The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on March 5, 2019. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions. All of the candidates for Council attended the meeting.

From the Registrar
Council is pleased to welcome Lara Suriyakumaran as an associate member. Ms. Suriyakumaran is with Challenger Geomatics in Edmonton and was nominated by Alberta Land Surveyors Tim Harding and Patrick Boudreau.

Council approved placing Hugo Engler, Les Frederick, Bernard McKenna and Peter Sullivan on the register of retired members.

Council approved the cancellations Bruce Druery (associate member), Peter Plehwe (associate member), Terry Simmonds (affiliate member) and Raymond MacDonald (retired member).

Mr. Madarash will demonstrate the new site to the members at the upcoming AGM.

The AGM
Council approved the 2019 reports and recommendations package for distribution to the membership.

Formal regional meetings are scheduled for Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie. Informal regional meetings will be held (or have been held) in other communities throughout the province.

Council agreed to investigate holding a joint annual general meeting with the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors in Calgary in 2021.

Director of Surveys
The Director of Surveys was unable to attend the Council meeting due to a scheduling mix-up.

Regulatory Efficiencies
Further to the discussion with the Director of Surveys, the ALSA sent a letter to Elizabeth Grilo, Director of Regulatory Efficiency and Innovation at AER outlining a new of concerns and issues. Ms. Grilo replied that both AER and AEP have well established compliance assurance programs with the ability to address alleged encroachments.

AER will be holding stakeholder meetings and the ALSA expects it can get further information and details at those meetings.

Continued Meetings
The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association represented by Rosalind Broderick, Bruce Drake, Connie Petersen and Brian Munday continues to meet with Alberta Environment & Parks (represented by Scott Milligan, Ravi Shrivastava, Al Flim and Geoff Banham) to discuss the future of the Surveys Act and a better relationship with the Director of Surveys Office.

Corner Recodnation Index Going Live
Corner Recodnation Index Working Group Chair Nick Madarash gave a demonstration to Council on the Corner Recodnation Index (CRI) 2.0.

Council approved the CRI going live subject to the fixing of a couple of last minute bugs uncovered during testing.

Evolving Boundaries of Practice Workshop
Council unanimously approved expenditure from the Ambassadors Reserve Fund to send two additional ALSA representatives to the Evolving Boundaries of Practice workshop to be held at the National Surveyors Conference in the first week of May.
Professional Surveyors Canada, the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors, Natural Resources Canada, and the Canadian Council on Geomatics Cadastral Forum, are proposing a full day workshop on the status and future of cadastral systems in Canada, to be held at the May 2019 National Surveyors’ Conference in Halifax.

The workshop will present a snapshot of the current and potential impact of changes in technology, society and governance on cadastral systems across Canada and will compare the Canadian situation to recent strategic initiatives in Cadastral reform proposed in Australia and New Zealand.

A key goal of the workshop is to open a national and pan-community dialogue leading to the articulation of a strategic vision for the management and delivery of the next generation cadastral systems to Canadians, to be presented at a national cadastre summit planned to be held in conjunction with the Working Party on Land Administration and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Council agreed that the ALSA should be a part of this national discussion and that it would be important to have more than one ALSA representative at this conference. Steve Yanish will be attending the conference as the ALSA president. Bruce Clark and Mike Fretwell will be the other ALSA representatives.

**Interest on Overdue Accounts**

Council gave first reading to a policy that would specify the interest rate on overdue accounts and what services will be withheld if invoices and any outstanding interest become overdue. The proposed policy reads:

*The Association shall forward monthly statements of account to all its members and clients.*

Anyone over 60 days in arrears will be:
- **advised of their overdue account;**
- **advised that all services will be withheld (including but not limited to registering for regional meetings and AGM events);**
- **charged interest at the ATB prime rate.**

*Failure to pay any late penalty fees or interest on late penalty fees means that the practitioner will not be provided with their annual certificate or permit to practice.*

The policy will come back to the next meeting of Council for second and final reading. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ALSA office or any member of Council.

**Plan Corrections**

Council authorized Michael Thompson, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 011 3110 (Don Jaques, ALS (Honorary Life)) as per Section 92 of the *Land Titles Act.*

Council authorized Jim Sharpe, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the *Land Titles Act* to vary plan 992 0308 (Jim Halliday).

Council authorized James Sloan, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the *Land Titles Act* to vary plans 2534CL (A.S. Stewart, ALS (Deceased)).

Council authorized Dirk VandenBrink, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 752 1759 (Gillis Oslund, ALS.
Council authorized Sara Spence, ALS to consent to the correction of plans 801 1427 (George Baerg, ALS (Deceased)) and 981 1680 (Don Tomkinson, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Foreign-Trained Professionals
According to the Edmonton Journal...

The UCP plans to throw a spotlight on professional licensing bodies that delay telling immigrants if they have the necessary credentials to work in Alberta, says leader Jason Kenney.

“There are still some bad actors where it takes sometimes two to three years to get an answer on an application for licensure,” he told reporters Tuesday. “There’s not a clear pathway. People lose heart.”

If elected, the UCP will introduce legislation outlining a six-month deadline for licensing bodies to determine whether someone’s foreign credentials are recognized.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association will write a letter to the UCP leader outlining the initiatives undertaken by the ALSA, CBEPS, the ACLS and its sister associations to streamline the application process for applicants with education credentials outside of Canada and make the process more transparent.

Marie Robidoux, who has been spearheading the initiative, will speak to the ALSA membership about the new foreign-trained land surveyor process at the AGM in Banff.

Larry Pals and Lei Wang have been nominated to represent the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association on the CBEPS FTLS (Foreign-Trained Land Surveyors) Evaluation Committee.

Professional Governance
Labour Minister Christina Gray has acknowledged receipt of the ALSA annual report. She wrote, “it was a pleasure to learn more about ALSA, particularly its registration, professional development and disciplinary matters. Congratulations on commissioning 19 newly qualified land surveyors in Alberta.”

Council has directed the Legislation Committee for 2019-2020 to draft principles for a new Land Surveyors Act that addresses the future needs of the public and the profession.

In British Columbia, the government has passed the Professional Governance Act (PGA). The PGA creates the office of a Superintendent of Professional Governance operating under a single Ministry (the Attorney General). The Superintendent has the authority to:

• Monitor the performance of the regulatory bodies;
• Administer rosters of practitioners for practicing professions that are not overseen by the Superintendent;
• Advise and submit reports to the Minister;
• Enforce compliance by regulatory bodies both informally (e.g., guidance and advice) and formally (e.g., conducting investigations and audits, issuing public directives for which compliance is mandatory);
• Appoint a public administrator to assume the role of the Council of the regulatory body;
• Impose administrative penalties, similar to fines, on persons other than the regulatory bodies for not complying with the legislation;
• Disallow or rewrite by-laws proposed by the Council of a regulatory body where the Superintendent does not believe that it is necessary and advisable.
• Require annual reports from the Council or a regulatory body including specifying the information to be contained in the report.
• Receive declarations of conflicts of interest from practitioners and issue guidance to regulatory bodies on their use.

**Short Cuts**
Council approved removing “prepare a policy governing how electronic Council meetings are conducted from the Legislation Committee’s terms of reference. In its place, ALSA administration will prepare a draft guideline outlining how online and email meetings for all committees may be conducted.

**Getting Ready for After the AGM**
Council reviewed draft terms of reference for committees for 2019-2020. Council decided to separate the Communications & Public Relations Committee into the Communications & Public Relations Committee and the Careers Committee. Council also decided to establish the Unauthorized Practice Review Committee to review alleged incidents of unauthorized practice.

The calendar of events page on the ALSA website has been updated to show committee meeting dates and other key association dates. Go to [https://www.alsa.ab.ca/Events](https://www.alsa.ab.ca/Events)