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Happy Holidays from the ACLS

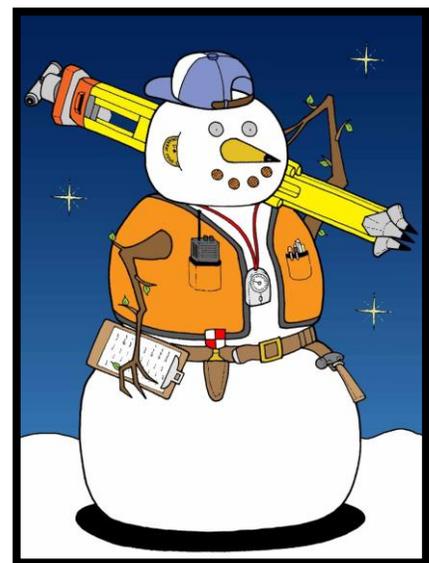
The ACLS Council and staff wish everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season!

The ACLS office will be closed

December 25-28th, 2020

&

January 1st, 2021



The ACLS office was closed on March 17th, 2020. All staff members have been working from home since and still are.



Marie Christine Robidoux



Jean-Claude Tétreault



Marina Yong



Jenny Cooper



Kevin Jones & assistant cat

New CLSs

Congratulations to the following people who were awarded a CLS Commission since our August issue of *Communique*:

- Samuel Bergeron, Québec, QC
- Prakhar Shrivastava, Regina, SK
- Noelle Machon, Edmonton, AB

New ACLS Book

In November 2018, the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors Council embarked on the production of its first book on the CLS profession presently being written by acclaimed author, Charlie Wilkins.

“A Sense of Where You Are” will be a story, both in the individual and collective sense. It's either the stories the surveyors tell about themselves, or the stories that Charlie tells about his observations of them ... the book is based on his interviews and travels with the various surveyors, will be built around their stories, and the “story” of Charlie’s time with them, plus of course some well-researched history. All of this accompanied by spectacular images from the lands and waters where Canada Lands Surveyors do their work.



The overall objective of this publication is to provide a captivating and varied experience for its readers and provide a non-typical and more encompassing view of the role of the professional land surveyor in Canada. A broad story will be narrated describing Canada Lands Surveyors’ varied experiences across Canada with anecdotes on how the profession has contributed to and continues to contribute to the historical development and contemporary challenges facing an evolving nation.

Through the delivery of a variety of independent inviting elements that are relevant to the interests of the Association, each reader can expect to immerse themselves into a book that provides a sense of curiosity and indulgence from start to finish.

It is with great excitement that we provide the following glimpse into the ACLS Book, which we are hoping to launch in fall 2021.

Joe Johnson – He's simply a guy with something to say. Tyrell D'Aoust, a very brightly creative and outspoken young Cree surveyor from northern Alberta, who has all sorts of interesting ideas for the future of the Surveyor General Branch, for management of Indigenous Lands, and so on. Dominique Fecteau, an ex-president of the Association, he says the old patriarchal structures around surveying are worn out and need rebuilding. Marie Robidoux or Anne Cole, who have both done so much, because they're keen to tell the

story of their fight for recognition as a woman in surveying. Veronica Meister is another thoughtful, progressive voice for women and for social advocacy among surveyors.

We have members or retired members who many people would probably never think of as advocates for social justice as it pertains to the profession. Some of the things Rick Beaumont told Charlie, for example, were extraordinary. Julian Goodyear and other prominent land surveyors – believe CLSs have a big role to play in the righting of the country. And Chris Cryderman – very outspoken on land claims, the courts, and the surveyors.

The government itself has acknowledged systemic racism, the need for reconciling with the First Nations... to say nothing of the ominous realities of climate change and the need for gender equality. We're a country in which, as Mike O'Sullivan said, "the surveyor has been a witness to many of the harsh realities and injustices of the past, and as such has a significant role to play in the healing of the wounds". It just seems so important to let the members talk about these things in the context of the book – it's so clearly on many of their minds! We can name probably 40 or more members (at least half of those interviewed) who spoke openly about their hope that this book would touch meaningfully on their work with First Nations, climate change, the struggle for women to gain a place in the profession.



It is recognized that the timing may seem inappropriate to request additional financial support, given the economic impacts of the current pandemic, however, perhaps now more than ever we need to communicate the role of the profession and its contribution to society. We are confident that this book will help us reach that goal, in a way that has not been pursued in the past. Your financial contributions are appreciated and will be recognized in the book. If you have not already, please consider being part of the project through a donation.



We are also in need of photographs for the book. Please send us images (preferably high resolution) of CLS's in the field, and especially of you in your early years in the profession. Please send them via e-mail to communications@acsl-aatc.ca or you can send hardcopies to the ACLS office. We will scan them and send them back.

SGB Capacity Building Project

The following is from the Surveyor General Branch Report on the Capacity Building Project dates May 11, 2020:

“As part of Budget 2018, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) obtained funding for the expansion of the First Nations Land Management (FNLM) regime. As part of the expansion, the Surveyor General Branch (SGB) was tasked with developing a Land Survey Capacity Development Program (the “Program”). The Program, as designed, will target 24 First Nation communities over 5 years and will provide up to 12 weeks of in-community training to each First Nation community with the goal to:

- *Remove barriers to effective land management to facilitate First Nations managing their land, resources and environment according to their cultural values and priorities;*
- *Increase First Nation knowledge on the frameworks of land tenure systems and spatial data management and how they can support various Indigenous land tenure models;*
- *Enhance surveying knowledge to allow First Nations to communicate their needs effectively with the surveying profession; be able to better assess the service they receive; and help reduce the cost of those services;*
- *Stimulate an interest in continuing education in Science and Technology, specifically Geomatics; and*
- *Reduce economic leakage by supporting Indigenous human resource development and enabling the participants to contribute to the success of their communities.*

In order to meet these goals, the Program laid out the following deliverables during year 2 of 5:

- 1) *Undertake signing ceremonies and commence the scheduling of in-community training based on Training Agreement developed with Cohort 2 communities (Membertou, Nipissing, Shawanaga, Mistawasis, Muskoday and Kitselas);*
- 2) *Schedule and complete 48 weeks of in-community capacity development with Cohort 1 & 2 First Nation communities (Tzeachten, Waban-Aki, Membertou, Nipissing, Shawanaga, Mistawasis, Muskoday and Kitselas);*
- 3) *Undertake the review and modernization of the CLSS Help Manuals utilized by First Nation administration staff (Map Browser, Canada Lands in Google Earth, Plan Search and Project Search);*
- 4) *Continue to engage with First Nations, First Nation Organizations, Academic Institutions, and Professional Associations to ensure the program structure, training material and delivery is responsive to the needs of the First Nation participants; and*
- 5) *Undertake an Expression of Interest process and select six new First Nation communities to begin undertaking capacity development in 2020-2021.*

The Program met 100% of these goals.”

Unfortunately, the project is on hold because of the pandemic.

The ACLS is in support of the project and produced a promotional leaflet to encourage First Nation people taking the hands-on training to pursue their education in surveying.

Membership survey summary

Overview

An online questionnaire (“poll”) was circulated to the membership in September 2020. The overall premise of the poll was to seek member feedback on “Values” as they relate to “...*what ACLS does or should aspire to?*” A total of 11 questions were asked in the poll, being a mix of multiple-choice questions and some open text “feedback” type questions.

The questionnaire was a ‘check’ on the work surrounding values that Council had already begun. The questionnaire also served to reinforce certain principals about a self-regulating body and to begin forming a feedback loop between members and Council on trending matters.

Results

1. Response to the poll yielded 123 responses of 490 members (25%).
2. Regional response as a percentage of practitioners in a region were 13% Atlantic Canada; 37% Quebec; 8% Ontario; 17% Prairies; 19% West Coast; 29% North
3. Top 3 Values selected by respondents: Integrity, Accountability, Competence
4. Additional Top Values: Excellence; Reputable; Fair; Honest; Open
5. Values Comments yielded ~25 short responses with only broad themes derived from the member comments and summarized as:
 - a) *“The ACLS functions very well, using leading edge tools and innovative approaches ”*
 - b) *“Values that define the core characteristics of the profession and ACLS should be aligned with the mandate of public protection & consistent with current regulatory body expectations.”*
 - c) *“Many Values, not just those listed, must be championed by practitioners based on the circumstances encountered and in the appropriate balance to the situation.”*
6. General Feedback Comments, on any topic to the ACLS, yielded ~40 comments. Some comments were lengthy and well thought out, some brief & constructive, some critical of the questionnaire and ACLS and some appreciative of the poll & opportunity for input. No single material issue was identified from this member’s feedback that would indicate a trending topic or concern. A few broad themes summarized below are:
 - a) Some respondents commented that all provincial survey regulation should be consolidated under the ACLS as it does an outstanding job overall.
 - b) In contrast to item a) above, some respondents felt that the authority to conduct surveys, currently under a CLS licence, should be moved to a type of endorsement on the provincial licence and the ACLS itself collapsed into the provincial regime(s).
 - c) General sentiment that ACLS, Canada Lands Surveys (and plans/QA process), continuing professional development initiatives, practice review and administrative team are much appreciated.

Conclusion

The survey questionnaire fulfilled the purpose of being a *check* on the selection of core values gained in the formal MVV exercise at Council. No single value was identified that had not already been on the Council

short-list. No single feedback issue or clear message of a forthcoming concern was identified in the open feedback segment. In fact the feedback issues carefully articulated by one or two respondents were often contrasted by opinions 180 the opposite by others.

The Task Force was looking for very rough analytics in the Value selections, trending issues from a grassroots perspective and had never intended to formally address “one-off” concerns. Those who took the time to respond passionately and at length to the poll are taking the time to contribute constructively to the profession - these efforts are greatly appreciated for their honest and direct feedback. Some of the comments have not yet fully been disseminated by the task force and/or Council and further reporting may be forthcoming at a later date.

A copy of the full report is available upon request to communications@acsls-aatc.ca.

MyCLSS

Since the implementation of MyCLSS in 2011, the Government of Canada has implemented a Policy on Government Security (effective 2019-07-01) to manage government security in support of the trusted delivery of government programs, services and, the protection of information. This includes the required security practices and controls for the MyCLSS website in collaboration with the ACLS. As part of NRCan Departmental Security Program, SGB is currently implementing an IT security plan to comply with the Security and Assessment and Authorization program to mitigate IT vulnerabilities and risks. These requirements are practices and controls focusing on the security of IT business data and applications and extends to the ACLS, as partners in MyCLSS development and ongoing maintenance, in particular the authentication of Canada Lands Surveyors users of MyCLSS.

The project on the ACLS side of MyCLSS is almost completed. We are at the user acceptance testing stage. We expect to implement the new enhancements in January 2021. This will have no effect on users of MyCLSS except that for security purposes, passwords will be required to be a minimum length of eight mixed-case, alphanumeric and special ASCII characters and changed every 180 days.

Towards an Online Degree in Surveying/Geomatics

In the August issue of *Communique*, we had an article on a proposal that we presented to Employment and Social Development Canada for funding of the project *Towards an Online Degree in Surveying/Geomatics*. Well we are happy to announce that our proposal was accepted. A total amount of \$257,158 will be contributed to this project over two and half years starting on December 23, 2020.

This project has three objectives:

1. Update CBEPS National Syllabus to meet changing societal needs and priorities, and adapting to a future driven by technological change;
2. Update CBEPS Accreditation and Exemptions Process;
3. Develop a clear path to an online Canadian surveying/geomatics engineering degree that will assist foreign-trained land surveyors in Canada and abroad and domestic candidates to access accredited online

courses to fill the gaps they may have in their education to become professional land surveyors in Canada.

Why update the National Syllabus? Several components are out of sync with the real world of surveying using the technologies available today. The present syllabus of subjects dates back to the late 1990s.

We also need to develop a new and improved accreditation process for current and future learning institution programs leading to a degree in surveying/geomatics that would be more efficient and in line with national and international trends.

An online degree in surveying/geomatics is an innovative way to access specialized knowledge that will benefit many groups. For example, mature Canadian students find it nearly impossible to quit work and move to where a degree is being taught at a university – they have many obligations and often times they also have a family. It would also assist foreign trained land surveyors interested in immigrating to Canada as they could undertake to fill in the gaps in their knowledge from their country of origin reducing the time required to attain their goal of being licensed land surveyors in Canada.

We will need volunteers to populate various committees. It would be best to have representation from universities as well as industry/associations so that we have a good cross-section of the surveying/geomatics community.

If you are interested in participating, reach out to Marie Robidoux at registrar@acsl-aatc.ca

National Surveyors Conference 2021

We hoped that by next year, COVID-19 would be behind us and permit us to hold NSC 2021 from April 14th to 18th at the Hyatt Regency, in downtown Calgary, AB. The conference was to be presented jointly by the Alberta Land Surveyors Association, Professional Surveyors Canada and the ACLS. Unfortunately, the pandemic situation is not improving, so all 3 partners agreed to cancel the face-to-face conference. The ACLS Business meeting will be held on April 14th using the GoToWebinar on-line videoconference system.

National Surveyors Conference 2022

This conference will be presented jointly by the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors, Professional Surveyors Canada and the ACLS.

It will be held on March 6th to 12th, 2022 at a location to be determined.

National Surveyors Conference 2023

The ACLS Council recently decided to hold NSC 2023 in Mont-Tremblant on May 9 to 12, 2023. The same venue that we were going to use for NSC 2020.

National Surveyors Conference 2024

The National Conference Committee is currently considering hosting the NSC 2024 in Iqaluit ,Nunavut and are working on a proposal for Council approval.

The Mandate of the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors

The ACLS Council is forging ahead on the Governance project and recently adopted a mandate statement which is now posted on the ACLS Web site for the public to read. Here it is:

Mandate

The mandate of the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) is to regulate and govern the practice of surveying on Canada Lands and private lands in the territories, for the protection of the public interest, in accordance with the Canada Lands Surveyors Act, SC 1998, c. 14, – 1998, its Regulations and Bylaws.

The practice of the ACLS membership is monitored through a practice review process, while professional conduct and competence are held to high standards and subject to investigation and adjudication when called to question. Mandatory professional development, licencing & permitting requirements, minimum insurance requirements and strong Council oversight over the regulatory aspects and association operations, all contribute to the mandate of protecting the public interest.

Who We Are

The Association was created through an Act of Parliament in 1998 bringing full self-regulation to the ACLS through powers of regulation over its members, a clear duty to always serve the public interest and clear governance oversight of the association through its Council.

The current Association is the continuation of the previous Association of Canada Lands Surveyors, namely one established in 1985 to enhance the practice of professional land surveying and related spatial disciplines, through establishing standards of qualification, knowledge, skill, ethics and conduct among its members. This Association was itself the continuation of other ones that existed from time to time since the early days of surveying in Canada.

Today, under the powers delegated through *The Canada Lands Surveyors Act, SC 1998, c. 14*, (the Act), which is under the authority of the Minister of Natural Resources Canada, as a self-governed professional association and a regulatory body, the ACLS's mandate ensures members are competent in providing the services that society has entrusted to them and to elevate, within the public's interest, the value the profession brings to those reliant on the professional services of our members.

How We Are Governed

The ACLS Council is comprised of elected members and appointed members of the public. As the governance entity for the ACLS, the Council ensures that all manner of regulatory requirements are approved and monitored for Association admission, member's practice activities, conduct & competency, licensure requirements, investigation & discipline and more.

The Council has ultimate oversight of the ACLS with respect to managing the affairs of the Association, acting on behalf of the Association, regulatory oversight, setting the organization's strategy, managing risk, meeting statutory objectives and being accountable to the Minister of Natural Resources who holds ultimate oversight over the Act.

How We Measure Success

The ACLS is successful and the profession itself succeeds, if through appropriate regulatory standards, member's ethics, and strong oversight, we are able to elevate society's trust and esteem for the profession. We succeed if we meet our objectives in a fair, transparent and just manner.

Strategic Plan

The ACLS Council developed a strategic plan in November of 2018. However, with recent developments in the regulated professions sector, Council decided to develop new vision and mission statements and also draft values statements to guide Council and staff in their work to protect the public interest. These are now available on the ACLS web site.

Vision

Instilling public confidence in the regulation of Canada Lands Surveyors.

Mission

Remaining true to our mandate, we build trust & mutual respect through strong governance, effective self-regulation and individual proficiency.

Values

Integrity: We can be trusted to protect the integrity of Canada Lands and land tenure while remaining fair and impartial.

Accountability: We follow through on our commitments and own our actions.

Competence: We are professional, knowledgeable and maintain ongoing competency through practice review and continuing professional development.

Innovation: We keep pace with new and emerging technology, transforming and changing as required to bring the greatest value and efficiency to the general public and our members.

Excellence: We are committed to quality and continuous improvement. We strive toward high performance, setting high standards for our members and ourselves.

Recruitment Team Update

The ACLS Recruitment Committee has been very active in 2020. The Committee has worked on a social media campaign, promotional leaflet showing the benefits of becoming a CLS and a brochure in digital form for universities to post on their career boards.

This led to hosting live Q & A webinars with university and technical school students who are currently enrolled in a geomatics program in Canada which have been extremely well received and continue into 2021. The addition of the hydrography field and mention of the ACLS Scholarship will certainly encourage students to follow in the CLS path.

