and levies shall be paid to the Association:
for late payment of any fees, dues or levies \$1,000.00 or a lesser sum as may be fixed by the Council....*

Although the maximum is \$1,000, Council has set the late penalty fee at \$500.

Council reviewed the late penalty fee, the bylaws and notification to the membership. Council decided that the policies in place are appropriate for a regulatory body and the deadline for payment would not be waived or extended and the late penalty fees would apply.

A number of members had requested that Council reconsider the late penalty fee this year.

Registration Committee Policies

The Registration Committee brought forward six

recommendations to update its policies.

Proposed policies on examination marking, application for prior field service credit and reimbursement for the marking of examinations were sent back to the Registration Committee for more work to provide greater clarity.

Council gave first reading to eliminate the maternity & parental leave policy and the unemployment policy as these policies are now addressed in the updated *Examination & Training Regulation* approved by the government last year.

The cost of appeals will increase to \$150 to cover the cost of reimbursing Registration Committee members to mark appealed examinations. These proposed amendments will come back to the next meeting of Council for second and final reading.

Labour Mobility

Council authorized the president of the ALSA to sign the updated mutual recognition agreement on

labour mobility for land surveyors in Canada.

There are two proposed changes to the Labour Mobility Mutual Recognition Agreement.

1. Change the reference from the Labour Mobility Agreement to the Canada Free Trade Agreement
2. Add a new provision that a land surveyor must wait at least 365 days before attempting to write the labour mobility jurisdictional examination for the fourth or subsequent attempts.

Representatives from each professional land surveying regulatory body meet annually to discuss and review the mutual recognition agreement.

New Dues Abatement Policy Officially Approved

Council gave second and final reading to a revised dues abatement policy that reads:
The Registrar may, upon application, permit an Alberta Land Surveyor to ...
a) Pay 33% of their annual dues plus GST to a maximum of \$750 per year

b) Pay 100% of their Convention & Social levy plus GST

c) Pay 0% of their CBEPS levy plus GST

d) Pay 0% of their Professional Surveyors Canada levy plus GST

e) Pay 100% of other fees as established by the ALSA Bylaws or Council from time to time

... if the Alberta Land Surveyor is exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw on April 30 because of unemployment.

The Alberta Land Surveyor still retains all of their rights and responsibilities as a practitioner (i.e.: can vote on all matters; subject to continuing competency reviews; responsible for any plan corrections/judge's orders).

The reduction does not apply to Alberta Land Surveyors who are exempt from the professional liability insurance bylaw but are employed outside of Alberta or employed outside of surveying.

If an Alberta Land Surveyor pays the reduced annual fee and subsequently gains employment (in any field), the Alberta Land Surveyor must pay the pro-rated portion of their annual dues (but not any levies) from the beginning of the month they gain employment to the end of the fiscal year.

An unemployed articling pupil who is eligible to be registered as an Alberta Land Surveyor, qualifies for dues abatement.

The key changes from the former policy is that:

1. There will no longer be a dues abatement levy collected from the membership.
2. There is no restriction on how often a practitioner may take advantage of the dues abatement policy.

As before, the reduction in dues does not apply to Alberta Land Surveyors who are exempt from the professional liability insurance bylaw but are employed outside of Alberta or employed outside of surveying.

[The current policy manual is available on the ALSA website.](#)



Plan Corrections

Council authorized Murray Young, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the *Land Titles Act* to vary plan 5556 RS (J.J. Hagen, ALS (Retired)).

Council authorized Dwayne Edmundson, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 972 3410 (Roy Wilkins, ALS (Deceased)) as per Section 92 of the *Land Titles Act*.

On Deck

Last year, Council approved a direction to hold more Council meetings each year but most of these meetings would be shorter in duration. Today's meeting was one of these shorter meetings.

As such, some agenda items that will require more deliberation and discussion (or not received by Council in time for the agenda) will be deferred to the June 16th Council meeting.

These agenda items will include:

- Draft PRB Interpretation Bulletin

- Making *ALS News* an online only magazine
- A proposed plan correction
- An ALSA investments update
- CAPP Geomatics Committee update.

Charge-Out Rate Questionnaire

The annual charge-out rate questionnaire is now published to the MyMember section of the Association's website.

To access the questionnaire, login to the ALSA website. Click on your name. Click on My Committees. Click on your membership type. The results are available to Alberta Land Surveyors only.

Back of Title Mapping

Alberta Data Partnerships is undertaking a pilot project; Registered Interests on Titled Land. At a high level, it is mapping the boundaries of the interests associated with a land title. These interests and associated documents are often referred to as "back of title."

The ALSA has been invited to be a member of the ADP advisory committee to ensure they are meeting their project goals.

Vice-President John Byrne will represent the land surveying profession on the advisory committee.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE

June 16, 2020