The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on January 26, 2016. Here is a summary of their discussions.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Council is delighted to be able to announce that it has conferred honorary life membership on Lyall Pratt.

Hugo Engler will receive the Professional Recognition Award at the 2016 AGM.

Council has made Brian Ballantyne an honorary member in the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association in recognition of the eminent service he has rendered to the profession of surveying.

From the Registrar
Council approved applications from:
- Darrin Connatty
- Reid Egger
- Geoff Hobbs
- Ashley Robertson
- Marty Robertson
- Tyler Robinson
- Iain Skinner
...to be exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw as they are not currently practicing surveying in Alberta.

Council also exempted Brandon Ellis and Al Flim from providing proof of professional liability insurance coverage as they are covered through their government’s master policy.

Council approved placing Bruce Gudim on the register of retired members effective April 30.

Council approved Vector Geomatics Land Surveying (Alberta) Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision direction and control of Tyler Fox, ALS.

Council approved Western Plains Geomatics Corp. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision direction and control of Francois Dion, ALS and Dennis Regan, ALS.

Council approved Iterstar Geomatics as a trade name to be used by Ryan Gordon, ALS.

Council approved a surveyor’s corporation name change from “IBI Geomatics Inc.” to “IBI Group Geomatics (Canada) Inc.” The permit number remains unchanged.

Council approved a branch office for Morrison Hershfield Geomatics Ltd. in Edmonton under the supervision direction and control of Brian Ball, ALS.

2016-2017 Budget Approved
Council approved the 2016-2017 budget.

There is no increase in membership dues for 2016-2017 except for a $10 increase in the levy paid by Alberta Land Surveyors and articling pupils for the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors.

Iron post sales are expected to drop another 20% from their
The budget cuts $192,000 in spending across 34 budget line items (not including the reduced cost from selling fewer posts).

The cuts include:
- Reducing hours for some staff and cutting back benefits.
- Eliminating scholarships to out-of-province geomatics technical schools and reducing other existing scholarships.
- Changing the fall regional meetings to a webinar.
- Making significant cutbacks to the Association’s external relations initiatives.
- Cutting the mileage reimbursement rate to $0.48 per kilometre.

The budget forecasts fewer new members and more Alberta Land Surveyors going from active membership to retired.

Council considered making *ALS News* a digital-only magazine but decided against it at this time.

The Association expects to draw $55,000 from the Financial Stabilization Fund for fiscal year 2016-2017 but this amount is less than the amount in the 2015-2016 budget.

**Fee Reduction for Unemployed Alberta Land Surveyors**

Council approved a fee reduction strategy for unemployed Alberta Land Surveyors.

An Alberta Land Surveyor who is exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw on April 30 because they are unemployed may...

a. Pay 33% of their annual dues plus GST
b. Pay 100% of their Convention & Social levy plus GST

c. Pay 100% of their CBEPS levy plus GST
d. Pay 0% of their Professional Surveyors Canada levy plus GST...

... and still retain all rights and responsibilities as an Alberta Land Surveyor (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.

If an Alberta Land Surveyor pays the reduced annual fee and subsequently gains employment, an Alberta Land Surveyor must pay the balance of their annual dues and the PSC levy plus GST for the current year before being eligible to practice. The amount is not pro-rated.

This policy applies to fiscal year 2016-2017 only.

In order to be exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw, it must be approved by Council.
Alternate Funding

Council would like to thank each of the members who shared their thoughts on alternate funding models for the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association.

Council has decided to hold an open forum session at the 2016 AGM to get more input and ideas from the membership on alternate funding sources.

Council has had some preliminary discussions on other funding models but did not expect any of them to be in place in time for the 2016-2017 budget.

Government Relations

The ALSA has put forth three regulations for amendment based on the debate and vote of the membership at past AGMs. The Minister is now reviewing the administration’s briefing and determining its consultation process.

The ALSA continues to have discussions with Land Titles and a private company concerning the digital submission of documents to Land Titles and the authentication of those documents.

Council was made aware of concerns from practitioners about the length of time to review files and get approvals. The ALSA agreed to try to address this issue.

The ALSA continues to meet with other professional regulatory organizations and the government to discuss professional sign-off requirements for Wetland Assessment, Wetland Impact Assessment and Wetland Design.

The ALSA continues to meet with the Alberta Common Ground Alliance who is pushing for provincial legislation that could have a significant impact on Alberta Land Surveyors looking for monuments close to buried facilities.

Connie Petersen, ALS has agreed to represent the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association on an Alberta Real Estate Association committee looking at amendments to the Condominium Property Act.

The Legislative Assembly of Alberta has indicated that the Standing Committee on Alberta’s Economic Future is currently reviewing the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA). The Legislative Assembly of Alberta has asked the ALSA to forward this request to any individuals or organizations that may also wish to make a written submission on this matter. The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association will not be making a submission on this matter.

From the Director of Surveys

Council welcomed the Director of Surveys to the meeting.

Council reiterated its strong support for the principles and concept of a hybrid cadastre.

Council did ask the Director of Surveys to not remove the pilot project label from the initiative at this time but wait six months.

The Director of Surveys asked for specific reasons why the pilot project label should not be removed.

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Council provided the Director of Surveys with several reasons and has followed up in writing with the Director of Surveys along with
suggestions that working groups be established to work through the concerns.

**Forestry Discussions**

Bruce Clark, ALS and Executive Director Brian Munday met with representatives of the College of Alberta Professional Foresters and College of Alberta Professional Forestry Technologists to discuss their proposed definition of forestry under a new act. It was agreed to meet in two months’ time and do a “land surveying 101” session and a “forestry 101” session for each other.

**AGM Recommendation: Meta-Data**

Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee to create a new Part D, Section 9 in the Manual of Standard Practice with respect to digital survey information.

This item is a carryover from last year’s committee and was originally brought forth by Rob Scott after observing how L’Ordre des arpenteurs-geometres du Quebec handles their digital data.

The issue this recommendation is attempting to avoid is the potential for increased liability borne by a surveyor or surveyor’s corporation upon the release of digital data. The recommendation attempts to limit this potential liability by ensuring all parties are aware of the intended use of data released by a surveyor and the limitations of that data.

By following the recommendations guidelines, in addition to providing protection to the surveyor, the public interest is protected by ensuring all parties are aware of the intended use and limitations of digital data released by the Surveyor.

The proposed Part D, Section 9 reads:

9.1.1 In this Section “Digital Information” refers to any digital medium containing survey information, whether in a raw or processed form, that an end user or recipient could alter or manipulate further.

9.1.2 In this Section “Metadata” refers to information regarding the content and context of the Digital Information it is paired with. In a survey context this could include but is not limited to: collection methods, who collected the data, the data collection dates, the purpose and accuracy of the data and the coordinate system and datum. The Metadata could be in the form of a separate text file and/or embedded right in the Digital Information file itself and should be catered to the specifics and intended use of each Digital Information file.

9.2 When providing Digital Information to clients or third parties all digital signatures, seals and proprietary information should be removed from the file. Raw survey data, such as point nodes and feature attributes are also recommended to be removed, unless contracts specifically require the release of the raw survey data.

9.3 Metadata should be included with the release of the data.

9.4 In addition to the work contract a “Digital Data Release Agreement” should be signed off by the party receiving the Digital
Information before release. This agreement at the minimum should acknowledge the recipient’s responsibility to utilize the provided digital information only for the intended purpose and should be drafted under the guidance of a legal expert.

9.5 Client approval for the release of the Digital Information to a third party must be obtained prior to the release.

Surveying the Great Divide
Council reviewed a proposal from an author who intends to write a book on *Surveying the Great Divide: the British Columbia/Alberta Boundary Survey 1913-1924* as part of Canada’s 150th birthday celebrations.

Unfortunately, Council had to turn down the author's request for funding due to the economic conditions in Alberta at this time.

Plan Corrections
Council appointed Len Olson, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 142 1471 (Steve Fediow, ALS(Ret)) pursuant to Section 92 of the *Land Titles Act*.

Council appointed Javier Siu, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the *Land Titles Act* to vary plan 762 0307 (Steve Cherwonick, ALS(Deceased)).

Corner Recordation Index
Council has directed that “Investigate the feasibility of re-developing the Corner Recordation Index and make recommendations to Council” be removed from the Standards Committee’s terms of reference.

The Standards Committee had recommended that Council send out cost estimates to update the Corner Recordation Index. However, post sales are not currently strong enough to update and revise the Corner Recordation Index.

BC Land Surveyor Entrance to Articling
Council directed the Registration Committee to provide an opinion on the impact of the ABCLS’ proposed bylaw amendments to the ALSA and make recommendations to Council. The ABCLS proposed bylaw amendments would change their prerequisite requirements for entry into their articling system.

Council accepted the Registration Committee’s opinion that the proposed changes to the ABCLS bylaw establishing entrance requirements for admission as a Land Surveyor in Training (LST) will have no significant impact to the ALSA.

The Registration Committee is confident that the articling process outlined and enforced by the ABCLS will ensure that competent, quality professionals are produced and that any perceived educational shortcomings will be addressed during their articling process.

Alberta’s requirements regarding jurisdictional examinations will not change and as such a BCLS must pass Alberta’s jurisdictional examination before they can be commissioned as an Alberta Land Surveyor.
Short Cuts

Council will reconsider reviewing Part B, Section 2.1, seventh bullet in the Manual of Standard Practice. The section reads, in part, “Advertisements shall make no reference to price or fees for professional services.”

Council has directed the Practice Review Board to consider an interpretation to Alberta Land Surveyors on the conflicting ways that encroachments are considered and shown on real property reports.

GeoAlliance Canada announced an 18-month funding agreement between Natural Resources Canada and GeoAlliance Canada.